



*"We love because He first loved us."* John 4:19

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems so odd to wish you a happy new year in the current climate, but I do and hope that in each day, however difficult they are, that you find some moments of peace and happiness. Thank you so much to all of you who are managing to keep your children at home, supporting access to their Religious Education online learning, whilst juggling your own work commitments. I know that it is a difficult task, but it is essential that in these hard times, our children know that God is very close to them. Please could you also encourage your children to stay connected to the routines of St Chad's prayer life by saying the morning, lunchtime and evening prayers every day. We say a daily prayer at St Chad's for the families learning from home, offering up your thoughts and intentions.

God Bless Mrs Mitchener

#### LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

(5<sup>th</sup> January – 29<sup>th</sup> January)

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.  
Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

#### Pope Francis's prayer request for January:

##### Human Fraternity:

May the lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

## The Epiphany



On Wednesday 6th January the children and staff in school shared a very special Zoom liturgy to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The children reflected on the importance and significance of the visit of the Magi, recognising the divine nature of Jesus, and were then asked to think about three gifts they could share.

All future Zoom liturgies will be uploaded to Google Classroom, so that all our children can engage with their faith and deepen their relationship with God.

# The Year of St Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from the, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

## A beloved, tender, obedient father

Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.



Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation”.

## Pope Francis also describes St Joseph as:

- Welcoming the will of God
- A creatively courageous father, example
- A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work of love
- A father “in the shadows,” centred on Mary and Jesus

To read more about the role of St Joseph and Pope Francis’ article, please visit the Vatican new website:

[www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html)

## Prayer to St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



## Special Times This Month

### January

1st Mary, Mother of God SOLEMNITY

6th Epiphany of the Lord SOLEMNITY

10th Baptism of the Lord Feast

28th Thomas Aquinas, memorial

31st St John Bosco Feast day

### February

2nd presentation of the Lord

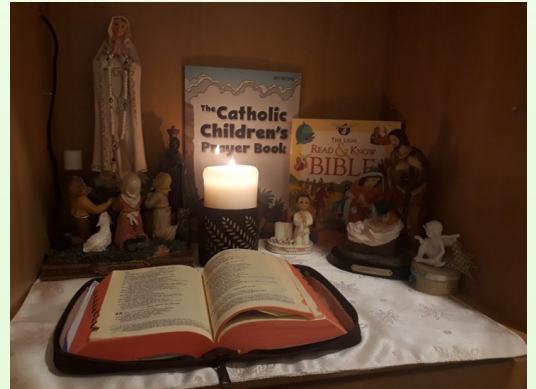
# Reflection Area at Home

For reflection times- you may want to find yourself a quiet space, play music and maybe even make yourself a little prayer table, like we have in school, with a cross, post it notes or paper, a prayer book and a Bible on.

In the reflection think about how the disciples are not alive today, but we are! How you can be a disciple of Jesus today in the way which you talk and behave to others at home? (you may want to write on the post it note or paper, what you are going to do to be like Jesus' disciple today)

It may be a good idea to try and keep your little prayer area up, so that you can use it daily for writing/ saying prayers. It does not need to be a big space.

We'd love to see your prayer space and any prayers that you've written, which you would like to share. Please feel free to send in photos to us of your prayer space.

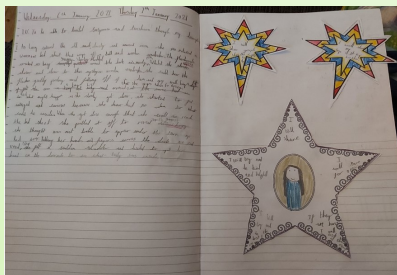


Edward's reflection and prayer space.

Mrs Gallagher

## Home Learning

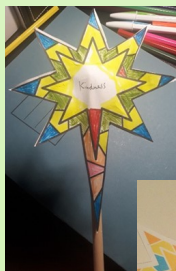
It is lovely to see your all your hard work and the learning taking place at home. Please continue to email us examples of your R.E home learning.



Aidan



Edward



Ryan

## Year 4

We took part in a "button prayer" service. We each chose a button and prayed through the responses below as they were read to us.



Feel the **hardness** of the button and think about people who are going through **hard** times. Ask God to help them.

Buttons are used to fasten clothes **together**. Ask God to **bring together** people who have fallen out and moved apart from each other. Pray that He will bring peace.

Look at your button and see how many **holes** it has. Think of that **number of things** you would like to say thank you to God for and say **Thank you prayers**.

Look at the **colour** of the button and say **thank you** to God for something that is that **colour**.

Find someone who has the same colour button as you. Say thank you to God for families. Ask God to bless them and help them to live together and to love each other. Mrs Gallagher



# Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John Wilson wrote to all parishes last week on the Feast of the Holy Family. He says, 'The images we see of the Holy family make everything look so perfect, as if there were never any problems, or moments of anxiety, and not that much joy and laughter either. How can any family flourish without joy? How can any family blossom without laughter?... Of course, we know family life is not always easy. Every family needs help, especially when its members face difficulties and struggles. Above all, each of us, no matter what our age or circumstances, needs to know that we are loved and that we belong. This is why the Church matters, as a family for everyone, as a place to find and know God's love...



As an extension of that, St Chad's is a family to you all too, if you require any help, please ask .

## Parish News

### First Holy Communion 2021

After much consideration, a decision has been made to start the preparation programme after Easter , towards the end of April. At the moment, it is very tricky to plan dates but we hope we can plan with more confidence once we are in March. A member of St Chad's FHC team will contact each family very soon to explain the situation and as soon as dates are decided, the families will be contacted again. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please ring the FHC phone: 07309 750996 and leave a message. A member of the team will call you back. The team are looking forward to meeting all the children and their families very soon.



God Bless Angie Henley

## Father Bartholomew

Sadly our Parish Priest Fr Bartholomew will be leaving St Chad's by 31st January 2021. Our new Parish Priest Fr Ambrose, has already arrived in the parish and is spending a few weeks getting to know the parish family before Fr Bartholomew leaves. As yet Fr Bartholomew doesn't know where he is heading to, but he is coming back for a parish thank you celebration on Monday 3rd May (Covid permitting). Gift envelopes are available at the church should anyone wish to donate towards a gift for him. They can be returned in the usual collection baskets at mass or through the presbytery door. We are all sad to see him leave but he assures us that the parishioners of St Chad's will always have a special place in his heart.



*Thanking you for your service to our school*



# Gospel Values

## RSE - Integrity

*"Do to others as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31)*

This half term's Gospel Value focus is on Integrity. We will be focusing on the area of truth telling and honesty, teaching the children what it means and how they can live attitudes based on the gospel teachings of Jesus, with a commitment to truth, responsibility and purpose.

One of the first concepts we will share with the children, regarding integrity, is the importance of honesty. A person of integrity, is honest and fair in their words and deeds. They tell the truth and do not cheat or lie. It is good to acknowledge with the children, that our world and our culture often tempt us and pressure us to give in to the easy path. Having integrity often requires us to also have courage and fortitude.

### Home Learning

The integrity PowerPoint will be available to share with your children, on both the school website and Google Classroom, please spend some time discussing the slides with your child/children and reinforcing this important message. It would be lovely if you could email the class teachers, if you believe that your son/daughter has really understood the message and is living the gospel value of integrity, as they can then be added to the list of those children who demonstrate integrity. They will then receive the sticker, when they return to school.



C.S. Lewis is quoted as saying, "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."

# Grow in Love, Live in Peace