



Religious Education at Holy Family

Living, Loving, Learning Together with Jesus

Autumn Term 2026



The Rosary Trust

God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.

GENESIS 1-31

Autumn Term 1 2026

Our topics this half term are
Branch 1, 'Creation and Covenant'
and
Branch 2 'Prophecy and Promise'

This half term our RE learning across the school focuses on "Creation and Covenant" and "Prophecy and Promise"

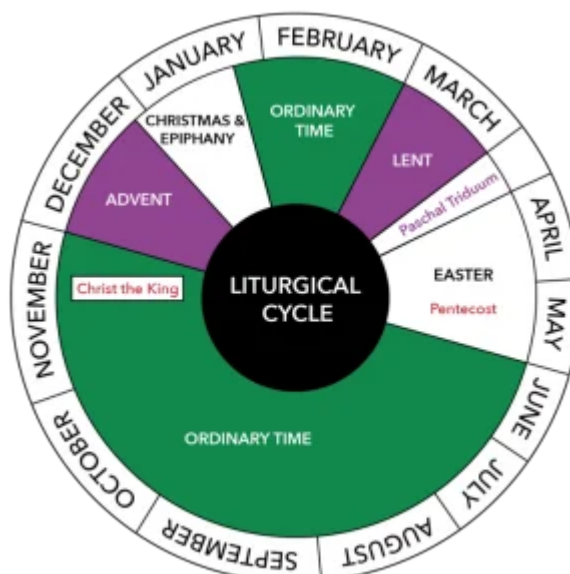
Children are exploring the very beginning of God's plan for his people – from the wonder of Creation to the first great promises (covenants) God made with Noah, Abraham and Moses.

Across the year groups, pupils are coming to see that everything in the world is a gift from God and that each person is created and loved by Him. Younger children hear and retell the Creation stories and learn that we are all called to care for one another and for the earth. As they move through the school they meet key figures of faith— Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the people of Israel—and discover how God's covenants reveal his faithful love and call his people into relationship with Him.

Older pupils reflect on how these ancient promises point towards the new covenant in Jesus and what this means for our lives today. From the beauty of the created world to God's ongoing call to live in love and stewardship, the theme of Creation and Covenant invites the whole school to wonder, to give thanks and to respond to God's love in action.

Liturgical season

This term, we will celebrate: Ordinary time and Advent





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Autumn 1. Branch 1: Creation and Covenant

In this branch, pupils will learn about God as the Creator who calls people into a special relationship with Him. They will explore the Christian belief that everything in the world comes from God. This includes learning about the Creation stories in the book of Genesis, as well as looking at scientific explanations of how the world began. Children will also learn about how God calls people and forms a covenant—a special promise—with them. They will explore this idea through the stories of Abraham and Moses, and other key moments in the Old Testament.

Autumn 2. Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise

In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. They will explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

EYFS

In Branch 1, children will explore the Christian belief that God created the whole world and everything in it and that everything God creates is good. They will hear the Genesis story where God looks at creation and says, "Indeed it is very good," and will learn that the beauty of the earth shows God's love for all people. They will learn that God made every person unique and loves each one of us personally.

Children will explore how they can care for themselves, their families, other people and the whole of God's world, linking their actions to Catholic Social Teaching on stewardship and the dignity of every human person. They will learn that through baptism we become part of God's family, the Church, and that God invites everyone into this family. As part of their prayer life, they will practise the words and actions of the Sign of the Cross, using this simple prayer to give thanks and celebrate God's love.

In Branch 2 children will explore the stories of the Annunciation and the birth of Jesus. They will hear how the angel told Mary she would have a baby and that his name would be Jesus, and will learn that Mary was chosen by God to give birth to





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his Son. They will hear the Nativity story, learning that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger and visited by shepherds who were guided by angels.

They will celebrate the traditions of Advent and Christmas, learning about the Advent wreath and the crib as ways of preparing for and remembering Jesus' birth. They will also explore how different cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday and will learn that by helping others during Advent we show our love for God. They will begin to understand that everyone has the right to work safely and that all work has dignity because God loves all people.

EYFS At home: you could read: God created the world and said, 'Indeed it is very good' (Genesis 1:31). The whole of Creation shows God love for us (Laudato Si' 84–88)

Year 1

In Branch 1, children will explore the Christian belief that God created everything and that all things come from Him. They will learn the Creation story from Genesis as a prayerful, poetic reflection and will talk about how God's gift of Creation can be expressed through art, music and poetry. They will explore how people can sense God's presence through the awe and wonder of the natural world and will learn that God's love and care are shown in the beauty and order of Creation.

They will learn the opening words of the Nicene Creed, understanding that the Church teaches that God, our Father, made heaven and earth. They will explore prayer as a way of drawing close to God and will learn and reflect on the words of the Our Father. They will also explore the Church's teaching on stewardship, recognising our responsibility to care for the world and its people, and will learn about Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si'*, which calls everyone to look after our common home.

In Branch 2, children will explore the stories of the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity and the visit of the shepherds, learning that these are found in the special book of the Bible. They will learn that in the Annunciation Mary said "Yes" to God's call and why she is important for Christians. They will hear how Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and will begin to join in with the words of the Hail Mary, recognising its link to the angel's greeting.

They will learn that the Christmas story shows God's love in sending his Son, Jesus, and will explore artistic representations of the nativity from around the world. They will hear the angels' song of praise, the Gloria, and will talk about why the shepherds saw angels when Jesus was born. They will learn that angels bring God's message and are a sign that Jesus is the Son of God, and will explore how Catholics across the world show honour to Mary. Finally, they will find out how Christians in their local community celebrate the birth of Jesus.





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Year 1 at home: At home you could read: Genesis 1:1-4, 24-26 Laudato Si – explained for Kids

Year 2:

In Branch 1, children will explore the story of Noah and will learn that God made a covenant, or promise, with Noah and all living creatures, shown in the sign of the rainbow. They will learn that the people in the story turned away from God and that this is called sin, and will reflect on how their own actions can help or harm their friendship with God. They will explore the psalms as prayers of praise, especially Psalm 139, recognising them as a special way of expressing wonder at God's creation and love.

They will learn about stewardship and will explore how everyone is called to care for God's world and for each other, responding with their own ideas for action in their community. They will be introduced to the seven sacraments as living signs of Jesus' love and will learn about the sacrament of Baptism in more detail, understanding how a baby is welcomed into the Christian family and the meaning of the symbols used. Finally, they will learn that the Bible is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

In Branch 2, children will explore the key Advent and Christmas stories from the Gospels and the prophets. They will hear the accounts of the angel's message to Zechariah and to Mary, and will learn how both John the Baptist and Jesus were announced by the Holy Spirit. They will retell the births of John the Baptist and Jesus and will learn that a prophet communicates God's message, recognising both John and Isaiah as prophets.

They will hear Mary's prayer, the Magnificat, and will talk about how they can help make the world fairer, especially during Advent. They will listen to Isaiah's prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and will understand that Christians see Jesus as the light in the darkness and Immanuel, 'God with us'. They will explore how Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus in Advent, including through the use of the Advent wreath and through traditions from different cultures. Finally, they will reflect on Mary as the mother of God and a model of prayer who prays with and for them.

Year Two At home: you could read: Genesis 6:9-9:17 Psalm 139

Year 3:





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In Year 3, children will explore the first Creation story in Genesis, recognising its poetic language and the idea of a holy day set apart for God. They will learn that the Church teaches Creation is the work of the Holy Trinity and that God created the universe out of free and unselfish love. They will explore psalms and prayers of praise such as Psalm 8 or 19 and St Francis's Canticle of the Creatures, and will reflect on ways to give thanks for the blessings of Creation.

They will learn that human beings are made in the image of God (Imago Dei) and will explore what this means for the dignity and equality of all people. They will make links between the Creation story and the Catholic Social Teaching principle of human dignity, considering how everyone should be treated equally. They will explore stewardship, making connections between Genesis and Pope Francis' teaching in Laudato Si' about caring for the earth as part of our care for each other, and will imagine how caring for the world could make a difference. Finally, they will learn from Laudato Si' that human beings are called to a loving relationship with God, with each other and with the world.

In Branch 2, children will explore why Sunday is a holy day for Christians, linking the Creation story to the idea of Sunday as a day of rest and celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. They will learn how Catholics celebrate Mass, discovering the prayers, signs and actions used, and will focus on the Liturgy of the Word, hearing readings from both the Old and New Testaments.

They will revisit the Annunciation and recall how angels bring God's message, and will learn how Joseph trusted in God when the angel appeared to him, opening his heart to the Holy Spirit. They will make links between the angel's message about Jesus and the prophecies of Isaiah that foretold the coming of the Messiah, and will explore how art around the world represents these prophecies. Finally, they will learn how Christians prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent and how Advent hymns celebrate Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Year 3 at home: Genesis 1:26-31 Laudato Si – explained for Kids(CAFOD)

Year 4





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In Branch 1, children will explore the story of Abraham and the beginnings of God's covenant with his people. They will learn about the historical, cultural and religious background of Abraham's call and will hear the key stories of his journey of faith, including the promises God made to him, the visit of the three strangers to Abraham and Sarah, and the testing of Abraham when he offers Isaac. They will learn that God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith shared by Judaism and Christianity.

They will explore the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, discovering how Abraham's decisions were shaped by these virtues and how Christians today are drawn into a closer relationship with the Holy Trinity by living them out. They will reflect on prayers that show trust in God and will learn why Abraham is seen as a model of prayer. They will also consider the life of someone whose faith was made active in love, such as Cardinal Manning during the London dockworkers' strike, and will think about how faith, hope and love can transform their own lives and communities. Optionally, they may also learn the story of Joseph and reflect on how his faith helped him through times of challenge and blessing.

In Branch 2, children will explore the prophets and their message of hope and preparation for the coming of Jesus. They will learn about Elijah, hearing the miracle of the flour and the oil and his encounter with God, and will reflect on how his words still speak to people today. They will compare Matthew and Mark's accounts of John the Baptist and understand that he was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, linking his preaching with the words of the prophet Isaiah.

They will explore the role of prophets in awakening expectation of the Messiah and will learn how Advent is a time of preparation both for Jesus' birth and for his second coming, reflecting on the Nicene Creed's words, "He will come again in glory." They will discover the Jesse Tree as a symbol of Jesus' ancestry and God's plan for salvation and will explore different artistic representations of it. Finally, they will learn about the feast of Christ the King, reflecting on what kind of king Jesus is, how artists have portrayed him, and what it means to be a good leader.

Year 4 At home: you could read: The call of Abram (Gen 12:1-5) The Abrahamic covenant (Gen 15:1-6) Genesis 22:1-18

Year 5

In Branch 1, children will learn about Moses, focusing on the two key events of the call and the covenant (the Burning Bush and the Sinai covenant and the Ten Commandments). Children will make links between the Ten Commandments and Jesus' summary of the law in Matthew's Gospel. Children will learn how the Ten Commandments help human beings live good and happy lives as well as how sin is deliberately spoiling our friendship with God and





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each other. Children will learn more about positive habits (virtues) and negative habits and how virtues might help them grow in goodness. Finally, children will discuss what loving our neighbour means for Christians today, for example, welcoming asylum seekers and refugees, and relating this belief to the Church's teaching on the common good and love of neighbour.

In Branch 2, children will also explore key scripture passages about the life of David, including his anointing, his victory over Goliath, his kingship, God's covenant with him, and his death. They will understand the historical context of these passages and will learn that God often chooses in unexpected ways, calling David the shepherd to be a servant king who unites his people. They will reflect on the image of the shepherd as a model of servant leadership.

They will learn that for Christians, Jesus fulfils the promises made to David, exploring Gospel passages that present Jesus as the Messiah who continues the covenant. They will hear and pray psalms, such as Psalm 23, recognising David as a model of prayer and the psalms as a treasury of prayer still used in the Church today. They will explore the Rosary as a prayerful reflection on the life of Christ, focusing on the Joyful Mysteries, and will learn about the O Antiphons, discovering how these ancient Advent prayers are expressed in art and music and help Christians to reflect on the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Year 5 At home you could read: Exodus 3:1-15 Exodus 19:3-8, 20:1-17 Matthew 22:36-40

Year 6

In Branch 1, children will learn about the second Creation story. They will learn about the Church's teachings on the purpose of this story as well as scientific accounts, referencing *Laudato Si'* and 'stewardship'. They will learn about the Christian belief of 'original sin' and how this links in with the Sacrament of Baptism. Children will reflect on how humans have not always lived as God has wanted, the effects of this on mankind and the environment but also how Christians believe that in Jesus a new covenant is made and through Him, our relationship with God can be restored, making links with John and the Nicene Creed. This branch also enables pupils to look at the work of Christian scientists who have contributed to the scientific understanding of the beginnings of the universe. From this, children will be provided the opportunity to talk and think critically and creatively in response to the claim: 'belief in Creation is compatible with scientific accounts of the beginnings of the universe and the theory of evolution', offering reasoned arguments for their own judgement.

In Branch 2, children will also explore the important role of women in salvation history. They will hear Old Testament stories of figures such as Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah and Esther, and will learn how these women were true





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protagonists in God's plan, as recognised by Pope John Paul II. They will reflect on the influence of significant women in their own lives.

They will study the Gospel accounts of the Annunciation, comparing Luke's and Matthew's narratives, and will learn that Mary is the fulfilment of Old Testament promises and became the Mother of God through her "Yes" to God's plan. They will explore the Magnificat, understanding how Mary's prayer forms radical expectations of the Messiah and hearing it as the Church's song of praise at Vespers. Finally, they will learn about women today who respond to God's call through religious life, exploring the role of Catholic women's religious orders and reflecting on how they themselves might say "Yes" to God's call in their own lives and communities.

Year 6 At home: you could read: Genesis 2:5-10, 15-23, 3:1-7,9-13, 17-19 John 1:1-5, 16-18 The Nicene Creed Laudato Si – explained for Kids: CAFOD





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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS TERM

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

(7 OCTOBER)

ALL SAINTS

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED(ALL SOULS)

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(22 November)

ADVENT

(Begins 29 November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

When December 8 falls on a Sunday, the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday





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CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

(29 December)

**PLEASE SEE CLASS DOJO OR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
FOR DATES OF SCHOOL/CLASS MASSES**





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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY THIS TERM

11th Sept: Whole school Mass led by Year 6

18th Sept: Year 2 and 4 class Mass

2nd Oct: Whole school Mass led by Year 2 and 4

9th Oct: Class Mass led by Year 3

16th Oct: Whole school Mass led by Year 5

All Saints (1st November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people, who have responded to God's invitation to love.

All Souls (2nd November)

Today and throughout the rest of November, we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (24th November)

Advent (Begins 30th November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born, but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent, that we focus on the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

27th Nov: Year Fdn and Y6 class mass

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (9th December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning, and co-operated with God all her life. When the 8th Dec falls on a Sunday, the Immaculate Conception moves to a Monday.

4th Dec: Year 3 and 4 mass

11th Dec: Year 5 and 6 mass

18th Dec: Mass at the church.





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CREATION AND COVENANT

(Autumn 1)

Prayer and Liturgy at home

Gather together as a family, light a candle and make the sign of the cross.

Listen to the Scripture '*Genesis 1:31*'

Respond to the Word, by praying the Our Father together to thank God for His wonderful creation.

As you Go Forth, remember to look for God's wonders all around you, no matter how big or how small.

PROPHECY and PROMISE

(Autumn 2)

Prayer and Liturgy at home

Gather together as a family, light a candle and make the sign of the cross.

Listen to the Scripture '*Luke 2:4-7*'

Respond to the Word, praying together: Dear God, we ask for your blessing over our family during this holy season of Advent. Amen

As you **Go Forth**, during this Advent season of Advent, try each day to live out one kind deed, demonstrating your faith.

Please look at the website below for Christian Art. It offers a pathway to grow closer to God through the beauty of art and the Gospel. Each day, a work of art that is relevant to the day's scripture passage is selected and a short written reflection on the two is provided.



<https://christian.art/>

