

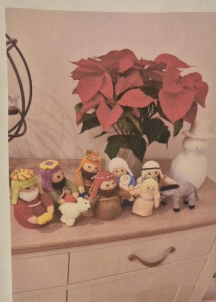
Advent reflection

Advent is a special time in the liturgical calendar, and at St Joseph's, it has offered a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about the values of preparation, hope and community.

The four weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with meaningful traditions, such as lighting the candles on an Advent Wreath and exploring the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. These activities help pupils reflect on kindness and gratitude, while also building excitement for the festive season in a thoughtful way.

Our December prayer board focus has been exploring how we can spread joy during Advent. Throughout the whole school, the children were able to identify how we can help those in need and bring happiness during Advent.

In Year One, the children have had the opportunity to take home the travelling cribs, bringing the nativity story and true meaning of Christmas into their homes.



I liked choosing where to put the figures in my home.



I like playin with the dolls with my Sister Deliah. Ted

Prayers this term:

Our School Prayer

St. Joseph's is our school.

Teach us Lord, to Love, Learn and Grow together.

Just as you guided your beloved son, Jesus.

Open our hearts to your plans for us and

Show us your path to follow.

Each day, help us to feel your presence among us,

Protecting us on our journey.

Holy Spirit be with us.

St. Joseph pray for us.

Amen.



Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord;
and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the
souls of all the faithful departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

Advent Prayer

4,3,2,1.....

Count the weeks 'til Jesus comes.

Each week we add another light,

Our hope for Jesus growing bright.

We pray, we share, we do our part,

to welcome Jesus into our heart.

Amen.

Faith Leaders

Each new academic year brings us a new group of Faith Leaders. During the Advent term, they have been extremely busy! They started their role with a special Mass in The Oratory. They were joined by their families and Father John, where they received their badges and a greater understanding of their role.



This year, alongside Mrs Davies, the following children will lead new initiatives for Prayer and Liturgy and support their peers in spiritual growth. Our Faith Leaders attended training with other pupils within the St Thomas Catholic Academy Trust. They gathered new ideas to help our community grow in prayer and ways to share the Gospel.

Year 1 - Tiarnan and Arthur

Year 2 - Karina and Niamh

Year 3 - Maisie and Annalise

Year 4 - Elsie and Riley

Year 5 –Hayden and Xavier

Year 6 –Millie and Karina



Faith leaders have begun to visit The Dementia Café every month, and they truly look forward to spending time with those who attend. Their presence brings comfort and joy, as they join in arts and crafts, puzzles, conversations and singing. These visits create a warm, welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels valued and supported, fostering a sense of community and connection that participants eagerly anticipate.



Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful opportunity to live out our Christian values of sharing and caring for others. We gathered together in the church, where the whole school was able to see where meals are lovingly prepared by those who give up their time for such an amazing cause. The Faith Leaders led a beautiful assembly, and all your contributions had a huge impact on many homeless people. A special thank you to Mrs. Jacobson for speaking to the children about the work the London Slough Charitable Trust does, helping them to understand the needs of homeless people and the importance of supporting our community.



Care Home Visits

As part of our Jubilee Year CAFOD pledge, some of our KS1 pupils have enjoyed heartwarming visits to the local care home. The children spent time chatting with residents, sharing stories, singing songs and reading aloud, bringing smiles all around. They also delivered beautifully crafted cards filled with messages of hope and kindness, creating a special connection across generations. During the visit, pupils learned about the fascinating lives of the residents and listened to their experiences. We even brought Joey along to say hello, which was a highlight for everyone! Each class will continue these visits in the new year, strengthening this wonderful bond within our community.



Remembrance

On Tuesday 11th November, the children took part in a very special day of remembrance. They began by visiting the prayer garden, where they gathered for a reflective liturgy. During this time, they shared poems and prayers, and each child hung a heart in the garden bearing the name of a loved one who has passed away. This created a beautiful and peaceful space for remembering those who are no longer with us.

As part of the commemoration, the children observed the traditional two-minute silence, joining millions across the country in a moment of quiet reflection to honour the sacrifices made by so many. In the days leading up to this event, the children learned about the history and significance of Remembrance Day, exploring why it is important to remember and reflect on the past.

On Remembrance Sunday, children proudly represented the school at the village Remembrance Parade. They walked with dignity and respect, laying a wreath and paying tribute alongside the local community. Their behaviour and participation were exemplary, and they truly embodied the values of remembrance and respect.



Nativities and Carol Concert

EYFS and KS1 did a truly brilliant job in their nativity performances this year. Each show was a joy to watch, and it was wonderful to see the progression as we moved from one performance to the next. The creativity, enthusiasm, and effort that went into every detail were clear for all to see.

Each performance reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas. Through their storytelling and songs, the children helped us reflect on the message of hope, love, and joy that this season brings.



This Wednesday, KS2 delighted us all with a wonderful Carol Concert. The church was filled with festive cheer as the children performed with confidence and enthusiasm. From the beautifully read passages to the expressive acting, every moment reflected the hard work and dedication that went into preparing for this special event. A huge well done to all the readers and actors for bringing the story to life so vividly.



Hampers



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action



In collaboration with St. Joseph's SVP, the Christmas hampers will be delivered to local people in need. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!



On behalf of everyone at St. Joseph's
we wish a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

