St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith

To Know You More Clearly Overview Cycle A 2025-26

	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
	Branch 1 - Creation and Covenant	Branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise	Branch 3 – Galilee to Jerusalem	Branch 4 – Desert to Garden	Branch 5 – To the Ends of the Earth	Branch 6 – Dialogue and Encounter
Nursery & Reception						
Hear	The words and actions of the Sign of the Cross. God created the world and said, 'Indeed it is very good'. (Genesis 1:31) The whole of creation shows God's love for us. (Laudato Si' 84-88)	The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38) The Nativity (Lk 2:4-7) The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:28-30)	The Visit of the Magi (Matt 2:1-12) Jesus blesses the little children (Mk 10:13-16) Feeding of 5000 (Jn 6:1-14)	A simplified version of key events of Holy Week especially Good Friday and Easter Sunday (to recognise key events). The great commandment (Lk 10:25-28)	Story of Pentecost (simple telling). The early Christian community (Acts 2:42-47)	**DIALOGUE** Friends of Jesus: Hear a simple life of St Peter and St Paul, friends of Jesus. Ask a local parishioner to talk about their faith and why it matters to them to be a friend of Jesus.
Believe	God is love. God made each one of us. God loves each one of us as a unique person. God made a wonderful world and what God creates is good. God loves us and we are part of a family. **Catholic Social Teaching** God made: the earth and sky, all the people	Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his son. Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Shepherds, were told by angels to visit him.	The Magi visited Jesus with gifts. Jesus is God's son and came for everyone. Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas. Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone. Jesus takes care of everyone.	Listen and talk about the season of Lent and Easter. Jesus died on Good Friday and rose again on Easter Sunday. Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. Easter celebrates new life. Simple religious symbols in Lent and Easter.	Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Good News of Jesus lived out by the early Christian community.	Explore a range of pictures of Jesus from a non-European tradition

	all over the world, all the animals and plants, the air, the ground and the water. God tells us we must take care of them. It is an important job! **Stewardship**					
Celebrate	Celebrate God's beautiful world. The words and actions of the sign of the cross. We enter God's family, the Church, through Baptism.	The tradition of the crib to tell the story of Jesus' birth.	That the Church prays the 'Glory Be' as a response to the coming of Jesus.	The Church uses purple and ashes as signs of Lent and being sorry. Representations of Holy Week and Easter: palms, the cross, Easter gardens and symbols of new life.	Pentecost is a special celebration in the Church. Sunday is a special day for the Church to celebrate.	**ENCOUNTER** Talk with a local or school community member about their local (faith) community and what it means to them. Encounter music, food, smells, tastes and clothing to enrich experiences.
Live	Care and love for self, family, others and God's world. **Catholic Social Teaching** God made each of us, so each one of us is very special. We must treat others in a caring way because God made them too. **The Dignity of the Human Person**	Various cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday in different ways. **Catholic Social Teaching** By our work in Advent, we help others and ourselves and we show our love to God. All people work in some way. Everyone should be able to work safely so that it helps them because God loves them. **The Dignity and Rights of Workers**	We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does. We are called to help the poor and hungry. **Catholic Social Teaching** You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor and a job for the person who takes care of you. So does everyone else on the whole Earth. But many people do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people.	Various cultures celebrate Lent and Easter in different ways, eg pancakes, hot cross buns, Easter eggs. Trying to help others by what we do in Lent – Raasa Parade (Kerala) and other Lent customs around the world. **Catholic Social Teaching** Every single person on Earth needs these things: food, water, work, clothes, a home, a school and a doctor. Some people have what they need but many people don't.	The parish church and the parish family meet there to celebrate. **Catholic Social Teaching** Jesus knows that people can be happy with families and friends. He tells us that we can let these important people help us. He asks us to help them too. We need each other. **We Are Called to Live as Family and Community** All people are God's children. That makes us brothers and sisters.	
Key vocabulary	God Father Son Holy Spirit. World Creation	Bethlehem Shepherds Crib Advent Christmas Nativity	Travel Magi Bless Rule Friendship Miracle Bethlehem Feeding	Grow Spring Different Lent Good Friday Cross	Good News Pentecost Holy Spirit Community/Family Celebrations Promise Fellowship	

	Wonderful Family Precious Baptism Holy Water Font	Messenger Manger Stable Chosen	Gifts Welcomed	Easter Sunday Rules Neighbour Sorry		
Year 2						
Hear	The story of Noah, focusing on God's covenant (promise) with Noah and all living beings in the sign of the rainbow (Gen 9:7-17) LS 71 'Through Noah, who remained innocent and just, God decided to open a path of salvation. In this way he gave humanity the chance of a new beginning. All it takes is one good person to restore hope!' Psalm 139 146 in praise of God's Creation of each of us and his love for us.	The Annunciation of John the Baptist (Lk 1:5-20) The Annunciation of Jesus (Lk 1:26-38) The Visitation (Lk 1:39-50, 53) The birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1:57-58) Zechariah's voice is restored (The circumcision of John the Baptist) (Lk 1:59-66, 67,76) The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-8) For Advent: Is 7:14, 9:1-2, 5-7	The preaching of John the Baptist (Lk 3:2-6, 10-17) Jesus is baptised (Lk 3:21-22) The Temptation in the wilderness & Jesus begins to preach (Lk 4: 1-15) Cure of a paralytic (Lk 5:17-26) The choice of the twelve (Lk 6:12-16) The calming of the storm (Lk 8:22-25) Parable of the lost sheep (Lk 15:4-7) For the Epiphany: Matt 2:1-12: The visit of the Magi	Jesus enters Jerusalem (Lk 19:28-38*) The last supper (Lk 22:7-23*, 28-34) The Crucifixion and death of Jesus (Lk 23:33-46*) The angel's message (Lk 24:1-8*) Peter at the tomb (Lk 24:9-12) *Texts studied in Year One	Jesus appears to the apostles and the Ascension (Lk 24:36-53) Pentecost and Peter talks to the crowd (Acts 2:1-9, 12-13) Conversion of Saul (Acts 9:1-19) Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)	**DIALOGUE** The parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37) Christians should collaborate in service of humanity. Learning about their local Christian community. Learning about ways Christians where they live come together to support the local community. Learning about their local parish community.
Believe	God makes a covenant (promise) with Noah to save all living things. That people in the story of Noah turned away from God and chose to	That prophets and prophetesses communicate God's message inspired by the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist is born to be a prophet.	John the Baptist is a prophet who calls people back to God by encouraging them to say sorry. Baptism is a sign of forgiveness.	That Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to heal and restore our friendship with God and through this ourselves.	God is love. Love is God's first gift poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are the visible signs that	

	act badly; this is behaviour called sin. The Sacrament of Baptism is when a person becomes part of the Christian family and promises to love God. That the Christian Bible is split into two parts, the Old Testament, and the New Testament.	Christians believe that the person Isaiah spoke of was Jesus. In Isaiah's words, Christians recognise Jesus as a light in the darkness and Immanuel, 'God with-us'. Advent is the season when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. That Mary is the mother of God and our mother who is trusted with all our prayers.	That when people make bad choices (sin), they turn away from God. Jesus teaches that God loves and forgives and that being sorry helps us to change and become better people. Jesus' miracles are signs that show he is the promised one (Messiah). Jesus' parables are simple comparisons that invite people to know more about God. Jesus brings healing in different ways.	That Lent is a time of preparing our hearts and minds for Easter through reconciliation and forgiveness. The Easter Vigil Mass is the high point of the year and is rich in symbols of light and darkness.	a person is led by the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.	
Celebrate	Psalms are prayers to praise God. Sacraments are living signs of Jesus' love for all people. Baptism is the first sacrament which welcomes people into the Christian family.	Some words of Mary's prayer, the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-50, 53) in which she gives thanks to God and prays for his just world to come. Advent is a time Christian preparation for Jesus' coming. That the Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of the light.	How water is used as a symbol of a new start in the Sacrament of Baptism. How Catholics say sorry to God in prayers: Act of Sorrow (Contrition) Asking for forgiveness in the 'Our Father'	Some prayers and actions that are ways in which Catholics turn back to God, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for example, a simple Examen or an act of sorrow and in the Penitential rite, for example, the Kyrie Eleison (Lord have Mercy).	In all prayers, Christians welcome the Holy Spirit and open their hearts to God. Christians pray to the Holy Spirit for help ('Come Holy Spirit').	**ENCOUNTER** Recognise links and simple connections between some Jewish religious laws, beliefs, worship, and life. (e.g., keeping the Sabbath day holy and how this is celebrated in the synagogue and in Jewish homes). Recognise that most Jewish religious words are in Hebrew (the original language of the Torah and other sacred Jewish/Christian texts). Listen to the religious experiences of others from different
Live	Ways in which we can show care for God's world (stewardship) as part of our care for each other. How a baby is baptised in the Catholic Church	About some daily/weekly commitments that enable Christians to live in a way that prepares them for Jesus' coming.	The importance of saying sorry to God and to others. The importance of showing you are sorry, for example, through	The importance of saying sorry to God and to others. That prayer can help people say sorry for their sins.	That there are different symbols of the Holy Spirit in art: wind, fire, and dove, e.g., Taizé, Marlene Scholz's 'Blessed Trinity'.	

		Advent preparations in different cultures. The meaning and interpretations of the candles/wreath in different cultural contexts. How Catholic Social Teaching (CST) can help to guide Christians to 'share the light' with others	practical Acts of Penance.	That making bad choices damages relationships and damages them.	The example of a saint who showed examples of peacebuilding in their lives, e.g., St Catherine of Siena, St Bernardine of Siena (IHS), St Rita of Cascia, St John Henry Newman, Pope St Pius X, St Francis of Assisi. Some examples of saints and holy people who lived the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives, e.g., St Oscar Romero, St Teresa of Avila.	communities in the class and the local area
Key vocabulary	God Noah Covenant Sin Psalm Sacraments Baptism Father Bible Old Testament/ New Testament	Advent Advent wreath Annunciation Isaiah John the Baptist Magnificat Prophet Zechariah	Baptism John the Baptist Miracle Parable Temptation Sin Sorrow Forgiveness Reconciliation	Easter Vigil forgiveness Kyrie Eleison Reconciliation Sin	Holy Spirit Ascension Pentecost Saul prayer Fruits of the Spirit love joy peace patience kindness generosity faithfulness gentleness self-control	Samaritan Sabbath Shabbat Synagogue neighbour respect
Year 4						
Hear	The call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-5) The Abrahamic covenant (Gen 15:1-6) Abraham and Sarah (Gen 18:1-15)	The miracle of the flour and the oil (1 Kings 17:7-14) Elijah's encounter with God: the journey 1 Kings 19:4-8,	Peter's mother-in-law and casting out devils (Matt 8:14-17) Cure of the woman with a haemorrhage. The official's daughter raised to life (Matt 9:18-	The lost son (the prodigal) and the dutiful son (Lk 15:11-32) The Judgement of the Nations (sheep and goats) (Matt 25:31-46)	The empty tomb (Jn 20:1-10) The appearance on the shore of Tiberius (Jn 21:1-19)	**DIALOGUE** The road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-9, 17-19) The first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 13:1-7,13)

	Abraham and Isaac (Gen 22:1-18) (Optional) The story of Joseph, focusing on the following key texts: Gen: 37:2-35, 41:1-42, 44:1-17, 33-34, 45:1-5, 16-20 The historical, cultural, and religious context out of which Abraham was called. The importance of understanding historical context to appreciate the literal sense of biblical stories.	The meeting: 1 Kings 19:9-15 The preaching of John the Baptist (Matt 3:1-12 and Mk 1:1-8) Isaiah 40:3 (contained within the gospel accounts) The ancestry of Jesus (Matt 1:1-17) The importance of understanding historical context to appreciate the literal sense of biblical stories. What is meant by 'prophecy'.	26) Or Cure of two blind men and cure of a demoniac (Matt 9:27-34) The Baptist's question (Matt 11:1-15) Jesus walks on the water and, with him, Peter (Matt 14:22-33) Peter's profession of faith (Matt 16:13-26) The importance of understanding historical context and cultural values at the time of the gospels.	The events of Holy Week from the gospel of Matthew: Entry into Jerusalem (Matt 21:1-11), Judas' betrayal (Matt 26:14), the Passover and Peter's denial foretold (Matt 26:17-35) Jesus prays (Matt 26:36-46) the betrayal and arrest of Jesus (Matt 26:47-56), Peter's denials (Matt 26:69-75), Pilate questions Jesus (Matt 27:11-14), the Crucifixion (Matt 27:32-44), the death of Jesus (Matt 27:45-56) and the Burial of Jesus (Matt 27:57-61)* *Pupils should have an overview of the events of Holy Week.		Additional texts about the mission of St Paul, for example: Paul's speech before the Council of the Areopagus (Acts 17:22-26, 28-29) Galatians 1:11-24 2 Cor 11:22-23 Galatians 3:27-28 There are different traditions in the Liturgy of the Church* Some simple facts about a different liturgical tradition in the Church, for example, some prayers or artistic traditions, reflecting a community in their local area where possible. Ways in which Christians work together for the common good.
Believe	God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity Faith is believing in God, trusting what God reveals, and following God's loving purpose to live a good life.	For Christians, the prophets awaken an expectation of the coming of the Messiah in people's hearts. John the Baptist is sent to prepare the way for Jesus. In the Advent liturgies, Christians pray for the second coming of Jesus	Jesus is the Messiah/Christ but in a way that subverted the expectations of those of his own day: Jesus comes as a suffering servant, not a triumphant king. Jesus is fully God and fully human. We call this belief the incarnation.	God loves everyone. He can and wants to forgive people's sins. When people love God, they want to help others as the virtues of faith, hope, and love have their foundations in God who is love.	The Pope is the successor to Peter. The Church is the People of God. The Church is apostolic. The work of the Church is to continue the ministry of Jesus and build the Kingdom of God.	

	Through living out virtues of faith, hope, and love (sometimes referred to as charity), Christians are drawn into a closer relationship with the Holy Trinity. Abraham is a model of how to pray.	alongside preparing for Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' incarnation at Christmas and for the second coming as King of the Universe.	Jesus reveals the kind of messiah he is by showing that God's Kingdom includes those who are excluded by society. Jesus showed compassionate healing in mind and body through his ministry and continues to do so through His Body, the Church, especially in the sacraments, such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.	Lent is a time for Christians to make a new start by loving God with their whole heart and expressing this love through good works.	Mary is the Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven.	
Celebrate	Age-appropriate extracts from prayers of faith in God from the Catholic tradition. (For example, Ps 40:1, the St Therese prayer, 'May today there be peace within', St John Henry Newman's 'Mission of my Life', Bl Charles de Foucauld's 'Prayer of Abandonment'.)	The Feast of Christ the King. The Jesse tree. 'He will come again in glory' from the Nicene Creed	Why Catholics pray the Creed at Mass. How Catholics experience God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and through it are reconciled with their community and how the Anointing of the Sick brings God's strength to help those who are sick.	The works of mercy show Christians how to treat other people. That Lent is a time to live out the works of mercy (for example, by praying for someone who is sad, practising patience, fasting, or giving time or money to those in need). Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and marks the annual celebration of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.	That the Apostles' Creed summarises Christian beliefs. That May is the special month of Mary. Some Marian prayers or hymns, e.g., Hail Mary, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Magnificat, Ave Maria	**ENCOUNTER** Know some facts about the five pillars of Islam. Understand some ways Muslims in Britain today live out their beliefs.
Live	The virtues of faith, hope, and love. The life and work of a person who was an example of faith made	How Christians prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent. How Christians use the Jesse tree during	How the work of a person or organisation who has been inspired by Jesus, work with those marginalised by societal attitudes to	The corporal and spiritual acts of mercy. How the life and work of a person or organisation (historical	Some artistic depictions of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of the Church or as Queen of Heaven	

	active in love, e.g., the intervention of Cardinal Manning in the London dockworker's strike.	Advent, identifying its meaning and representation in art around the world, connecting to God's plan for salvation. How some artists have depicted Jesus Christ as King	illness (e.g., St Francis Leprosy Guild, St Damien of Molokai, Ruth Pfau, Catholics for AIDS prevention and Support (CAPS), Sr Julie Driscoll and the House of Ruth).	or contemporary) lives out the works of mercy and/or the love for those oppressed by poverty (e.g., St Damien of Molokai, Ruth Pfau, National Justice and Peace Network, CAFOD).	from different times and places. Some ways in which the Church today (locally or globally) continues the work of Jesus.	
Key vocabulary	Covenant Abraham Sarah Isaac Joseph forgiveness virtue faith hope love	Advent Prophet Elijah John the Baptist Jesse tree Christ the King	Messiah Christ incarnation kingdom Sacrament of the Sick Nicene Creed marginalised	Lent Holy Week parable sin forgiveness mercy	Church Pope apostles apostolic Creed people of God communion of saints Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of Heaven	Damascus Liturgy rite Christian Islam Five Pillars of Islam Shahada, Salah, Sawm, Zakat, and Hajj Common good