

Autumn Term Two

Nursery

Topic - My Family

The children will explore and learn about:

- Who belongs to my family?
- Know that God gives us a family to look after us

We will explore:

- Why do I have a family?
- Why family is so important to us?
- Is God my family?

We will learn to know that Jesus came to earth as a little baby and Christmas is His birthday

We will also be exploring the themes of advent time and learning the story of the Nativity

How to help at home: Talk about and share photos naming people in their family. Point out the traditions of Christmas they see around them.

Reception

Topic - God's Family

The children will learn that God made us to know and love him, as well as to show our love for him by helping one another. They will find out that God has given us gifts so that we can show his love to others. They will learn that God's greatest gift to us was to send his only son, Jesus and learn how to respond to that gift.

How to help at home: Encourage children to retell the Christmas story. Involve children in advent preparations for Christmas.

Year 1

Topic - Mary, Mother of God

Know that God sent the Angel Gabriel to ask Mary to be the Mother of His Son. The children will learn that God sent the Angel Gabriel with a message to Mary and learn why this is important. They will learn that God asked Mary to be the mother of his son and will have an opportunity to reflect on her response. They will hear about Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth and reflect on the good news. They will begin to reflect on how we can prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and learn that Mary is our mother in heaven and that she is looking after us.

How to help at home: Talk to your child about Mary's response to God's request. Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus? How do we celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Year 2

Topic - The Mystery of God

In this unit the children will learn what is meant by a mystery and reflect on some mysteries such as how many stars are there? How long would it take to count them all? Do the stars and the sky go on forever and ever or do they stop? The children will learn about the Trinity and how it also is considered to be a mystery. We will learn about God choosing Mary to be the mother of Jesus and the importance of Advent being a time to prepare to celebrate his birth. Finally, we will experience a celebration of the Nativity.

How to help at home: Encourage your child to read a version of the Nativity from a children's bible.

Year 3

Topic - Mary, Mother of God

The children will learn that God called Mary to be the Mother of Jesus and learn how Mary responded to God's call. They will learn the 'Hail Mary' and begin to understand what the words mean. They will learn that Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and begin to understand that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. They will also learn about the stories of the shepherds and the wise men's visit to see the baby Jesus.

*How to help at home: discuss the meaning of the words of different prayers.
Talk about the real meaning of Christmas with your child.*

Year 4

Topic - Trust in God

The children will learn about Jesus' teaching and the importance of trusting in him. We will learn about the promise God made to Mary through the angel Gabriel and learn how Joseph put his trust in God when the angel appeared to him. We will have a chance to deepen their awareness of God's love for us and know that he asks us to trust in him. As we reflect on the times when it is difficult to trust and on the importance of keeping promises, we will also make our own advent promises. We will reflect on how Mary and Joseph placed all their trust in God we receive Jesus and learn that Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Finally, we will experience a celebration of the Nativity.

*How to help at home: Learn about the Nativity from Joseph's point of view. How did he feel? Why?
What was his roll going to be?*

Year 5

Topic - God's Covenants

The children will understand the meaning of a covenant and reflect on God's covenant with Noah. The children will know about the covenant God made with Abraham and reflect on Abraham's trust in God. They will understand that God guides and challenges His people. The children will know that God made a covenant with Moses and the Israelites. The children will know that God sent prophets to remind His people of His covenant and reflect on the message of the prophets for us. The children will know that God makes a New Covenant with us. The children will also visit the chapel in school each week and take part in weekly prayer and worship in class with a different reflection focus each session to coincide with the liturgical calendar.

How to help at home: Discuss the meaning of covenants and contracts. What is the difference? Can your child think of an example of a contract/covenant?

Year 6

Topic - Justice

The children will learn that God called to the prophets from the Old Testament and about the different ways they responded. They will learn that the prophets spoke out against injustice and that some prophets were persecuted because of this. They will learn that Christians are called to work for justice and find out about individuals who have been persecuted for speaking out against injustice. The children will learn that Advent is a time of waiting and hoping for the birth of the Messiah at Christmas and understand that the birth of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.

*How to help at home: Encourage your child to use this website
<https://www.madagascar-foundation.org/father-pedro/>
to find out about how Fr. Pedro Opeka helped people in Madagascar.*