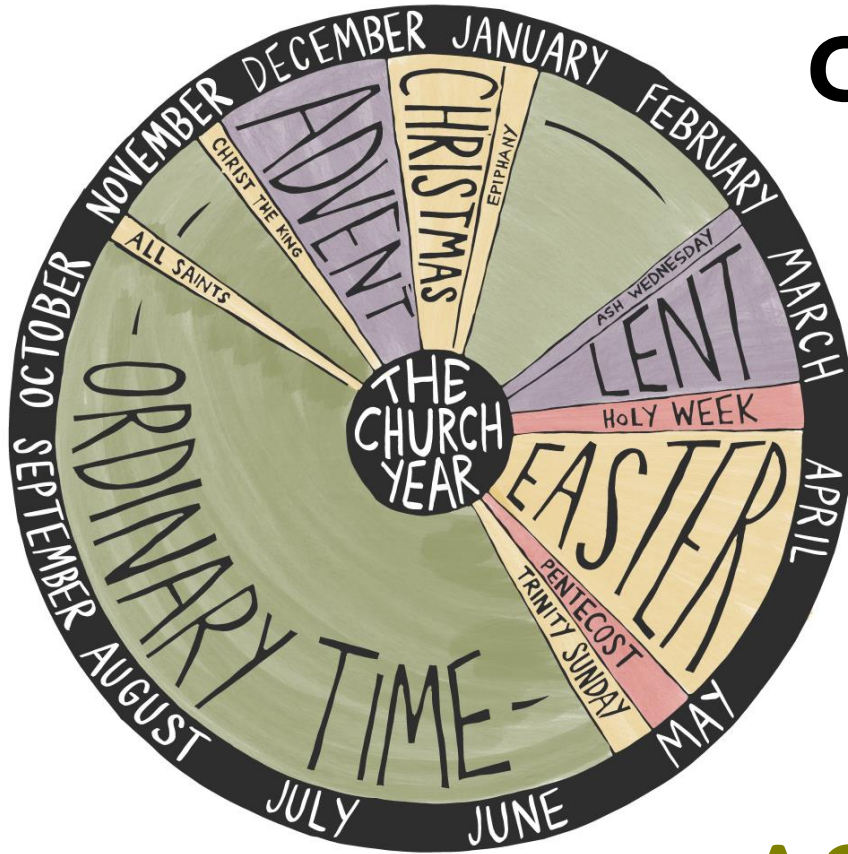


CELEBRATING THE YEAR



Feasts, Special Days,
Civic Celebrations and
Important Days in
Other Religions



A Guide for Schools

INTRODUCTION

Finding something prayerful to do every day can be a bit of a challenge! Whether it is Mass, an Assembly, or simple class prayers or quiet time, it is good that the rhythm of school life is punctuated by moments of prayer and worship. This calendar is offered as a resource to help in this.

On the **left page** you will find each day of the year, with the feasts and memorials of the Catholic liturgical year – observing these, even with a brief mention and a small time of reflection, can put us “in touch” with the worship of the whole Church throughout the world, since most of these days will be celebrated everywhere. Also on that page are important days in other religions: we do not “celebrate” these, but it is important to be aware of them, especially since our schools now welcome children from different faiths. Finally there are

secular “days”, both global ones promoted by the United Nations, UNESCO and the World Health Organisation, and civic observances from the UK. It is very easy to link these to aspects of our Catholic faith in moments of prayer.










Each week has been given a “theme”, some of which correspond to the liturgical year (as for example Advent or the last weeks of Ordinary Time), and others of which are more random. For each theme various Scripture passages are suggested, together with some ideas for prayers: the Bible passages use the **Good News Bible** translation – other translations can be found on www.biblegateway.com (except the Jerusalem Bible, which you can find as daily readings on www.universalis.com). These can be used in a variety of ways: a single line or phrase for daily reflection; one or more scripture passage in a

Celebration of the Word of God; or for use in Mass. Note that in Mass it is always worth first looking at the readings of the day (see *Universalis*), especially if it is the feast day of a saint. If using the “theme” scriptures, there should be a first reading from the Old or New Testaments (but not the Gospels), a Responsorial Psalm (the response to which is included in the “Prayers” section in coloured bold print), a Gospel Acclamation (normally just “Alleluia!”) and a Gospel Reading which the priest or deacon would proclaim.

Finally on the theme page, the following **Sunday’s Gospel** is always included: this can be a source of prayer or discussion throughout the week, and can encourage and lead into attendance at Sunday Mass with greater understanding and appreciation of the message of the Gospel!

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 1:
Liturgical Week: TWENTY SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: BEGINNINGS

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation: Students and Teachers: The Spread of the Gospel: Justice and Peace in the world: Prisoners and their Families: All Victims of War: Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 2nd September	BEGINNING OF SEASON OF CREATION		https://seasonofcreation.org/	
Tuesday 3rd September	Saint Gregory the Great, Pope		Gregory was a leader in Rome in the 6 th century, who became Pope. We remember him because he sent Saint Augustine on the mission to bring Christianity back to England.	<i>Talk about beginning our year with faith and prayer.</i>
Wednesday 4th September	Saint Cuthbert, Bishop		An Anglo-Saxon bishop who lived on the island of Lindisfarne and helped bring Christianity back to England in the 7th century.	<i>Talk about the work of missionaries telling others about Jesus.</i>
Thursday 5th September	<i>UN International Day of Charity</i>		https://www.un.org/en/observances/charity-day	
Friday 6th September	<i>HINDUISM: Ganesh Chaturthi</i>		This is a Hindu festival in honour of Ganesh, the god of good fortune and new beginnings. He was the elephant headed son of Lord Shiva and Parvati. Celebrations conclude with the immersion in water of the image of Ganesh.	
Saturday 7th September				
SUNDAY 8th September	23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 7:31-37: 'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'	
	EDUCATION DAY (Catholic Bishops of England and Wales)			
	<i>Also Our Lady's Birthday</i>		Though we don't actually know the date of Mary's Birthday, it has been celebrated today for centuries. We are glad to celebrate her, because she gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God.	<i>Sing "Happy Birthday" to Mary!</i>
	<i>International Literacy Day [UNESCO]</i>		https://www.unesco.org/en/days/literacy	

Bible Passages

Numbers 6:22-27 – A Blessing for the Year

The Lord commanded Moses to tell Aaron and his sons to use the following words in blessing the people of Israel: “May the Lord bless you and take care of you; May the Lord be kind and gracious to you; May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace. And the Lord said, “If they pronounce my name as a blessing upon the people of Israel, I will bless them.”

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12.16 – Be Ready to Work!

Our friends, we command you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to keep away from all believers who are living a lazy life and who do not follow the instructions that we gave them. You yourselves know very well that you should do just what we did. We were not lazy when we were with you. While we were with you, we used to tell you, “Whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat.” We say this because we hear that there are some people among you who live lazy lives and who do nothing except meddle in other people’s business. May the Lord himself, who is our source of peace, give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Matthew 13:44-46 – Working for Real Treasure!

Jesus said: “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field. Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.”

Matthew 25:14-30 – Putting God’s Gifts to Use

Jesus said: “At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability; to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned

another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. ‘You gave me five thousand coins, sir,’ he said. ‘Look! Here are another five thousand that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’ Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, ‘You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I have earned.’ ‘Well done, you good and faithful servant!’ said his master. ‘You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!’ Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, ‘Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.’ ‘You bad and lazy servant!’ his master said. ‘You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him.

John 14:23-26 – The Holy Spirit is Our Helper

Jesus answered, “Those who love me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and my Father and I will come to them and live with them. Those who do not love me do not obey my teaching. And the teaching you have heard is not mine, but comes from the Father, who sent me. I have told you this while I

am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.

Prayers

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

May God bless our learning and playing, our friendships and fun, our hard work and effort, so that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we may all make this a happy and wonderful year at school.

May God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion!

Father, be with us this year!
Jesus, be close to us this year!
Holy Spirit, help us this year!

Give success to the work of our hand, O Lord!












Next Sunday’s Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man’s ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. ‘He has done all things well,’ they said ‘he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.’

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 2:
Liturgical Week: TWENTY THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: JESUS BLESSED THE CHILDREN

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 9th September	Saint Peter Claver		A Spanish Jesuit priest who went to Columbia where he spent his life looking after the slaves arriving from Africa until his death in 1654.	<i>Talk about the evils of slavery and helping people others dismiss.</i>
	<i>Emergency Services Day</i>		https://www.999day.org.uk/	
Tuesday 10th September	Saint Ambrose Barlow, Priest and Martyr		Ambrose was born in Chorlton-cum-Hardy in south Manchester, and is the only saint (so far!) to have been born in the Diocese of Salford. He worked as a priest in times of persecution, when the Catholic faith was outlawed, and was eventually arrested and put to death.	<i>Look up Wardley Hall, our Bishop's home, where the skull of Saint Ambrose is kept!</i>
Wednesday 11th September	ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN: Coptic New Year		This day is both the start of the Coptic (Egyptian) new year and its first month, Thout. It is also commemorated by Ethiopian Christians. Children wear new clothes and give bouquets of flowers to people.	
Thursday 12th September	The Most Holy Name of Mary		Today we honour Mary, the mother of Jesus: because of her part in the coming of Jesus and the gift of Salvation, even her name is holy and is to be spoken with respect and love.	<i>Talk about honouring the names of God, Jesus and Mary in our speech.</i>
Friday 13th September	Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor		Bishop of Constantinople (now Istanbul) at the end of the 4th century. Fell out with the Empress over Church teaching and was exiled. His name means "Golden Mouth" because of his preaching.	<i>Talk about standing up to powerful people with the truth.</i>
Saturday 14th September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross		On this day we think of the cross of Jesus not as a sad thing, but as a sign of victory and triumph. Because Jesus was willing to sacrifice everything for us, he opened a new way of life and the gateway to heaven for all people.	<i>Make sure you have a cross in your classroom - make one if necessary!</i>
SUNDAY 15th September	24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 8:27-35: The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously	
	EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY (Catholic Bishops of England and Wales)			
	UN International Day of Democracy		https://www.un.org/en/observances/democracy-day	
	ISLAM: Mawlid al-Nabi		Muhammad's Birthday: widely celebrated and a public holiday in many Muslim countries. Qur'anic readings and songs in praise of the Prophet feature. The exact date of the Prophet's birth is uncertain.	

THEME FOR THE WEEK: JESUS BLESSED THE CHILDREN (Mass/Liturgy/Prayer Resources)



Bible Passages

Isaiah 41:10 - God is Very Close

Do not be afraid—I am with you!
I am your God—let nothing terrify you!
I will make you strong and help you;
I will protect you and save you.

From Psalm 17 - Trust in God

Listen, O Lord, to my plea for justice;
pay attention to my cry for help!
Listen to my honest prayer.

You will judge in my favour,
because you know what is right.

You know my heart.

You have come to me at night:

you have examined me completely
and found no evil desire in me.

I pray to you, O God, because you answer me:
so turn to me and listen to my words.
Reveal your wonderful love and save me:
at your side I am safe from my enemies.

Protect me as you would your very eyes;
hide me in the shadow of your wings
from the attacks of the wicked.
But I will see you, because I have done no wrong;
and when I awake,
your presence will fill me with joy

Mark 10:13-16 - Jesus Blesses Children

Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.

Matthew 21:14-16 - The Children Shout Praises!

The blind and the crippled came to Jesus in the Temple, and he healed them. The chief priests and the teachers of the Law became angry when they saw the wonderful things he was doing and the children shouting in the Temple, "Praise to David's Son!" So they asked Jesus, "Do you hear what they are saying?" "Indeed I do," answered Jesus. "Haven't you ever read this scripture? 'You have trained children and babies to offer perfect praise.'" Jesus left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Prayers

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God, help us to be your children in all that we say and do, so that we may truly belong to your Kingdom.

May you know the love of Jesus in your heart, and may you trust in his blessing every day.

Jesus, we are God's children! Bless us today and always!

Hide me, Lord, in the shadow of your wings!










Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him, 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 3:
Liturgical Week: TWENTY FOURTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: TREASURES IN HEAVEN

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 16th September	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian, Martyrs		Cornelius was the Pope and Cyprian was a priest: together in the 3rd century they preached forgiveness for people who had abandoned the Church in time of persecution. They were both victims of Roman persecution themselves.	<i>Talk about forgiveness and second chances.</i>
Tuesday 17th September	Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church		Hildegard was a holy nun who lived in Germany in the 12th century. She is remembered for her writings and her musical compositions (some of the earliest we possess!)	<i>Find some of Hildegard's music online.</i>
	CHINA: Zhongqiujie		This Mid-Autumn festival celebrates the moon's birthday. Offerings are made to the rabbit in the moon, and 'Spirit money' is brought along with incense and offered along with special 'moon' cakes. (<i>pronounced "jung-chew-jyer"</i>)	
Wednesday 18th September				
Thursday 19th September	Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr		An Italian bishop who was killed by the Romans for being a Christian in 305. Every year on this day a relic of his blood in Naples is said to turn liquid again.	<i>Talk about miracles!</i>
Friday 20th September	The Korean Martyrs		Over 10,000 Catholics were put to death in Korea in the 19th century when the rulers decided that the Church was a foreign influence.	<i>Talk about the Church in East Asia today.</i>
	<i>UN World Cleanup Day</i>		https://www.worldcleanupday.org/	
Saturday 21st September	Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist		Saint Matthew for a tax-collector who was called by Jesus to follow him. He did and wrote the Gospel that bears his name.	<i>Talk about how giving people a chance can result in amazing things.</i>
	<i>UN International Day of Peace</i>		https://internationaldayofpeace.org/	
SUNDAY 22nd September	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 9:30-37: Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me	



Bible Passages

1 Peter 1:3-4 – Gifts Kept in Heaven

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away.

Colossians 3:1-2 – The Things of Heaven

You have been raised to life with Christ, so set your hearts on the things that are in heaven, where Christ sits on his throne at the right side of God. Keep your minds fixed on things there, not on things here on earth.

From Psalm 112 – True Happiness

Happy is the person who honours the Lord,
who takes pleasure in obeying his commands.
The good man's children will be powerful in the land;
his descendants will be blessed.
His family will be wealthy and rich,
and he will be prosperous forever.

Light shines in the darkness for good people,
for those who are merciful, kind, and just.
Happy is the person who is generous with his loans,
who runs his business honestly.

A good person will never fail;
he will always be remembered.
He is not afraid of receiving bad news;
his faith is strong, and he trusts in the Lord.
He is not worried or afraid;
he is certain to see his enemies defeated.

He gives generously to the needy,
and his kindness never fails;
he will be powerful and respected.
The wicked see this and are angry;
they glare in hate and disappear;
their hopes are gone forever.

Matthew 13:44-46 – Find Your Treasure

Jesus said: "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field. Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

Matthew 6:19-21 – Where Is Your Heart?

Jesus said: "Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are.

Prayers

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Lord God, you love us so much, and have given us Jesus, the greatest treasure in the world! Help us to value this gift, and keep Him close to us always.

May you judge carefully the things of this world, and not devote all your attention to them, but give space for the things of heaven and thoughts of God.

Father, you give us love: this is our treasure!
Jesus, you give us hope: this is our treasure!
Spirit, you give us faith: this is our treasure!

Happy are those who look for the Lord!










Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 4:
Liturgical Week: TWENTY FIFTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 23rd September	Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest		Padre Pio was an Italian monk who lived in the 20th century; he was seen as a miracle worker and spent hours hearing peoples' confessions. He gave money sent to him to build a hospital for the poor.	<i>Think about how holiness is expressed in practical ways.</i>
Tuesday 24th September	Our Lady of Walsingham		The feast of our National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in Norfolk, a place of pilgrimage for hundreds of years, since someone saw a vision of Mary in the 12 th century.	<i>Look up Walsingham online.</i>
Wednesday 25th September	National Fitness Day		https://www.nationalfitnessday.com/	
Thursday 26th September	Saint Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs		Both lived in Syria and were doctors and were killed for being Christians about the year 300. One of the reasons they were known as Christians was because they helped the poor without asking for money.	<i>Talk about how doctors and nurses work hard to care for us.</i>
Friday 27th September	Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest		A French saint who devoted his life to helping the poor, and inspired others to do the same, at a time when there was no help for poor people.	<i>Talk about the work of the SVP in your parish.</i>
	World's Biggest Coffee Morning		https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee-morning	
Saturday 28th September	Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr		A Christian who became King of Bohemia in the 10th century, who welcomed the Christian faith back into his country. He was killed by his jealous brother.	<i>Sing "Good King Wenceslas"!</i>
SUNDAY 29th September	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48: Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name	
	UN International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste		https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day	



Bible Passages

1 John 3:11-18: We Must Love One Another!

The message you heard from the very beginning is this: we must love one another. So do not be surprised, my friends, if the people of the world hate you. We know that we have left death and come over into life; we know it because we love others. Those who do not love are still under the power of death. Those who hate others are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life in them. This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for others! If we are rich and see others in need, yet close our hearts against them, how can we claim that we love God? My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.

From Psalm 37 – Good People Are Generous

Trust in the Lord and do good:
live in the land and be safe.

Seek your happiness in the Lord,
and he will give you your heart's desire.

Give yourself to the Lord;

trust in him, and he will help you:

he will make your righteousness shine like the
noonday sun.

The Lord takes care of those who obey him,
and the land will be theirs forever.

They will not suffer when times are bad;
they will have enough in time of famine.

The wicked borrow and never pay back,

but good people are generous with their gifts.

The Lord guides us in the way we should go
and protects those who please him.

At all times they give freely and lend to others,
and their children are a blessing.

The words of good people are wise,
and they are always fair.

They keep the law of their God in their hearts
and never depart from it.

The Lord saves the righteous
and protects them in times of trouble.

He helps them and rescues them;

he saves them from the wicked,
because they go to him for protection.

Luke 10:25-37 – The Good Neighbour

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?" The man answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'" "You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live." But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side. But a Samaritan who was traveling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.'" And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

Prayers

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving Father, we remember how much Jesus loved everyone, and gave his life for the whole world. Help us to be kind, giving generously to our neighbours in need.

May God fill your hearts with love, so that you can see and act when your neighbour is in need.

Jesus, help me to help my brother!

Jesus, help me to help my sister!

Jesus, help me to help my neighbour!

The good person takes pity and lends!








Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 5:
Liturgical Week: TWENTY SIXTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: AFTER THE HARVEST

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation: Students and Teachers: The Spread of the Gospel: Justice and Peace in the world: Prisoners and their Families: All Victims of War: Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 30th September	Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor		He lived in Rome in the 4th century but moved to Bethlehem where he lived in a cave and translated the whole bible into Latin so that people could understand it.	<i>Talk about reading the Bible in our language.</i>
Tuesday 1st October	Saint Therese of Lisieux, Virgin and Doctor of the Church		As a young girl, Therese desperately wanted to become a nun, and give her whole life to Jesus. After many struggles, she achieved this. She died at a young age, but wrote a journal describing her spiritual journey.	<i>Talk about Christian journaling.</i>
	Beginning of Black History Month		https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/ It would be good to celebrate Black saints such as Saint Bakhita, Saint Martin de Porres, Saint Charles Lwanga, Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Saint Benedict of Palermo (Benedict the Moor).	
Wednesday 2nd October	The Holy Guardian Angels		Angels are God's servants, and we believe that every person has an angel appointed to watch over them.	<i>Find some traditional prayers "To My Guardian Angel".</i>
	UN International Day of Non-Violence		https://www.un.org/en/observances/non-violence-day	
	Grandparents Day		https://www.ageuk.org.uk/discover/2021/october/grandparents-day/	
Thursday 3rd October	HINDUISM: Navratri (~ 11th October)		Navratri is an annual Hindu festival observed in the honour of the goddess Durga. Celebrations include stage decorations, recital of the legend, enacting of the story, and chanting of the scriptures of Hinduism.	
	JUDAISM: Rosh Hashanah		Rosh Hashanah is Jewish New Year: the ram's horn blown in the synagogue recalls Abraham's sacrifice of a ram instead of his son, Isaac. Apples dipped in honey are eaten in the hope of a 'sweet' new year.	
	National Poetry Day		https://poetrysociety.org.uk/education/national-poetry-day/	
Friday 4th October	Saint Francis of Assisi		The son of a rich Italian merchant in the early 13th century, Francis gave up all his possessions to live a life of simplicity and poverty, founding the Franciscan Order.	<i>Talk about respect for Creation.</i>
	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day		https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day	
Saturday 5th October	Saint Faustina Kowalska, Religious		She was a Polish nun who lived in the 20th century and received vision of the love and forgiveness of Jesus, called "Divine Mercy"	<i>Look up pictures of "Divine Mercy" and how the image was created.</i>
	World Teachers' Day [UNESCO]		https://www.unesco.org/en/days/teachers	
SUNDAY 6th October	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 10:2-12: What God has united, man must not divide	



Bible Passages

Genesis 1:11-12 – God Produces the Harvest

Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit”—and it was done. So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw.

Deuteronomy 8:7-10 – The Earth is God’s Gift

The Lord your God is bringing you into a fertile land—a land that has rivers and springs, and underground streams gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land that produces wheat and barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and honey. There you will never go hungry or ever be in need. Its rocks have iron in them, and from its hills you can mine copper. You will have all you want to eat, and you will give thanks to the Lord your God for the fertile land that he has given you.

2 Corinthians 9:8-11 – The Generosity of God

And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scripture says, “He gives generously to the needy; his kindness lasts forever.” And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and

produce a rich harvest from your generosity. He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us.

From Psalm 147 – God, the Lord of Creation

It is good to sing praise to our God;
it is pleasant and right to praise him.
He has decided the number of the stars
and calls each one by name.

He spreads clouds over the sky;
he provides rain for the earth
and makes grass grow on the hills.
He gives animals their food
and feeds the young ravens when they call.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
He gives a command to the earth,
and what he says is quickly done.

He spreads snow like a blanket
and scatters frost like dust.

He sends hail like gravel;
no one can endure the cold he sends!
Then he gives a command, and the ice melts;
he sends the wind, and the water flows.
Praise the Lord!

Luke 12:15-21 – The Harvest of Goodness

And Jesus went on to say to them all, “Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. He began to think to himself, ‘I don’t have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do,’ he told himself: ‘I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?’” And Jesus concluded, “This is how it is

with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God’s sight.”

Prayers

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God, you give us all the good things of this earth; help us to use them wisely and well, avoiding greed, and working to share the good things of the earth with the hungry and needy.

May God fill your hearts with gratitude for the food you eat, for those who work to produce it and prepare, and may you always remember the poor.

Thank you, Father, for the food we eat!
Thank you, Father, for the water we drink!
Thank you, Father, for this wonderful world!

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord!

Next Sunday’s Gospel

Mark 10:2-12










Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, ‘Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?’ They were testing him. He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ ‘Moses allowed us’ they said ‘to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.’ Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, ‘The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.’

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 6:

Liturgical Week: TWENTY SEVENTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

A Theme for the Week: THE ROSARY: "TEACH US TO PRAY"

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel: Justice and Peace in the world: Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War: Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 7th October	Our Lady of the Rosary		Throughout October we are invited to pray the Rosary, a special form of reflective prayer where we think about the lives of Jesus and Mary while reciting Hail Marys.	<i>Use a length of string to make a DIY Rosary!</i>
Tuesday 8th October				
Wednesday 9th October	Saint John Henry Newman, Priest		An English saint from the 19th century; he was an Anglican priest who converted to become a Catholic and was eventually made a Cardinal. He helped others find their way into the Catholic Church.	<i>Talk about the search for meaning and purpose in life.</i>
Thursday 10th October	Saint Paulinus of York, Bishop			
	<i>World Mental Health Day [WHO]</i>		https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day	
Friday 11th October	Saint John the 23rd, Pope		He was Pope from 1958 - 1963; a simple Italian man, who smiled a lot, he surprised everyone by calling the Second Vatican Council, which "opened the windows of the Church" in the 20th century.	<i>Talk about Pope Francis and what he is doing right now!</i>
Saturday 12th October	Saint Wilfrid, Bishop		Another Anglo-Saxon bishop from the 7th century; he was bishop of York, but frequently fell out with people and was removed from his post.	<i>Talk about persevering when facing challenges.</i>
	JUDAISM: Yom Kippur		Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is marked by a total fast 25 hours long. Jews spend the eve and most of the day in prayer, asking for forgiveness for past wrongs and resolving to improve in the future. The Book of Jonah is read.	
SUNDAY 13th October	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 10:17-27: Give everything you own to the poor, and follow me	
	BEGINNING OF PRISONS WEEK (Catholic Bishops of England and Wales)			

Bible Passages

Ephesians 6:18-20 – Never Give Up Praying

Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people. And pray also for me, that God will give me a message when I am ready to speak, so that I may speak boldly and make known the gospel's secret. For the sake of this gospel I am an ambassador, though now I am in prison. Pray that I may be bold in speaking about the gospel as I should.

1 Timothy 2:1-4: Pray For Everyone.

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people: for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. This is good and it pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth.

From Psalm 25 – Asking for God's Help

To you, O Lord, I offer my prayer;
in you, my God, I trust.

Save me from the shame of defeat;
don't let my enemies gloat over me!

Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.

Teach me to live according to your truth,
for you are my God, who saves me.
I always trust in you.

Those who have reverence for the Lord
will learn from him the path they should follow.
They will always be prosperous,
and their children will possess the land.

I look to the Lord for help at all times,
and he rescues me from danger.
Turn to me, Lord, and be merciful to me,
because I am lonely and weak.

Relieve me of my worries
and save me from all my troubles.
Protect me and save me:

keep me from defeat.

Matthew 6:7-13 – How To Pray

Jesus said to his disciples: "When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honoured; may your Kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us. Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.'"

Luke 18:1-8 – Keep Praying!

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always pray and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her rights, saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the judge refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her rights. If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'" And the Lord continued, "Listen to what that corrupt judge said. Now, will God not judge in favour of his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly.

Prayers

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving Father, Jesus taught us how to pray, and Mary, his mother, gives us an example of prayer. May we use

all the different ways to nourish our prayer lives, so that we may be close to you.

May the love of God fill your minds and hearts, so that you may pray every day, spending quite time in God's presence. And may Mary, the mother of Jesus, help and inspire you!

Our Father, your name is holy!
Our Father, may we do what you want!
Our Father, give us what we need today!
Our Father, help us forgive other people!

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul!

Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 10:17-27











Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 7:

Liturgical Week: TWENTY EIGHTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

A Theme for the Week: I WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel: Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War: Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 14th October	Saint Callistus, Pope and Martyr		A former gravedigger who became Pope in the beginning of the 3rd century - the cemetery he ran still exists in Rome.	<i>Talk about the work of Funeral Directors and gravediggers.</i>
Tuesday 15th October	Saint Teresa of Avila, Virgin and Doctor		Teresa lived in Spain and became a Carmelite nun - she began to reform the Carmelites, since they had become a bit lazy. She faced massive opposition to this but persevered. She had an amazing love of Jesus.	<i>Talk about reformers helping get things back on track.</i>
Wednesday 16th October	Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque		A French nun from the 17th century, who has visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which reminds us how much God loves us.	<i>Talk about the ways Jesus shows his love.</i>
Thursday 17th October	Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr		He was a bishop at the beginning of the 2nd century in Syria, who was arrested by the Romans and taken to Rome, where he was put to death by being attacked by wild animals.	<i>Talk about what real bravery is.</i>
	JUDAISM: Succot		Succot is a harvest festival recalling the 40 years the Jews spent in the wilderness on the way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. A temporary hut is used for eating meals and for visits and socialising.	
	<i>UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</i>		https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-for-eradicating-poverty	
Friday 18th October	Saint Luke, Evangelist		Tradition is that he was a doctor who followed Saint Paul; he wrote the Gospel bearing his name and the Acts of the Apostles, telling the story of Saint Paul's journeys.	<i>Talk about writing the story of Jesus.</i>
Saturday 19th October	The Canadian Martyrs		A group of mainly French Jesuit priests who travelled to North America in the 17th century to tell people about Jesus. While some accepted their message, some tribes rejected them and they were killed.	<i>Talk about the best way to tell other people about Jesus.</i>
SUNDAY 20th October	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 10:42-45: The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many	
	World Mission Day		https://missio.org.uk/what-is-world-mission-sunday/	



Bible Passages

Isaiah 46:4 – I Will Care For You

I am your God and will take care of you until you are old and your hair is grey. I made you and will care for you: I will give you help and rescue you.

Isaiah 30:18 – God Takes Pity on Us

And yet the Lord is waiting to be merciful to you. He is ready to take pity on you because he always does what is right. Happy are those who put their trust in the Lord.

Psalms 23 – You Are With Me, Lord

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.
He lets me rest in fields of green grass
and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water.

He gives me new strength.
He guides me in the right paths,
as he has promised.

Even if I go through the deepest darkness,
I will not be afraid, Lord,
for you are with me.
Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me.

You prepare a banquet for me,
where all my enemies can see me:
you welcome me as an honoured guest
and fill my cup to the brim.

I know that your goodness and love
will be with me all my life;
and your house will be my home as long as I live.

Matthew 6:25-33 – Do Not Worry!

Jesus said: "This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it? And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have! So do not start worrying: 'Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?' (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.

Luke 15:1-7 – I Have Found My Lost Sheep!

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred

sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent."

Prayers

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Father in heaven, full of love for each one of us, give us your help and protection today and every day, so that we may live life to the full knowing you care for us.

May the Lord keep you under his care and protection in everything you do this day!

Jesus, my Good Shepherd, protect me!
Jesus, my Good Shepherd, help me!
Jesus, my Good Shepherd, stay close to me!

The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want!

Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 10:42-45

Jesus called the Twelve to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No: anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 8:

Liturgical Week: TWENTY NINTH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

A Theme for the Week: WE ARE CALLED GOD'S CHILDREN

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 21st October				
Tuesday 22nd October	Saint John Paul 2 nd , Pope	✠	Born Karol Wojtyla in Poland, he became a priest and suffered greatly under the Communist regime. He was a surprise choice to become Pope, elected in 1978. He set about travelling the world, including a visit to Manchester in 1982!	<i>Talk about the job of the pope.</i>
Wednesday 23rd October	Saint John of Capistrano, Priest	✠	A 14th century Italian Franciscan who had been a wealthy lawyer before he decided to embrace poverty. A very inspiring preacher, he would draw huge crowds wherever he went.	<i>Talk about inspiring speakers.</i>
Thursday 24th October	Saint Antony Mary Claret, Bishop	✠	A 19th century Spanish priest who was sent to be Bishop of Santiago, Cuba. He worked hard for the people, especially the poor, though this meant other tried to assassinate him fifteen times!	<i>Talk about doing the right thing even in the face of opposition.</i>
Friday 25th October				
Saturday 26th October	Saints Chad and Cedd, Bishops	✠	English brothers from the 7th century (Anglo-Saxon period) who became monks on Lindisfarne. Eventually they became bishops, known for their humility and simplicity. Chad was Bishop of Lichfield, which then included our Diocese of Salford.	<i>Talk about the rich legacy of Anglo-Saxon saints.</i>
SUNDAY 27th October	30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	✠	Mark 10:46-52: Go; your faith has saved you	



Bible Passages

1 John 2:29-3:1 – We Are Called God's Children

You know that Christ is righteous; you should know, then, that everyone who does what is right is God's child. See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children—and so, in fact, we are. This is why the world does not know us: it has not known God.

From Psalm 119 – Teach Me, Lord!

Teach me, Lord, the meaning of your laws,
and I will obey them at all times.

Explain your law to me, and I will obey it;
I will keep it with all my heart.

Keep me obedient to your commandments,
because in them I find happiness.
Give me the desire to obey your laws
rather than to get rich.

Keep me from paying attention to what is worthless;
be good to me, as you have promised.
Keep your promise to me, your servant—
the promise you make to those who obey you.

Save me from the insults I fear:
how wonderful are your judgments!
I want to obey your commands;
give me new life, for you are righteous.

Mark 9:33-37 – The Smallest Are the Greatest

They came to Capernaum, and after going indoors Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they would not answer him, because on the road they had been arguing among themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must place himself last of all and be the servant of all." Then he took a child and had him stand in front of them. He put his arms around him and said to them, "Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not only me but also the one who sent me."

Prayers

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Father in heaven, Jesus teaches us that we are your children. We know you love us, and watch over us. Help us to behave as your children should, being kind and gentle, and getting on well with each other!

May you know you are a child of God, filled with God's love, and called to live a life pleasing to God, your heavenly Father.

God who made us – we are your children!
God who loves us – we are your children!
God who saves us – we are your children!

Lord, let your face shine on me!

Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 10:46-52







As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man, 'Courage,' they said 'get up; he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 9:

Liturgical Week: THIRTIETH WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

A Theme for the Week: SAINTS AND THOSE WHO'VE GONE BEFORE US

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 28th October	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles		Two of the 12 Apostles chosen by Jesus: we know next to nothing about them except their names. It is believed that they took the message of Jesus to new people before their deaths.	<i>Talk about being chosen to carry out a special mission.</i>
Tuesday 29th October	RSPB Feed the Birds Day		https://community.rspb.org.uk/	
Wednesday 30th October				
Thursday 31st October	HINDUISM: Diwali (- 4 th November)		For Hindus this is a New Year festival lasting from one to five days, during which fireworks are set off and lights are hung out. It is a festival of light, coinciding with the darkest night of the lunar month. It is generally associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth and prosperity, or with the victorious return of Rama and Sita after their exile.	
			<i>NOTE: Halloween. While once upon a time this may have been a fun bit of dressing up, in modern times there has developed a sense of "celebrating evil", which is of course utterly contrary to our Christian faith. For this reason it is inadvisable for schools to have Halloween parties. Perhaps as an alternative look into the (very Catholic) Central American celebration of the "Days of the Dead".</i>	
Friday 1st November	ALL SAINTS Holyday of Obligation		A Holy Day of Obligation, the highest type of feast. This day celebrates all the saints in heaven, not just the ones whose names we know, but all the good and holy people (perhaps from our own families) who have gone before us.	<i>Talk about how to be a saint today!</i>
Saturday 2nd November	ALL SOULS' DAY		A day when we pray for everyone who has died, remembering that Jesus promised eternal life. We can help those who have died on their journey to heaven, and they can pray for us.	<i>Talk about bereavement and those who have gone before us.</i>
SUNDAY 3rd November	31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 12:28-34: 'You are not far from the kingdom of God'	

Bible Passages

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.18 - Jesus Died and Rose Again

Our friends, we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him. What we are teaching you now is the Lord's teaching: we who are alive on the day the Lord comes will not go ahead of those who have died. There will be the shout of command, the archangel's voice, the sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord himself will come down from heaven. Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first; then we who are living at that time will be gathered up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. So then, encourage one another with these words.

1 John 3:1-2 - We Will Be Like Jesus

See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children—and so, in fact, we are. This is why the world does not know us: it has not known God. My dear friends, we are now God's children, but it is not yet clear what we shall become. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he really is.

Psalms 27 - Trust in the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
I will fear no one.

The Lord protects me from all danger;
I will never be afraid.

I have asked the Lord for one thing;
one thing only do I want:
to live in the Lord's house all my life,
to marvel there at his goodness,
and to ask for his guidance.

I know that I will live to see
the Lord's goodness in this present life.

Trust in the Lord.

Have faith, do not despair.
Trust in the Lord.

Apocalypse 22:1-5 - The Saints Are in Heaven

The angel also showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal, and coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing down the middle of the city's street. On each side of the river was the tree of life, which bears fruit twelve times a year, once each month; and its leaves are for the healing of the nations. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. There shall be no more night, and they will not need lamps or sunlight, because the Lord God will be their light, and they will rule as kings forever and ever.

Matthew 11:25-26.28-30 - I Will Give You Rest

At that time Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen. Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light."

John 11:21-27 - I Am the Resurrection

Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for." "Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her. "I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord!" she answered. "I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Prayers

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

May you be the saints of tomorrow, showing the world what it means to live in the fullness of God's love, as Jesus taught us!

Jesus, you are the Way and the Truth!
Jesus, you are the Resurrection!
Jesus, you are Eternal Life!

The Lord is my light and my salvation!








Next Sunday's Gospel

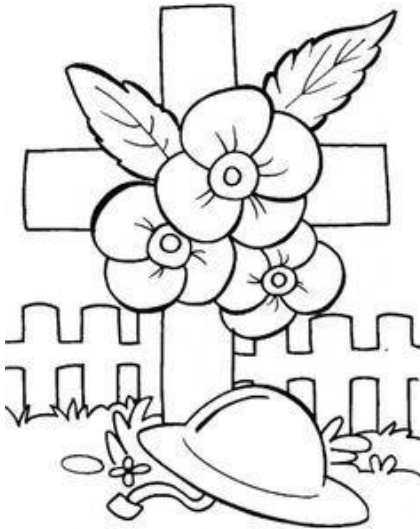
Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master: what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 10:
Liturgical Week: THIRTY FIRST WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: REMEMBRANCE

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 4th November	Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop		An Italian bishop and cardinal from the 16th century, who helped bring about reforms to the Catholic church, and was a good and kind Bishop in the city of Milan.	<i>Talk about the job of a bishop.</i>
Tuesday 5th November	Bonfire Night			
Wednesday 6th November				
Thursday 7th November	Saint Willibrord, Priest		Yet another Anglo-Saxon saint! He was born in Yorkshire but became a missionary in what we now call Germany and the Netherlands, establishing churches and monasteries.	<i>Talk about how the Gospel is for every country.</i>
Friday 8th November				
Saturday 9th November	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica		Saint John Lateran in Rome is the Pope's Cathedral as Bishop of Rome – a huge church first built in the 4th century, it contains the Pope's "cathedra" a special throne or chair that symbolises his authority. Our Bishop John has a "cathedra" In Salford Cathedral.	<i>Do some research on our Cathedral in Salford.</i>
SUNDAY 10th November	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 12:41-44: This poor widow has put in more than all	
	WORLD DAY OF THE POOR		https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri.html	
	Remembrance Sunday		https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday	



Bible Passages

James 3:17-18 - The Wisdom of God is Peaceful
But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy. And goodness is the harvest that is produced from the seeds the peacemakers plant in peace.

Psalm 46 - God Stops Wars

God is our shelter and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken
and mountains fall into the ocean depths;
even if the seas roar and rage,
and the hills are shaken by the violence.

There is a river that brings joy to the city of God,
to the sacred house of the Most High.
God is in that city, and it will never be destroyed;
at early dawn he will come to its aid.
Nations are terrified, kingdoms are shaken;
God thunders, and the earth dissolves.
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come and see what the Lord has done.
See what amazing things he has done on earth.

He stops wars all over the world;
he breaks bows, destroys spears,
and sets shields on fire.

“Stop fighting,” he says, “and know that I am God,
supreme among the nations,
supreme over the world.”
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Matthew 5:1-12 - Happy are the Peacemakers

Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them: “Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them! “Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised! Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully! Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them! Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God! Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children! Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them! Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.

John 15:11-14 - No Greater Love

Jesus said: “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My

commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them. And you are my friends if you do what I command you.”

Prayers

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving Father, give eternal life to all who have died in wars, especially those who gave their lives so that others could be safe and free.

Lord Jesus, keep us safe!
Lord Jesus, bring us peace!
Lord Jesus, protect those who protect us!

Blessed are the Peacemakers! Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.









Next Sunday's Gospel

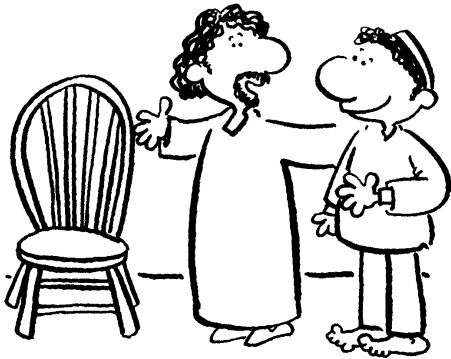
Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury; and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.’

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 11:
 Liturgical Week: THIRTY SECOND WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
 A Theme for the Week: SHOW FAITH BY ACTIONS

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 11th November	Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop		A Roman soldier in the 4th century who converted to Christianity and became a bishop in what is now France. He was good and kind to everyone.	<i>Talk about practical charity.</i>
	Armistice Day		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armistice_Day	
Tuesday 12th November	Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr		Josaphat was a bishop in Ukraine, who worked hard for the Catholic Faith, but also to bring harmony and peace between different Christians. He was killed in an anti-Catholic riot.	<i>Talk about Christian Unity</i>
	Beginning of Interfaith Week		Beginning on Remembrance Sunday and running until the following Sunday each year, Inter Faith week seeks to strengthen good inter-faith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. Visit https://www.interfaithweek.org/	
Wednesday 13th November				
Thursday 14th November				
Friday 15th November	Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor		A very clever man who lived in Germany in the 13th century. He was interested in everything and wrote lots of books. He thought that learning was useful in getting closer to God.	<i>Talk about the benefits of education!</i>
Saturday 16th November	Saint Margaret of Scotland		Queen of Scotland in the 11th century, she was a very holy woman who used her position to help the poor and support the spread of the Gospel. She was a devoted wife and mother.	<i>Talk about how people in power can use their gifts for those in need.</i>
	International Day for Tolerance [UNESCO]		https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/international-day-tolerance-16-november	
SUNDAY 17th November	33 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		Mark 13:24-32: The stars will fall from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken	



Bible Passages

James 2:14-18 – Your Actions Show Your Faith

My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, "God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!"—if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead. But someone will say, "One person has faith, another has actions." My answer is, "Show me how anyone can have faith without actions. I will show you my faith by my actions."

Psalm 146 – God, the Example of Good Actions

Praise the Lord, my soul!
I will praise him as long as I live;
I will sing to my God all my life.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob to help them
and who depend on the Lord their God,
the Creator of heaven, earth, and sea,
and all that is in them.

He always keeps his promises;
he judges in favour of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free
and gives sight to the blind.
He lifts those who have fallen;
he loves his righteous people.

He protects the strangers who live in our land;
he helps widows and orphans,
but takes the wicked to their ruin.
The Lord is king forever.
Your God, O Zion, will reign for all time.

Luke 14:12-14 – Serve Those in Need

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not just invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your rich neighbours—so that they will invite you back, and in this way you will be paid for what you did. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind; and you will be blessed, because they are not able to pay you back. God will repay you on the day the good people rise from death."

Prayers

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving Lord Jesus, who were so kind to so many people who needed your help, give us the strength to be your hands today, healing the world, and showing our faith is real and active.

May you be strong in doing God's work today, so that others will know that your faith is real!

Jesus, we are your hands – help us to heal!
Jesus, we are your feet – help us to go where we are needed!
Jesus, we are your heart – help us to love!

Lord, give success to the work of our hands!









Next Sunday's Gospel

Mark 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven. Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 12:
 Liturgical Week: THIRTY THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
 A Theme for the Week: THE BANQUET OF THE KINGDOM

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 18th November	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul		These are two wonderful churches in Rome built on the places where Saint Peter and Saint Paul were buried. Millions of pilgrims visit these churches every year!	<i>Talk about pilgrimages to holy places.</i>
Tuesday 19th November	UN World Toilet Day		https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day/background	
Wednesday 20th November	UN World Children's Day		https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day	
Thursday 21st November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary		This feast celebrates an old tradition that when Mary was a little girl she was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem and dedicated to God.	<i>Talk about our baptism, when we are "presented" to God.</i>
Friday 22nd November	Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr		The patron saint of music! A young girl in ancient Rome who was put to death for being a Christian.	<i>Make sure you sing a hymn today!</i>
Saturday 23rd November	Saint Clement the First, Pope and Martyr		Pope number three! He probably knew Saint Peter. He is remembered for a letter he wrote, asking Christians to stop fighting among themselves.	<i>Talk about getting on with each other.</i>
SUNDAY 24th November	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe		John 18:33-37: "Yes, I am a king"	
	YOUTH SUNDAY (Catholic Bishops of England and Wales)			



Bible Passages

Isaiah 25:6-9 – The Feast on God’s Holy Mountain

Here on Mount Zion the Lord Almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world—a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations. The Sovereign Lord will destroy death forever! He will wipe away the tears from everyone’s eyes and take away the disgrace his people have suffered throughout the world. The Lord himself has spoken. When it happens, everyone will say, “He is our God! We have put our trust in him, and he has rescued us. He is the Lord! We have put our trust in him, and now we are happy and joyful because he has saved us.”

From Psalm 34 – Trust in God for Everything

I will always thank the Lord:

I will never stop praising him.
I will praise him for what he has done;
may all who are oppressed listen and be glad!
Proclaim with me the Lord’s greatness:

let us praise his name together!

Find out for yourself how good the Lord is.

Happy are those who find safety with him.

Honour the Lord, all his people:

those who obey him have all they need.

Even lions go hungry for lack of food,
but those who obey the Lord lack nothing good.

Come, my young friends, and listen to me,

and I will teach you to honour the Lord.

Would you like to enjoy life?

Do you want long life and happiness?

Then keep from speaking evil

and from telling lies.

Turn away from evil and do good:

“ strive for peace with all your heart.

“

Matthew 8:5-11 – Who Comes to the Feast of Heaven?

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman officer met him and begged for help: “Sir, my servant is sick in bed at home, unable to move and suffering terribly.” “I will go and make him well,” Jesus said. “Oh no, sir,” answered the officer. “I do not deserve to have you come into my house. Just give the order, and my servant will get well. I, too, am a man under the authority of superior officers, and I have soldiers under me. I order this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes; and I order that one, ‘Come!’ and he comes; and I order my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard this, he was surprised and said to the people following him, “I tell you, I have never found anyone in Israel with faith like this. I assure you that many will come from the east and the west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of heaven.

Prayers

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and

lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving Father, you sent Jesus your Son to invite us to the banquet of heaven: may we show, by lives full of goodness and kindness, that we want to feast with you for ever!

May you put your trust in the Lord God this day, and look forward in hope to the coming of Jesus and the joyful feast of heaven.

Jesus invites us – welcome to His feast!

Jesus feeds us – welcome to His feast!

Jesus loves us – welcome to his feast!

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord!





Next Sunday’s Gospel

John 18:33-37

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked. Jesus replied, ‘Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?’ Jesus replied, ‘Mine is not a kingdom of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.’ ‘So you are a king then?’ said Pilate. ‘It is you who say it’ answered Jesus. ‘Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 13:
Liturgical Week: LAST WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME
A Theme for the Week: THE LORD IS COMING SOON!

In Autumn we pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People.

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 25th November	Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr		A very clever young woman from the city of Alexandria in Egypt, who became a Christian and then entered a debate with pagan philosophers – she won and converted them! The Emperor didn't like this and ordered her to be killed.	<i>Talk about how we can use our education for good!</i>
Tuesday 26th November				
Wednesday 27th November				
Thursday 28th November				
Friday 29th November				
Saturday 30th November	Saint Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland		The first of the 12 apostles to be called by Jesus, and the brother of Saint Peter. He was a fisherman like his brother, who gave us everything to follow Jesus. He is the patron saint of Scotland.	<i>Talk about people who give up everything for Jesus</i>
A new Church Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. This year we will be focusing on the Gospel of Saint Luke (whose symbol is a winged bull) on our Sundays.				
SUNDAY 1st December	First Sunday of Advent		Luke 21:25-28,34-36: That day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap	
	<i>UN World AIDS Day</i>		https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-aids-day	



Bible Passages

Philippians 4:4-7 – Rejoice! The Lord is Coming!
May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice! Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

From Psalm 85 – Lord, Show us Your Love and Help!
Lord, you have been merciful to your land;
you have made Israel prosperous again.
You have forgiven your people's sins
and pardoned all their wrongs.

Bring us back, O God our saviour,
and stop being displeased with us!
Make us strong again,
and we, your people, will praise you.

Show us your constant love, O Lord,
and give us your saving help.
Love and faithfulness will meet:
righteousness and peace will embrace.

Human loyalty will reach up from the earth,
and God's righteousness will look down from heaven.
The Lord will make us prosperous,
and our land will produce rich harvests.

Luke 12:35-40 – The Son of Man Will Come Back
Jesus said: "Be ready for whatever comes, dressed for action and with your lamps lit, like servants who are waiting for their master to come back from a wedding feast. When he comes and knocks, they will open the door for him at once. How happy are those servants whose master finds them awake and ready when he returns! I tell you, he will take off his coat, have them sit down, and will wait on them. How happy they are if he finds them ready, even if he should come at midnight or even later! And you can be sure that if the owner of a house knew the time when the thief would come, he would not let the thief break into his house. And you, too, must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.

Prayers

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord

Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, when you first came you helped everyone and taught them your Way. As we wait for you to come again, help us to live in your Way every day of our lives.

May God bless you, so that you may live each day ready to meet Jesus when he comes!

Come, Lord Jesus! Come and heal!
Come, Lord Jesus! Come and save!
Come, Lord Jesus! Come again!








Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation!

Next Sunday's Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36
Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars: on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 14:Liturgical Week: **FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**A Theme for the Week: **PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD**

In Advent we pray for: Openness to the
Word of God; Migrants and Refugees;
Expectant Mothers

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 2nd December	<i>UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</i>		https://www.un.org/en/observances/slavery-abolition-day	
Tuesday 3rd December	MIGRANTS' DAY			
	<i>UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities</i>		https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities	
Wednesday 4th December				
Thursday 5th December				
Friday 6th December	Saint Nicholas, Bishop		Bishop in Turkey in the 4th century. A holy man, who helped out poor people with anonymous gifts. In some countries, today "Saint Nicholas" or "Sinter Klas" brings gifts to well-behaved children!	<i>Talk about gifts and kindness</i>
Saturday 7th December	Saint Ambrose of Milan, Bishop and Doctor		Bishop in Italy in the 4th century. A very clever man who wrote wonderful prayers, sermons and hymns; he persuaded Saint Augustine to change his life!	<i>Talk about helping others find their way to God.</i>
SUNDAY 8th December	Second Sunday of Advent		Luke 3:1-6: The call of John the Baptist	
	BUDDHISM: Bodhi Day		Each year on December 8th, Buddhists celebrate the day that Siddhartha Gautama achieved enlightenment through meditation. The word Bodhi means awakening or enlightenment. Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, is popularly known as the Buddha.	



Bible Passages

Isaiah 30:19-21 - God Will Come and Teach You

You people who live in Jerusalem will not weep any more. The Lord is compassionate, and when you cry to him for help, he will answer you. The Lord will make you go through hard times, but he himself will be there to teach you, and you will not have to search for him any more. If you wander off the road to the right or the left, you will hear his voice behind you saying, "Here is the road. Follow it."

From Psalm 25 - Lord, Teach Me Your Ways!

Teach me your ways, O Lord;
make them known to me.
Teach me to live according to your truth,
for you are my God, who saves me.

I always trust in you.

Remember, O Lord, your kindness and constant love
which you have shown from long ago.
Forgive the sins and errors of my youth.
In your constant love and goodness,
remember me, Lord!

Because the Lord is righteous and good,
he teaches sinners the path they should follow.
He leads the humble in the right way
and teaches them his will.

Luke 12:35-38 - Be Ready For Jesus!

Jesus said: "Be ready for whatever comes, dressed for action and with your lamps lit, like servants who are waiting for their master to come back from a wedding feast. When he comes and knocks, they will open the door for him at once. How happy are those servants whose master finds them awake and ready when he returns! I tell you, he will take off his coat, have them sit down, and will wait on them. How happy they are if he finds them ready, even if he should come at midnight or even later!"

Prayers

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, as we get ready to celebrate your birthday at Christmas, help us to remember that you will come back to us - not as a baby in Bethlehem, but as the Lord of all Creation!

May you know the closeness of God in your life this day, so that you may be ready to meet the Lord Jesus at his coming.

Jesus is coming! Make us ready!
Jesus is coming! Make us joyful!
Jesus is coming! Make us good!

God of hosts, bring us back! Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved!








Next Sunday's Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God."

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 15:
Liturgical Week: SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
A Theme for the Week: THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS NEAR

In Advent we pray for: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 9th December	The Immaculate Conception		The Immaculate Conception is not when the angel came Mary (that's the Annunciation) but much earlier when Mary was conceived by her parents Joachim and Anne. God gave her a special gift to be free from the "stain of original sin", so that she could be ready to be the mother of Jesus. When we are baptised we share in what Mary received, so that we may do wonderful things for God!	<i>Talk about baptism.</i>
Tuesday 10th December	UN Human Rights Day		https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day	
Wednesday 11th December	Saint Damasus 1 st . Pope		He was Pope in the 4th century, who did a lot of work discovering the burial places of those people who had died in the Roman persecutions of the previous centuries. He wrote wonderful poems to erect over their burial places.	<i>Write a poem about your favourite saint!</i>
Thursday 12th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe		Also known as Our Lady of the Americas, this feast celebrated a vision of Mary by a young Aztec man in what is now Mexico: this brought many people to believe in Jesus.	<i>Talk about Shrines of Our Lady (Lourdes, Walsingham, etc.)</i>
Friday 13th December	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr		She was a young girl from Sicily who was killed for being a Christian at the beginning of the 4th century. Her name means "light" and in Scandinavia on this day "Lucys" wear crowns of candles to show the light of Jesus in the Winter darkness.	<i>Talk about how even the youngest person can be a light for others.</i>
Saturday 14th December	Saint John of the Cross, Religious and Doctor		A Spanish Carmelite monk who lived in the 16th century and worked hard to reform his religious order: he faced a lot of criticism from people who were too comfortable with things as they were!	<i>Talk about making changes for the better when people resist.</i>
SUNDAY 15th December	Third Sunday of Advent		Luke 3:10-18: 'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'	



Bible Passages

Isaiah 30:19-23-24.26 – The Lord Will Heal You
You people who live in Jerusalem will not weep any more. The Lord is compassionate, and when you cry to him for help, he will answer you. Whenever you plant your crops, the Lord will send rain to make them grow and will give you a rich harvest, and your livestock will have plenty of pasture. The oxen and donkeys that plough your fields will eat the finest and best fodder. The moon will be as bright as the sun, and the sun will be seven times brighter than usual, like the light of seven days in one. This will all happen when the Lord bandages and heals the wounds he has given his people.

From Psalm 147 – The Power of God

Sing hymns of praise to the Lord;
play music on the harp to our God.
He spreads clouds over the sky;
he provides rain for the earth
and makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives animals their food
and feeds the young ravens when they call.
His pleasure is not in strong horses,
nor his delight in brave soldiers;
but he takes pleasure in those who honour him,
in those who trust in his constant love.

He gives a command to the earth,
and what he says is quickly done.
He spreads snow like a blanket
and scatters frost like dust.

He gives his message to his people,
his instructions and laws to Israel.
He has not done this for other nations:
they do not know his laws.

Matthew 9:35 –10:1. 5-7 – the Kingdom is Near!

Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest." Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. Instead, you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel. Go and preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near!'"

Prayers

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet

your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God, soon we will remember how your Son came into our world, born in Bethlehem in Judaea: help us to show by our lives that we are building his Kingdom, as we wait for him to come again!

May you have hope in the promises of God, and live as a messenger of peace and joy, proclaiming to all the world that the kingdom of heaven is near!

Come, Lord Jesus and heal our sadness!
Come, Lord Jesus and guide our learning!
Come, Lord Jesus and strengthen our service!

Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord!



Next Sunday's Gospel

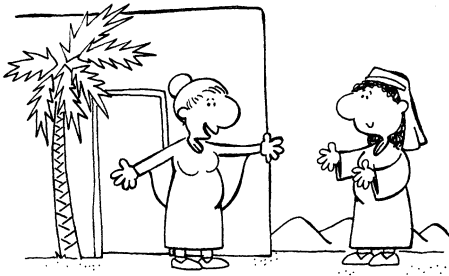
Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals: he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 16:
 Liturgical Week: **THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**
 A Theme for the Week: **MARY'S HEART PRAISES THE LORD**

In Advent we pray for: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 16th December			The "O" Antiphons are very ancient prayers for the last days of Advent, counting down to Christmas. The first letter of each prayer spells out the Latin words "ERO CRAS" which means "I will be (with you) tomorrow" – a phrase completed on Christmas Eve.	
Tuesday 17th December	"O Sapientia"		O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!	S
Wednesday 18th December	"O Adonai"		O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!	A
	<i>UN International Migrants Day</i>		https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day	
Thursday 19th December	"O Radix Jesse"		O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!	R
Friday 20th December	"O Clavis David"		O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!	C
Saturday 21st December	"O Oriens"		O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.	O
SUNDAY 22nd December	Fourth Sunday of Advent "O Rex Gentium"		Luke 1:39-45: Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!	R



Bible Passages

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – Let Us Give Thanks!

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes! He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.

1 Samuel 2:1-10: My Heart is Full of Joy!

Hannah prayed: "The Lord has filled my heart with joy; how happy I am because of what he has done! I laugh at my enemies; how joyful I am because God has helped me! No one is holy like the Lord; there is none like him, no protector like our God. He lifts the poor from the dust and raises the needy from their misery. He makes them companions of princes and puts them in places of honour. The Lord will judge the whole world; he will give power to his king, he will make his chosen king victorious."

Luke 1:46-56: My Soul Glorifies the Lord!

Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Saviour, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call

me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name is holy; from one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honour him. He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!" Mary stayed about three months with Elizabeth and then went back home.

Prayers

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Loving Father, who sent your angel to Mary to announce the Good News of the coming of Jesus your Son, help us to be like her, welcoming your words, and trusting in your love.

May the faith and humility of Mary, and her saying "Yes" to the angel, inspire you to say "Yes" to God today, and do some good work of service for others.

Holy Mary, Mother of God ... pray for us!
Saint Joseph ... pray for us!
Saint Elizabeth ... pray for us!

My soul glorifies the Lord!

Next Sunday's Gospel

Luke 1:39-45








Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."



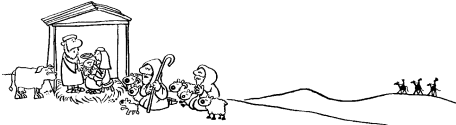
AUTUMN TERM WEEK 17:

Liturgical Week: **FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT AND FIRST DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**
 A Theme for the Week: **EMMANUEL – GOD-WITH-US**

In Advent we pray for: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 23rd December	“O Emmanuel”		O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!	E
Tuesday 24th December				
Wednesday 25th December	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		Luke 2:1-14 'In the town of David a saviour has been born to you'	
Thursday 26th December	Saint Stephen, the First Martyr			
	KWANZAA		https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwanzaa	
	JUDAISM: Hanukkah (~ 2nd January)		Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each of the eight nights of the festival.	
Friday 27th December	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist			
Saturday 28th December	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs			
SUNDAY 29th December	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH		Luke 2:41-52: Mary stored up all these things in her heart	

THEME FOR THE WEEK: EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US! (Mass/Liturgy/Prayer Resources)



Bible Passages

Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 – A Child is Born For Us!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. You have given them great joy, Lord; you have made them happy. They rejoice in what you have done, as people rejoice when they harvest grain or when they divide captured wealth. For you have broken the yoke that burdened them and the rod that beat their shoulders. You have defeated the nation that oppressed and exploited your people, just as you defeated the army of Midian long ago. The boots of the invading army and all their bloodstained clothing will be destroyed by fire. A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, “Wonderful Counsellor,” “Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,” “Prince of Peace.” His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David’s successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this.

From Psalm 96 – Proclaim the Good News!

Sing a new song to the Lord!

Sing to the Lord, all the world!

Sing to the Lord, and praise him!

Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.

Proclaim his glory to the nations,
his mighty deeds to all peoples.

The Lord is great and is to be highly praised;
he is to be honoured more than all the gods.

Praise the Lord, all people on earth;
praise his glory and might.

Praise the Lord’s glorious name;
bring an offering and come into his Temple.

Titus 3:4-6 – God Sends Us a Saviour

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour was revealed, he saved us. It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us. God poured out the Holy Spirit abundantly on us through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

Luke 2:1-14 – The Birth of Jesus

At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn. There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great army of heaven’s angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

Prayers

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with

you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Loving Father, you brought joy and light to the world in the birth of Jesus your Son! As we celebrate his birth, grant that we may always be children of light, sharing our joy with everyone we meet!

May God bless you as you remember the birth of Jesus, so that you may bring peace and joy to your family and to others in memory of his holy Nativity!

Silent night, when Jesus is born!

Holy night, when Jesus is born!

Light filled night, when Jesus is born!

The Lord is marvellous and does wonderful things!

Next Sunday’s Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day’s journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, ‘My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.’ ‘Why were you looking for me?’ he replied. ‘Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father’s affairs?’ But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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