

Dear Parent(s),

The question “Where do I come from?” is the basis of this term's work. Christians believe that God the Father is Creator and source of all life and because everything and everyone created comes from God then all life must be revered and respected.

As schools return for the Autumn term, the church's year is moving towards its completion. Before Advent, which is the start of the new church's year, we especially celebrate the Communion of Saints throughout the month of November.

The topics to be studied this term are: **Babies**, **Initiation** and **Gifts**. These help us to deepen our understanding of giftedness, belonging and loving within creation.



## BABIES

(6<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October)

In this topic we focus on the joy that babies bring into the lives of their parents and families. We also wonder at the mystery of each new life that has been created by God in his image and likeness and is loved and cared for by Him like a parent. The children are encouraged to understand the ways in which they show respect for the dignity of the people in their lives at home, in school and in their neighbourhood.

### Suggestions for home activities:

- Talk to your child about his/her arrival into the family and things that family members said about them, e.g. family characteristics.
- Together, look at photographs or videos of them as babies and recall their story of coming into the world, their first year and the care they needed.
- Make a scrap book of babies using magazine pictures or photographs of your own child. Underneath each picture write one of the following: “God created babies (you) to be like Him”; “A baby is a miracle” or “You are a miracle”; “God is your parent, you are His child”; “Babies (you) are beautiful”; “Babies (you) bring Joy”.

## INITIATION

(4<sup>th</sup> October – 5<sup>th</sup> November)



In this topic we look at the many ways we are welcomed (initiated) into the communities in which we live. These include the communities of family, school and church.

The children learn about the Sacrament of Baptism which enables the family to both welcome a new baby into the 'Domestic Church' community of the family and also into the parish community. Children explore the ways in which they welcome new people, other children, new staff and parents into the community of the school. They are also helped to grow in awareness of their own initiation into the church.

### Suggestions for home activities:

- Discuss with your children how you, as a family welcome visitors to your home.
- Make a list – e.g. invite them to come in, take their coats and invite them to sit down; Switch off the TV; offer some refreshment; ask how they are; then talk about what else the family might do.
- Show photographs, Baptismal candle, certificate, shawl etc. relating to their own welcome into the family of the church.
- As well as celebrating their birthday, celebrate their Baptism Day by inviting their Godparents for a special meal.

## OTHER FAITHS

(week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> November)

This term, another world faith will be explored in years 1-6. We want the children to grow in understanding and respect for the beliefs of others in order to promote peace in our world. It is the lack of understanding and respect that has been the cause of so much conflict in the past.



### Suggestions for home activities:

- Encourage your child to share with you what they have been learning about the world faith.
- Look for the displays in school on this topic and talk about it with your child.

## GIFTS

(15th November to end of term)

In this topic we explore the theme of giving and receiving gifts as a sign and expression of love and friendship. The children are helped to understand that gifts are specially chosen by the giver, for the person who is to receive them.

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas when we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus given by God as a sign of His love for all human beings. The children are encouraged to reflect on the gifts they have received in the past and what those gifts mean to them now.

### Suggestions for home activities:

- Make or buy an Advent calendar that uses **religious symbols** to help your child prepare for Christmas.
- Help your child to prepare a gift list for others rather than themselves. Get them to think about the individual person concerned and what would give them pleasure or would be useful to them.



We hope you find this leaflet useful and will be able to share in our celebrations throughout the term.

Please keep us in your prayers as we endeavour to support your children.

With all good wishes,  
Yours sincerely,

*Dates to Remember*

**All Saints  
1<sup>st</sup>  
November**



**All Souls  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
November**

*We give thanks to God for the lives of those who have been received into the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*We pray for those on the final stages of their journey to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

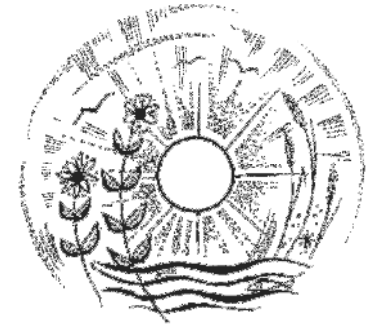


**Christ The King  
21st November**



**The Immaculate Conception  
8<sup>th</sup> December**

## Parents' Letter



## Religious Education

**Autumn Term  
2010**