

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School - Prayer and Liturgy Newsletter Autumn 2025

This term is full of special moments in our prayer and liturgical life, as we continue to live out our school mission: *"A family living, loving, learning together through the light of Christ."*

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout Autumn 1, and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

As children settle into their new class or school, the new academic year presents fresh opportunities to learn and grow. We begin by focusing on the love of God. Children will learn that God's desire is for us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him by sharing His love with those around us. By growing in generous love toward others, we can experience more of God's love for us.

Season of Creation – September to October

As part of the global Church, we are taking part in the *Season of Creation*. Through prayer and acts of worship, we are reflecting on the beauty of God's creation and our responsibility to care for it. In particular, the children are exploring *The Canticle of the Sun*, written by St Francis of Assisi. This hymn of praise speaks of Brother Sun, Sister Moon and all of creation as part of one family.

The season of creation connects beautifully to the *Creation and Covenant* branch of the Religious Education Directory (RED). Just as God made a covenant with His people, we are invited to make a covenant with creation: to be stewards, to live simply and to give thanks for all that God provides.

May this season help us, as a school family, to grow in faith, care for creation and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *go for a nature walk together and notice all the gifts of creation—trees, flowers, birds, water—and thank God for them in a short prayer.*
- *create a small "gratitude for creation" jar at home, writing down one thing from nature you are thankful for each day.*
- *listen to or read *The Canticle of the Sun* and discuss which parts of creation you see as "brother" or "sister" in your own backyard or local park.*

Carlos Acutis - A Modern Day Saint

On the 7th of September 2025, Carlo Acutis will be canonised by Pope Leo XIV. On the 7th of September 2025, Carlo Acutis will be canonised by Pope Leo XIV. Children will learn more about this modern day saint in our special resource including a video (by CYMFed) that you can access through the [Online Parent Portal](#).



Come Dine With Me

The first assembly of the term begins with a party theme! Children consider who their dream party guest would be and why they would make a good guest. Exploring the week's Gospel, children will discover that the guests Jesus wants us to invite might be different from what we expect.

Children are reminded that we are invited to love all people, to see others as Jesus does and reach out to them with God's love and care. This kind of generous love inspires us to put God first in our lives and build God's Kingdom on Earth today!

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *Discuss the scenario question - 'If you could invite anyone to be a guest at your party, who would you invite?' The party guest can be any person; someone you know, someone famous, living or dead.*
- *Think about your neighbours and those in your community. What invitation could your family make to reach out with support, company and compassion to others?*
- *Invite God to fill your hearts with His generous love as you pray together. You might like to use the words 'Lord, fill us with your love' as you pray.*

Symbol of Love

The assembly for the week beginning 15th September highlights a central Scripture verse in the Christian faith - John 3:16. Through exploring the significance of the Cross as a symbol of love and hope, and focusing on the Catholic sign of faith - the Sign of the Cross, children will be reminded of the love the Father has for each of us and that He sent His only Son so that we can know His mercy and love.

As we celebrate our school feast day, the **Feast of the Holy Cross on 14th September**, we are invited to look to the Cross not only as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice, but also as a sign of victory, life and joy. It is a moment for our school family to come together in prayer and thanksgiving for the gift of faith.

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *Make the Sign of the Cross (In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen) slowly as you pray and thank Jesus for the hope and love He brings.*
- *Discuss what other signs, symbols and images remind you of God's love and perhaps find a place of prominence to display this in your home.*



A Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Cross

Lord Jesus,
We thank You for the gift of the Cross,
a sign of Your love and hope for the whole world.
Help us to carry our own crosses with courage,
and to share Your love with others each day.
Amen.

Michaelmas or the Feast of the Archangels

On 29th of September, the church celebrates the feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, also known as Michaelmas or the Feast of the Archangels.

In your family prayer time you might like to ask God to inspire you through the examples of the saints and holy angels and perhaps you'd like to ask for their intercessions by using the following prayer litaney.

Saint Michael, pray for us.
Saint Gabriel, pray for us.
Saint Raphael, pray for us.
Amen

Feast of St Francis of Assisi – 4th October

On the feast of St Francis, we will pray together in thanksgiving for his example of simplicity, joy and care for creation. His life inspires us to live gently on the earth and to see every person and every part of creation as a gift from God.

With your child/ren, you may also like to:

- *talk about ways you can care for animals or help wildlife, following St Francis' example of love for all living things.*
- *make a small craft of St Francis' symbols (birds, animals, sun, or earth) and display it at home as a reminder of caring for God's creation.*
- *say a short prayer together asking God to help you be kind and gentle to all creatures.*



October – The Month of Mary

October is a month especially dedicated to Our Lady. Pupils will be learning more about the Rosary, a beautiful prayer that helps us to reflect on the life of Jesus with Mary as our guide. On 7th October, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will join with children across the world in Aid to the Church in Need's "One Million Children Praying the Rosary" campaign. This powerful act of prayer unites young people in asking Our Lady to bring peace and healing to the world. Younger children can participate by saying Rosary prayers familiar to them which are the Glory Be and Hail Mary. (More information and resources can be found on our school website)

For October - The Month of Mary, with your child/ren, you may also like to:

- *set up a small prayer corner at home with a statue or picture of Mary, where you can pray the Rosary together.*
- *read a short story about Mary and discuss what it teaches about listening to God and caring for others.*
- *write a simple prayer to Mary, asking for her guidance and protection for your family and the wider world.*

For One Million Children Praying the Rosary, with your child/ren, you may also like to:

- *join them in praying a decade of the Rosary together on 7th October, explaining each mystery in simple words.*
- *make a small paper Rosary to hold while praying, helping them focus and feel part of the worldwide campaign.*
- *talk about the power of joining your prayers with children around the world, reflecting on the idea of unity in faith.*

