

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School – Autumn Term Chaplaincy Newsletter



HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Living loving learning together.

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Autumn Term Chaplaincy Newsletter! As a school family, we continue to live out our mission: *"A family living, loving, learning together through the light of Christ."* This term is full of prayer, reflection and opportunities for our children to take an active role in leading our faith life, caring for others and deepening their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching.

Our **Worship Warriors** are already inspiring us by helping lead prayer and liturgy in their classes and across the school. We hope this newsletter will give you a sense of the exciting opportunities your children will have this term and how you can join in with us.

1. Prayer and Liturgy

This term, our collective worship and prayer focus on key feasts, liturgical celebrations, and themes:

- **Feast of the Holy Cross – 14th September:** We celebrated our school's feast day with joy, giving thanks for the love and hope Christ's cross brings to our lives.
- **Care for Creation & Canticle of the Sun:** Throughout September and October, children are reflecting on St Francis' Canticle of the Sun, celebrating God's creation and learning to care for our common home.
- **Feast of St Francis of Assisi – 4th October:** We will give thanks for St Francis' life and his example of simplicity, joy, and care for creation.
- **Month of Mary – October:** We will focus on Marian devotion and the Rosary, including the *One Million Children Praying the Rosary* campaign on **7th October**.
- **Advent and Christmas:** Later in the term, we will prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ through Advent prayer, reflections and celebrations.

Messy Friends sessions this term will provide families with the opportunity to pray and learn alongside their children (dates TBA).

2. Special Projects & Campaigns

Our pupils will take part in a range of faith-inspired projects this term:

- **One Million Children Praying the Rosary – 7th October:** Year 5 and Year 6 children will join thousands of children worldwide in this powerful prayer initiative.
- **Holy Cross Helping Hands of Hope:** Our school food bank continues to support local families. Children and families are invited to donate or take items as needed.
- **Brighten Up Fundraising:** As part of Pilgrims of Hope, children will wear bright clothes, hats and hair for the day, and bake/donate bright cakes to raise funds for our food campaign (dates TBA).
- **CAFOD World Gifts:** Pupils will be encouraged to consider giving gifts that help communities in need around the world.
- **Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – 11th December:** Children are invited to wear festive jumpers and help raise funds for those in need.

3. General Support & Wellbeing

Our children continue to act as **Wellbeing Ambassadors**, supporting their peers and helping create a nurturing, inclusive school environment. They model kindness, empathy, and support for one another in line with Gospel values.

4. Faith in Action & Leadership Opportunities

Year 6 pupils are taking on important leadership roles this term:

- **ACN Liturgy of the Word Training:** Children will become **ACN Apostles**, leading Gospel assemblies and supporting prayer and liturgy across the school.
- **Brighten Up Projects:** Pupils will take a lead in planning fundraising activities and raising awareness for our food campaign.
- **Live Simply Award Journey:** Children will continue the work of previous Year 6s in promoting sustainability, care for creation, and social action.
- **Refugee Awareness:** Using the book *Refuge* by Anne Booth and Sam Usher, pupils will develop understanding of refugee experiences and lead assemblies, workshops, poster campaigns, and fundraising activities.

5. Learning Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Children are developing knowledge of CST through RE lessons and school projects, linking faith to practical actions. Families can access prayers, reflections and resources on our **school website** and through the **Prayer and Liturgy Newsletter**.

Key Dates – Autumn Term

Date	Event
14th September	Feast of the Holy Cross
25th September - 3rd October	Canticle of the Sun
4th October	Feast of St Francis of Assisi
7th October	One Million Children Praying the Rosary
Dates TBA	Brighten Up Fundraising
Dates TBA	Messy Friends
21st November	Pilgrims of Hope Celebration Day
11th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Dates TBA	Children's Nativity and Carol Concert Celebrations

We are excited for a term full of prayer, learning, service and celebration. Thank you for supporting your children as they grow in faith, take on leadership roles and live out our school mission.

With blessings,
The Chaplaincy Team