

Prayer, Saints and Feasts



Reception

This unit is designed to explore family relationships within the context of showing love for one another. Children will hear how Jesus cared for us and how he gave us signs to demonstrate that care and love. We also look at the role of the family in helping us pray through the example of Jesus and his family.

Year One

This unit is designed to develop children's understanding of prayer. It will introduce them to different kinds of prayer including the psalms. Children will be able to develop an understanding of why the Church has saints. They will begin to appreciate that saints provide an example of faith and allow us to use this example to further our relationship with God. Pupils will begin to understand that we follow a liturgical cycle, which helps us explore different aspects of our faith.

Year Two

This unit is designed to extend the children's knowledge and understanding of the life of Mary and Jesus through prayer (Rosary, with a particular focus on the Mysteries of the Light) and Scripture. The children will extend their knowledge of the liturgical cycle. They will learn about how we are called to respond to Jesus. They will learn about some saints who responded to the call of Jesus.

Year Three

This unit explores the twin themes of peace and forgiveness expressed both by Jesus and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will develop their knowledge of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as an understanding of what Jesus taught about forgiveness in the story of Zacchaeus. This builds on work undertaken in year 1. Through the life of St Francis of Assisi, the place of prayer in seeking forgiveness and peace is also explored.

Year Four

In this unit pupils will learn about the prayer life of Jesus as he grew up in the Jewish faith. The children will be introduced to some prayers of the Old Testament and reflect on the importance that Jesus attached to prayer and how he taught his followers to pray. Pupils will also reflect on the importance of prayers to Mary in the life of the Church and research the history of the Rosary.

Year Five

This unit will help children understand that the work of Jesus is continued through us. This is expressed in the prayer of St Teresa of Avila. We are called to continue his healing through our own sacrifice. The concept of pilgrimage as a journey of prayer will also be covered. The second of the two Sacraments of Healing will be studied, whilst focusing on the part prayer plays in healing. (The first Sacrament is Reconciliation.) The children will also hear about the work of the Church in ministering to the sick today.

Year Six

This unit explores the concept of heaven and the Church's belief in Mary and the feasts celebrated in her honour. It examines our understanding of what heaven is. The children will take a more detailed look at the lives of the Holy Souls and the saints and their significance for us today.

