



# Encounter at St Joseph's

## 2024- 2025

The children and staff at St Joseph's will be helped to discover the importance of a personal 'Encounter' with Christ in the following ways throughout the school year. Bishop Patrick has asked us to focus on the theme of encounter until Christmas Eve this year.

### Encounter during Advent Term 2024

- The following opportunities for prayer will take place this term for the whole school, as well as individual class prayer: Chaplaincy Mission, Rosary Day Of Prayer, Harvest Celebration, Advent Day of Prayer and Christingle service.
- As well as whole school Masses, the classes will all have the opportunity to prepare and celebrate class Mass throughout the year.
- Eucharistic Adoration - All children will have the opportunity throughout the year for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- In school, we have opportunities throughout the year for retreat. These happen in school and in church.
- Child-led celebration of the word takes place weekly for the whole school and are planned, led and evaluated by our children. In addition, children plan and lead Word of the Week videos and termly celebrations in church.
- Weekly Christian Meditation takes places in all classes - Sr Susan has visited our school and delivered training to our Chaplaincy team to help them lead this form of worship and support their classmates to do the same. Sr is helping our children to focus on 'stillness' this term.
- Lectio Divina takes place in classes and are led by members of the chaplaincy team initially, before supporting their peers to do the same
- Daily prayers. We punctuate the day with prayer so that children have the opportunity to pray in different ways throughout the day. These prayers change with the seasonality of the church.

- Staffrooms: we have made additional areas for prayer and reflection for our staff. We invite staff to write prayer intentions for their loved ones; our staff prayers at meetings are then dedicated for these people in our community. In addition, we have weekly staff prayers together.
- 'Travelling Rosary' - Prayer bags are sent home during the Month of October to celebrate the Holy Rosary. All children in KS2 will have the opportunity to take this home and use with their families. This is supported by a virtual liturgy from the Mark 10 Mission.
- 'Travelling Nativity' - Prayer bags are sent home during the season of Advent to encourage our families to prayer together during this important season. All children in school will have the opportunity to take this home and use with their families.
- 'Travelling Bible' - Bibles are sent home to encourage our families to read scripture and pray together. Age appropriate bibles are sent home with the children. They are then able to share what they read with other children in the class.

### Staff Training

- All of our new staff have attended Diocesan training, Christian Meditation training and Child-led prayer and worship training which assists our staff to support our children to encounter the presence of Christ in the classroom.
- All staff have received training to staff on the use of the new Let Us Pray 2Gether resource for child-led celebration of the word.
- Sr Susan works with staff to lead different forms of prayer. This then empowers staff to help support children to plan and lead this.
- Our Lay Chaplain, Clare Lund, is working with our support staff to look at how they can support children to plan child led Celebration of the word.

### Chaplaincy Provision

- The chaplaincy team are a valued committee of our pupil voice group. They meet regularly and work with the Trust Lay chaplains and Sr Susan.
- The Chaplains have received a full morning of training from the RE Team (Mrs Seaman, Miss Queenan and Miss Egerton) learning more about their role, how to

lead Christian Meditation in their own classes, and how to evaluate class prayer areas.

- The chaplaincy team meet regularly to plan worship for the school community and support other pupil voice groups to plan, lead and evaluate prayer and retreat days.
- The Chaplaincy team also share a lunchtime prayer box with the children on the yard at lunchtimes; children are invited to come and say a spontaneous prayer in a quiet spot on the playground.
- During the month of November, the chaplaincy team will invite the school community to write the names of friends and family members who have died to add to a display in school. During both our classroom and whole school acts of worship, we will offer our prayers for our loved ones who have died. These will also be shared with our parishes too.
- Planning prayer and liturgy with CMAT lay chaplains

### Curriculum

- The Come and See Programme regularly invites children to respond and reflect upon pieces of scripture.

Across the curriculum, links are made to the school virtues and principles of Catholic Social Teaching. This is identified on unit plan cover pages.

- RSHE is being delivered weekly using Ten:Ten. This has been adapted to include opportunities for children to learn about to keep themselves safe. As children progress through the school, they discover more and more about themselves and their position in our community, as they develop as young Catholics.
- All our children receive a termly lesson at the beginning of the year on the School Mission Statement and the school virtues. These are displayed in classes and referred to throughout the year.
- One week in Advent Term is dedicated to 'Mission Week' where the children learn about ways to fulfil the school mission statement as part of their wider life-long mission as Christians.
- In Awards assembly, children receive awards for chaplaincy and heart of gold award because they have lived out our mission statement and followed God's

way. In addition, our reward system links to the school virtues so that we are specifically awarding children when they demonstrate virtuous behaviour.