



RE AUTUMN TERM

At St Philomena's, We Share the Love of God



Key Dates

10 September

Whole School Mass

21 September

**International Day of
Peace**

24 September

Mass at the Cathedral

2 October

CAFOD Family Fast Day

9 October

Harvest Festival

16 October

Wear Red for Racism

11 November

Remembrance Day

3 December

Advent Mass

17 December

KS2 Advent Service

December

KS1 Nativity

WELCOME BACK!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a great joy to welcome everyone back for a new academic year. At St Philomena's, our Catholic faith is at the heart of everything we do. Through our Religious Education curriculum, prayer and worship, we support our children in developing a deeper understanding of God's love and how we are called to live as followers of Jesus.

This year, we continue to place great importance on helping children to not only learn about their faith, but to encounter Christ, reflect on Scripture and put Gospel values into action through kindness, compassion and service to others.

The autumn term is a special time in the Church's year. We celebrate All Saints' Day, remembering those who have lived lives of faith and love, and reflecting on how we can follow their example. We celebrate Harvest, giving thanks for God's blessings and exploring how we can care for creation and support those in need. We look forward to Advent, when we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus through prayer, liturgy and reflection, remembering the true gift of Christmas — God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Mission

As we begin the new academic year, we revisit our school mission:

With Christ at the centre, we strive for excellence, act with respect and serve our community. This mission guides every aspect of life at St Philomena's, shaping the way we learn, the way we treat one another and the way we contribute to the wider world. Through prayer, reflection and our daily interactions, we are called to follow the example of Jesus and use our gifts to make a positive difference. Our vision is to "share the love of God every day in everything we learn, do and say", and this remains at the heart of our journey together as a school family.

Saints

At the beginning of the year, we refresh our knowledge of our class saints and our school patron saint, St Philomena, learning about their lives of faith, courage and love. Throughout the year, these inspiring figures will guide and encourage us as we consider how we can follow their example and grow in our own faith journey. Our class saints are: Reception – St Francis, Year 1 – St Bernadette, Year 2 – St Josephs Year 3 – St Anthony, Year 4 – St Thomas More, Year 5 – St Peter and Year 6 – St Joan of Arc.

Virtues

Throughout the year, we follow the Catholic Virtues to Live By programme, supporting our children to develop the virtues needed to flourish as followers of Christ. During the autumn term, we focus on the virtues of respect, gratitude, hope and patience, encouraging children to recognise opportunities to demonstrate these qualities in school, at home and within our community.

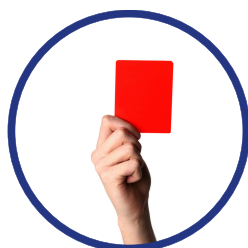
Home Learning

Through our Steps in Faith home learning programme, children are encouraged to deepen their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. We look forward to celebrating the thoughtful reflections, creative responses and acts of kindness that children share with us throughout the term.

Our RE Ambassadors, collectively known as the Mini Menas, strive to live their lives in the example of St Philomena, daughter of light. During Autumn, they look forward to:



Supporting the retired Community for the common good.



Supporting Show Racism the Red Card Day, showing solidarity for a fair and inclusive world.



Supporting CAFOD Family Fast Day, showing compassion to those in poverty and hardship.

Curriculum

For Religious Education lessons, we use Lighting the Path, a Diocesan-approved preferred scheme of work which provides high-quality resources to support the teaching of Religious Education across our school.

Through engaging lessons, Scripture, prayer and reflection, our children are encouraged to explore their faith, ask questions and make meaningful connections between their learning and the world around them. The curriculum places Jesus and the Gospel at the heart of our learning, whilst developing children's understanding of Catholic tradition and teaching.

We are particularly keen for our children to understand that Religious Education is not simply about acquiring knowledge, but about living out our faith. Through their learning, children explore Catholic Social Teaching and consider how they can put their faith into action through service, compassion, justice, forgiveness and care for others and our common home.

We look forward to continuing to develop our Religious Education provision and supporting our children to know, understand and live out their Catholic faith.

Parish

We were very sad to say goodbye to Fr Cyriacus at the end of last term, and we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new parish priest. We look forward to working closely with him and continuing to strengthen the wonderful links between our school and parish community.

Dates from the Church's Calendar

September • 8 September – The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary • 14 September – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross • 24 September – Our Lady of Walsingham • 29 September – Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels October 2026 • October – Month of Devotion to Mary through the Holy Rosary • 28 October – Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles	November 2026 • 1 November – All Saints' Day • 2 November – All Souls' Day • 15 November – World Day of the Poor • 29 November – First Sunday of Advent December 2026 • 25 December – The Nativity of the Lord • 27 December – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
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May the blessings of Christ be with you and your family throughout this term.
Thank you for your continued support in nurturing the children's faith and growth.

Best Wishes,
Mrs Anderson