



# CATHOLIC LIFE AT ST ADRIAN'S



*'To learn, to love, to live as community of God with  
Christ as our teacher'*



## *Advent Assembly*

A few weeks back, children from across the school helped us to decorate the tree and think about the preparations for Advent. We learnt about the Advent Wreath. It is made of evergreen leaves, showing us that God's love is eternal. The wreath is circular with no beginning or end, just like God has no beginning or end. The candles represent the 4 weeks until Christmas, three purple and one pink candle for Gaudete Sunday and a final white one to be lit on Christmas day. Each week, a candle is lit making the room even brighter. Each week, we draw closer to Christmas and the light shines brighter as we wait for Jesus' birthday.

## *Carol Concerts*

The Caritas Ambassadors travelled into London to attend the Catholic Children's Society Advent Carol Service.

The children behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school. They thoroughly enjoyed the day and had a wonderful time singing and carolling alongside the professional choir.



### *CLASS SAINTS*

*NURSERY - ST MARY*

*RECEPTION - ST ADRIAN*

*YEAR 1 - ST FRANCIS OF  
ASSISI*

*YEAR 2 - ST TERESA OF  
CALCUTTA*

*YEAR 3 - ST PETER*

*YEAR 4 - ST ALBAN*

*YEAR 5 - ST JOSEPHINE  
BAKHITA*

*YEAR 6 - ST PAUL*

# Catholic Social Teaching



This half term, our focus has been on **OPTION FOR THE POOR.**

All the classes have been busy fundraising for their class world gift from CAFOD. There is still time to bring in the coloured bauble the children were asked to decorate and make a donation. They will then vote on what they would like to 'buy' as a gift for a family in need overseas.



<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/stalbanssouth/newsletter/>

## *Farewell to Fr. Francis*

St Adrian's would like to say a very fond farewell to Fr Francis. He has served St Adrian's community and the parish of St Bartholomew's for six years and will be moving on to pastures new. I would like to thank him on behalf of our school for all the Masses and celebrations he has had with us here. When he has visited the school, he has always spoke so nicely with the children. We wish Fr Francis all the very best and that he takes time to recover and improve his health.

From 13th January 2025, St Barts will now be paired with the parish of St Alban and St Stephen. Having worked with Fr Michael before at St Alban and St Stephen School, I know that the parish is in good hands. We welcome both him and Fr John and I will arrange some visits in the new year for them to come into school to meet the children.

You can read the message from the Vicar General, Monsignor Martin Hayes, by clicking on the link on the left.



*CATHERINE  
MC AULEY -  
FOUNDER OF  
THE SISTERS  
OF MERCY*

29TH SEPT 1778  
-11TH NOV 1841



*The children from all year groups were incredible with their fantastic singing, dancing and narrating for all of the different nativities across the school. Well done to all of the children- You were AMAZING and a huge thank you to all the incredible staff here who helped spread some Christmas magic this year!*



## *EYFS Performs - 'Mary's Knitting'*



## *Key Stage 1 performs - 'The Bossy Christmas Fairy'*



## *Key Stage 2 Carol Service*





# *Christmas Dinner Day! - Santa visits EYFS and KS1*



## *Carols at Vesta Lodge*



## *Grandparents' Tea and Carols*





*Polka and Lexa, our dogs from  
Pets As Therapy, came along to  
the Grandparents' Tea and  
Carols too.*





# Electric Umbrella - Join us for a Sign-a-long and Sing-a-long



*“Our mission is to create a more inclusive society, celebrating difference and inspiring community connection. We empower learning disabled and neurodivergent people, of all abilities, fostering confidence, skills, and leadership potential.”*

*Follow the links below to learn about Electric Umbrella.*

<https://youtu.be/4bT8HqZH1ZU>

<https://youtu.be/UyK7NhyL5TU>

*At St Adrian's, we celebrate inclusion and diversity and teach the children about Human Dignity as part of our Catholic Social Teaching. We are all made in the image of God. It was so much fun being entertained by the Electric Umbrella musicians and signing along to their songs. Year 4 can look forward to joining the whole crew in June as we sing and sign as part of a 'Shine the Light' project set in St Albans Cathedral with 35 other schools and it's all run by Electric Umbrella!*

*Genesis 1:27: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*



*There are many ways that you can help with prayer at home.*

### **The Mark 10 Mission**

The Mark 10 Mission produces weekly videos on the Sunday Gospel. These videos will help children to experience the Word of God through prayers and sings. You can access these on the link below:

<https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

# THE MARK 10 *Mission*



### **The Wednesday Word**

The Primary School Newsletter - Wednesday Word is an online resources that allows you to reflect on the weekly Gospel.

Click on the link and share God's word

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/serving?pid=MTA101634&v=148.2>



### **Class Prayer Bags**

Each week, a child from the class will bring home the class prayer bag. Please take the time to sit with your child and pray with them. You may write a prayer together in the prayer book and take a picture of you altogether. Your child will then share the prayer they have written with their classmates the following week.

December - The dedication of the Immaculate Conception. The 8th December marks the date when Mary the Mother of God was conceived. She was born without sin so that she may carry the Lord in human form.



### **St Bartholomew's Mass Times**

Sat 6.00 pm  
Sun 8.30am, 10.30am  
Mon 12.00 noon  
Tue 9.00am  
Wed 9.00am  
Thu No Mass  
Fri 9.00am  
Sat 9.00am





### What is ADVENT?

Advent is a season of preparation and expectation as we await for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas and look forward to his second coming.

This four week journey invites us to focus on hope, peace, joy and love, fostering a spirit of prayer, reflection and anticipation.

### How can we celebrate ADVENT?

Here are some ways we can mark this special season:

Morning Prayer: Begin each day with a prayer and reflection

Acts of Kindness: Encourage each other to perform acts of kindness as a way of preparing our hearts for Christ.

Advent Calendar: Create a faith focussed Advent calendar with daily scriptures.

Charity Drives: Organise collections for foodbanks or gifts for those in need, living out the Gospel message.

You can also use many of the resources available to speak to your children about Advent.

CAFOD - Advent prayers and reflections focused on global justice.

Missio: Advent reflections and mission

Bible Society: Scriptural resources, Advent calendars and creative activities.

Pax Christi - Advent prayers and reflections for schools

### Advent Prayer Intentions for ADVENT

As we journey through Advent, let us reflect on the themes of the season and unite in prayer for the following intentions:

First week of Advent - For a renewed spirit of hope as we prepare for the coming of Christ, that we may please our trust in God's promises.

Second week of Advent - For peace in our world, that Christ's message of reconciliation may inspire leaders and communities.

Third week of Advent ( Gaudete Sunday) : For joy in our hearts, that we may recognise God's presence in our lives and share his love with others.

Fourth Week of Advent : For an outpouring of love in our families, schools and communities, that we may reflect God's infinite love in our relationships.





# Christmas Prayers and Blessings

Lord, thank you for this blessed Christmas season. Fill us with your grace and peace, and may your blessings of joy overflow in our lives. Shower us with your love, and may we extend love and blessings towards those around us.  
Amen.

[garmentsofsplendor.com](http://garmentsofsplendor.com)

*Wishing all the parents and families of St Adrian's and the parish of St Bartholomew's Church a very happy, holy and blessed Christmas. God Bless.  
From Mrs Porter, the staff, governors and children of St Adrian's.*

## MASSES / LITURGY DATES AND CELEBRATIONS FOR 2024 - 2025

- Monday 9th September - Catholic Social Teaching Principles Assembly - Theme 1 - Care of Creation
- Monday 23rd September 9.15am Whole School Mercy Mass in school - Blessing of our Head boy, girl and deputies as well as our new Caritas Ambassadors
- Friday 25th October 9.00am - Harvest Celebration assembly in school
- Monday 4th November - Catholic Social Teaching Principles Assembly - Theme 2 - Option for the poor
- Friday 8th November - 9.00am - Remembrance Assembly led by our Caritas Ambassadors
- Thursday 28th November - Choir visit St Albans Cathedral for the Christmas carol service  
w/c 18th November - Prayer focus week
- Friday 29th November - 9.00am - Dressing of the tree and Advent service  
Advent- Begin the season of the Pilgrims of Hope - Jubilee celebration
- Wednesday 4th December - Caritas Ambassadors visit Westminster Cathedral for the diocesan carol service
- Change of date - KS2 Carol Concert - Thursday 5th December at 6.30pm
- Wednesday 11th December - EYFS Nativity
- Thursday 12th December - KS1 Nativity
- Monday 16th December - Grandparents tea
- Wednesday 18th December - Grandparents tea
- Tuesday 7th December - Celebration of the Epiphany assembly & Catholic Social Teaching Principles Assembly - Theme 3 - Solidarity
- Wednesday 8th January @9.00am - Mass for the start of the new year and the feast of St Adrian.
- Monday 24th February - Catholic Social Teaching Principles Assembly - Theme 4- Community and Participation
- Wednesday 5th March- St Adrian's to attend Ash Wednesday Mass at St Barts.  
( Years 1-6) 9.30am start.
- Wednesday 19th March - Year 5 Mass in school 9.00am ( children only)
- Tuesday 25th March or Wednesday 26th March - 1.15pm - Reconciliation service ( Years 1-6 with Years 4-6 doing reconciliations - Fr Michael for help)
- Friday 28th March - 9.00am - Mothers' Day celebration service
- Monday 31st March - 9.30am- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - Year 1 and 2 at St Barts
- Wednesday 2nd April - Chaplaincy Team lead the Stations of the Cross reflection 9.00am in school
- Thursday 3rd April - Easter parade and celebration
- Wednesday 30th April - 11.00am - Year 4 Mass in school ( children only)
- Wednesday 23rd April - Catholic Social Teaching Principles Assembly - Theme 5 - Dignity of Workers
- Wednesday 30th April - Year 4 class Mass ( children only)
- Friday 2nd May -9.00am Crowning of Mary assembly
- Monday 2nd June - Catholic Social Teaching Principles Assembly - Theme 6 - Human Dignity
- Friday 6th June - EYFS Pentecost celebration
- Wednesday 11th June - 1 pm. First Holy Mass then celebration. Children have early lunch and get dressed ready for Mass at 1.00pm followed by a party in class. ( children only)
- Friday 13th June - 9.00am - Fathers' Day celebration service
- Friday 27th June - Year 2 Liturgy in school 11.00am - 11.45am ( Feast of St Peter and Paul - children only)
- Monday 30th June - 9.15-10.00am Year 1 Liturgy in school ( Feast of St Peter and Paul - children only)
- Wednesday 16th July - Year 6 Leavers' Mass in St Adrian's at 6.30pm