

FIRST TEACHERS

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS IN YOUR CHILDRENS LIVES!
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Dear parents and guardians, welcome to our latest newsletter which aims to support and encourage a real community of faith between home, school and parish! As we enter the final part of 2024 and prepare for a busy season as parents and caregivers, we will explore some of the ways or faith can be celebrated at home as a family, together with our schools and parishes. This time of year, can be stressful and filled with demands on us individuals and as families, it is therefore even more important to lead by example as our children's 'First Teachers' and set aside time to reflect, pray and focus on our faith.

November - Saints and Souls



On the 1st of November we celebrate All Saints' Day, a holy day of obligation, dedicated to the Saints of the church. There are many Parishes all across the Diocese where we can attend Mass, find our Diocesan parish directory here [Diocese of Paisley | Parish Finder | Paisley, UK \(rcdop.org.uk\)](https://www.rcdop.org.uk) This feast also provides the opportunity to explore the lives of the saints with your children,

especially if they are starting to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are lots of great free resources online: a database of [Saints](#) that you can search for by category, for example, popular saints, female saints, patron saints etc., for younger children, [My Catholic Kids](#) website has easy to understand information, colouring sheets or you could even have a little light-hearted fun playing [Saint BINGO!](#)

On the 2nd November we celebrate All Souls' Day which helps us journey through the rest of the Month of November, which we dedicate to the Holy Souls. During this month we pray especially for our departed friends and loved ones who are making their journey towards the eternal light of God. May we process our grief together as families and individuals and honour our deceased by praying together, the Prayer for All the Faithful Departed.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

December - Advent

This year Advent begins on Sunday 1st December and is an exciting time for children and families. It can also be one full of demands, expectations and stress and often the true meaning behind this season gets lost amongst worry, sadness or just sheer burnout! However, committing to spending time with God, can make Advent Joyful and Peaceful. To exemplify to our children that we are preparing, not only to celebrate the birth of our Saviour but that also, in hope, for his second coming.



Advent is a traditional time for giving alms. Some parishes have an Advent Giving (or Jesse) tree for giving gifts to those less well off, and it can be fun to be involved in choosing, wrapping and bringing these gifts to Church on Sunday. There are also the [SCIAF Real Gifts](#) for people that are hard to buy for or for meaningful teacher gifts. Preparing for Christmas can also be fun! Below are some interesting articles, prayers and activities that may be helpful in celebrating this season with your family.

[Advent prayers \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://cafod.org.uk)

[Advent Prayers for Teens | Ave Maria Press](#)

[Diocese of Paisley | Advent Wreath Family Prayers](#)

[Advent Wreath Children's Craft](#)

[Fun and Meaningful Ways to Celebrate Advent for Kids](#)

ADVENT INVITATIONS...

For children age P4-7, the Diocese are running a Primary Advent Day on Sunday 1st December, in St. Mary's church Paisley from 2pm-5pm. All are welcome from across the Diocese!

In St. Joseph's Parish Church Hall, Clarkston, the St. Joseph's primary parent council faith group are hosting a Parent's reflection evening on Thursday 28th November at 8pm. This is during Catholic Education Week and theme is 'Hope' in preparation for Advent, and the upcoming Holy Year in 2025. There will be prayer, song and reflection, followed by a time of socialising. ALL parents/caregivers from across the Diocese are more than welcome to join in this time of prayerful community and solidarity.

We pray that each and every family in our Diocese is able to spend time together in prayer during this season and from all of us at the Marriage, Family and Life Office, may your Advent be Holy, hopeful and blessed!

[Diocese of Paisley | Marriage & Family | Paisley, UK \(rcdop.org.uk\)](#)