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**Classroom Prayer Areas**

On the return to school. prayer area cloths should be green to reflect the Liturgical Season of Ordinary Time. You could also include items reflecting harvest and the wonders of creation. This could include food items, sticks, pinecones, leaves and images that show the awe and wonder of God’s creation. These could be used in a prayer service for the thanksgiving of creation.

Appropriate prayers that you may wish to display are St. Francis’ Canticle of Creation, Psalms of Creation (8, 19, 29, 104) and Canticles of Daniel (3: 57-88, 56).

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and therefore a rosary should be displayed on your prayer focus. You could explore religious artwork related to the Mysteries of the Rosary. Search ‘The Beauty of the Rosary’ <https://radiantlight.org.uk/>. You may wish to explore the Mission Together Rosary. <https://missio.org.uk/pray2/mission-rosary/>

Why not make a giant Rosary with your class to display on your prayer area? Instructions can be found https://www.catholicicing.com/make-a-giant-rosary-with-kids/

**Little Way Week**

Little Way Week commences on Monday September 27 2021 and culminates on The feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux on Friday October 1.

St Thérèse lived in Lisieux, Normandy France and always wanted to follow Jesus and his loving example. When she was seven, she joined The Society of the Holy Childhood, which we now call Mission Together. Thérèse lived her life simply and is known as a ‘missionary disciple’. This means in all her deeds and actions, she attempted to show the love of God to others. She said *“Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.”* This means no matter how old we are, we can make a difference to others.

In school, during this week, you are invited to participate in Mission Together to learn about St Thérèse and to demonstrate little acts of kindness to others. For example, you could give each child another class members name. During this week, their mission is to demonstrate small acts of kindness without them knowing who it is.

Further ideas, assemblies and resources can be found on <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/little-way-week/>

**Dates for the Diary\***

**September 2021**

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for June:** An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

Wed 1 World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation

Fri 3 Feast of St. Gregory the Great

Wed 8 Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thurs 9 Memorial in Coventry for St. Osburg

Fri 10 Memorial in Oxford of Blessed Agnellus of Pisa

Memorial in Worcestershire of St. Egwin

Mon 13 Memorial of St. John Chrysostom

Tue 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy cross

Wed 15 Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Thurs 16 Memorial of Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

Mon 20 Memorial of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon and companions

Tue 21 Feast of St. Matthew

Thurs 23 Memorial of St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Fri 24 Memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham

Mon 27 Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul

Wed 29 Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Thurs 30 Memorial of St. Jerome

**October 2021**

**The Pope’s Prayer intention for October:** Missionary Disciples

Fri 1 Memorial of St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Mon 4 Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi

Tue 5 Memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska

Thurs 7 Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Mon 11 Memorial of Blessed William Howard

Tue 12 Memorial of Wilfrid

Wed 13 Memorial of St. Edward the Confessor

Fri 15 Memorial of St. Teresa of Jesus

Mon 18 Feast of St. Luke

Tue 19 Memorial in Oxford of St. Frideswide

Thurs 22 Memorial of St. Pope John Paull II

*\*For a complete list of dates, readings and colours please refer to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Ordo 2020-2021.*

*Further prayer resources can be found on https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/*

**Prayer for the New School Year**

Lord Jesus,

We ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen

***Follow @BhamDES***

**A Prayer for our Earth**

CAFOD have produced a video of Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ prayer for the Earth. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaTJF1AkwcA



**The God Who Speaks: Autumn 1**

**“In the beginning the Word already existed;**

**the Word was with God, and the Word was God” John 1:1**

**CAFOD**

This year, CAFOD will continue their series of National Primary and Secondary assemblies. September’s assembly will celebrate Harvest Fast Day with a focus on the Amazon. Please look at for information on the CAFOD website.

Previous assemblies and associated resources can be accessed <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Primary-school-assemblies>.

**The Rosary**

St. John Paul II Apostolic Letter on the Rosary said the Rosary is a ‘powerful weapon for peace’ and it can be prayed with great faith and joy. He wrote that in the Rosary, we can stay close to Jesus by following step by step, the stages of his life.

Learn the origins and how to pray the Rosary with the Busted Halo video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuT7HI7ZvfA



**Staff/Tutor room Noticeboard Autumn 1**

**Season of Creation**

Season of Creation begins on September 1 which is the World Day of Prayer for the care of creation. The season runs until October 4 on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Within this season, the Day of Prayer for the Thanksgiving of the Harvest is Sunday September 26.

The theme this year is ‘A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God’. (Oikos is the Greek word meaning home). This is an ecumenical event which means all Christian traditions around the world are invited to pray and participate throughout this time.

Throughout his Papacy, Pope Francis has highlighted the need for all the world to actively engage in the care for the environment. He wrote the encyclical, ‘Laudato Si’ which means ‘care for our common home’.

This theme also links to the Catholic Social Teaching ‘Stewardship of God’s Creation’. Pope Francis not only asks us to look after our environment at a local level, but to petition those in power to care for the needs of all, especially the poor and marginalised.

The Bishops Conference state that the season of creation gives us an opportunity in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation. Bishop John Arnold, the environmental lead for the Bishops conference has joined with over 60 UK faith leaders in writing to the Prime Minister www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/11/NDCs-Faith-Leaders-Letter.pdf

The season of creation official website is https://seasonofcreation.org/ Here, you can sign up for updates and resources to support you in school. The activity pack includes videos, resources for prayer including creation psalms.

CAFOD have created a number of resources linked both to Laudato Si’ and Catholic Social Teaching which can be found https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-for-children.