



*Ad Majorem Dei
Gloriam
To the Greater Glory
of God*

R.E. News At Loyola



Christmas
Term
2020

It is an odd term for the children and adults alike, yet it has been noticed the boys are coping with school life tremendously well.

That is why in RE, we try to bring everything back to the child's point of view and start them on their learning each year with what they understand about life and how they are developing an ongoing relationship with God. It our objective to teach them well but in RE class discussion we learn so much about your son's character and outlook on life. This comes from you and your home life. Being positive and loved at home, the boys bring to school their caring self. We are moved when a boy shows us how he deals with a difficult situation, how in the upper school he can explain why he has helped someone and in lower school actions speak for themselves. They all know that God helps them through using their conscience to help them make the correct decisions. They know that God will listen to them in prayer requests and that they should also thank Him for all they have in their life and do it with a happy heart.

The boys are Loyola's legacy, they are our gifts to the world, spreading the Word of the Lord to those they meet. Thank you boys.



This term we will be studying the two themes of Domestic Church (*Family*) and Advent / Christmas (*Loving*). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

Class	Topic – Domestic Church	Topic – Advent / Christmas
EYFS (Lower / Upper Kindergarten & Reception)	Myself – God knows and loves each one of us	Birthday – Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Pre Prep 1	Families – God's love and care for every family	Waiting - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Pre Prep 2	Beginnings – God is present in every beginning	Preparations - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Prep	Homes – God's vision for every family	Visitors - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Elements	People – The family of God in Scripture	Gift - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Figures	Ourselves – Created in the image and likeness of God	Hope - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one
Rudiments	Loving – God who never stops loving	Expectations - Jesus born to show God to the world



The School Mass

Loyola is proud of how the boys participate and lead in our whole school Masses. Each class leads Mass at different points of the school year with Reception having their first Mass in the Whitsun Term and PP1 in the Lent Term.

Due to the pandemic it is not possible for us to join together as a school for worship. We will hold a weekly service instead with a class leading this as normal. This service will then be joined by classes (and parents) via zoom. This is so that we can all still be together to celebrate God's word.

Dates and themes are circulated at the beginning of the term and in the weekly newsletter.



In preparation for a class service the class teacher will ask / support pupils to write some of their own bidding prayers as a way of giving the boys a sense of responsibility.

We would also like to invite a parent to read a bidding prayer at their son's class service too. It may seem daunting to read in front of an audience but this is what we expect of the boys so let's lead the way and be a role model for them. Of course the class teacher will support you in this!



During this time of crisis we would like to continue to make donations to Epping Forest Food Bank each week as a reminder of how we can help others in the community. There will be a large plastic box for any donations on the school front steps. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Our service is a very special Holy time that we share with God. We ask the boys to be respectful and reverent during this time by being quiet and focused, joining in with the responses and prayers. We look forward to welcoming family members and friends back to our Masses as soon as possible. I know that the children will look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime please do join us via the zoom link on the school website. Thank you.

God of all, we cry out to you for help.

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Protect us, Lord, and be with us especially those most vulnerable during this coronavirus crisis.

Move us to reach out in love to our neighbours near and far. So that the humble may be exalted, the hungry filled with good things.

Grant us the courage not to rush back to our old ways, but to rebuild our world together, creating foundations of justice, with equality and peace for all.

Amen.

Important dates this term

1st November All Saints

2nd November The Commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls)

22nd November Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King

29th November Advent begins

8th December

The Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

25th December Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord

27th December The Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**DEAR GOD,
THANK YOU FOR TODAY,
YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW;
MY FAMILY, MY JOYS, MY SORROWS;
FOR ALL THAT MADE ME STRONGER.
AMEN.**

