

The Liturgical Year

2023-24

A document to support Diocesan schools in planning Collective Worship that has the Word of God at its heart, incorporates the Church's liturgical year, its seasons and feasts, and provides opportunities for promoting Catholic Social Teaching.

'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' - THE YEAR OF THE WORD

2020 was the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation on ‘The Word of the Lord’ and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome’s death. These dates inspired the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and ‘The God Who Speaks’. We continue to encourage reading and understanding of scripture . Resources here <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/about-the-bible/>

LAUDATO SI’

In May 2020 Pope Francis inaugurated “Laudato Si’ Week” at the Vatican commemorating the 5th anniversary of the publication of his eco-encyclical with the same title, opening a wider year-long commemoration of the document aimed at spurring global citizens to adopt more sustainable practices. As communities begin to envision what a post-COVID world will look Laudato Si’ continues to provide “the moral and spiritual compass for the journey to create a more caring, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world.” Encyclical Resources from CAFOD here - <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical>

COMMON PRAYER FOR LAUDATO SI’

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your image and made us stewards of all your creation, of our common home.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us,
but to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.
Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic,

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected,
in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a central and essential part of our faith. It is rooted in Scripture that tells of God's special love for the poor and marginalised and calls us to be bearers of love and justice. It is teaching founded on the words and actions of Jesus who identified himself with the hungry and thirsty, the sick and the imprisoned, the naked and the stranger – the 'least of my brothers and sisters'. CST is formed by the wisdom of Church leaders and provides us with a moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation so, with care for our common home and the dignity of every human person at its heart, CST compels us to make present in our unjust and broken world the justice, love and peace of God, especially to our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

- Human Dignity
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Concern for the Poor
- Solidarity & the Common Good
- Family
- Community & Participation
- The Dignity of Work
- Care of Creation

Throughout the liturgical year there are countless opportunities for schools to focus upon aspects of CST and bring reflections on global justice and poverty into their worship activities. Using the language of CST and drawing children and young people into a deeper understanding of its principles will inspire and empower them to respond to inequality and injustice in the modern world, leading them to seek ways to put their faith in action in school, in the local community and in the wider world. This document suggests ideas and opportunities for promoting CST in schools as a supplement to the excellent and varied work that is already taking place in Diocesan schools with regards to CST and social action.

Further information and resources for CST can be found at:

- <http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/>
- <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Catholic-social-teaching>

- <https://missio.org.uk/catholic-social-teaching/>

CARITAS DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

Caritas is the social action and social justice agency of the Diocese of Shrewsbury that seeks to work with children, families and communities throughout the Diocese. They support families with a range of concerns for example mental health, addiction, domestic abuse and family breakdown. They offer practical support to those living in poverty, in partnership with SVP and local foodbanks. They also give support to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Each Lent schools can support Caritas by fund raising for the Good Shepherd collection and Caritas offers opportunities for Caritas Ambassadors in schools. If you would like to know more see <https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/about/> or email info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St Vincent de Paul Society in England and Wales, through its Mini Vinnies and Youth SVP programmes, encourages children and young people to develop their faith and spirituality in order to put their faith into action; in service to the disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised of society. For more information see <https://www.svp.org.uk/involve-young-people>

MISSIO

Missio is the Pope's official Charity for Overseas Missions. It is the Holy Father's chosen instrument for sharing the Gospel and building the Church throughout the world. Their secondary resources encourage students to reflect on their role in building the Kingdom of God for all people and aim to help young people to: discover the world around them and reflect on their role within it; think critically, inspired by Christ's Gospel; to embrace Catholic Social Teaching and to grow in faith. Secondary schools can download their free resources to follow the Liturgical Year, including Advent and Lent. They also have a series of workshops explaining the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and <https://missio.org.uk/general-resources/> For primary schools Mission Together is the children's' branch of Missio, encouraging children to pray, fundraise and become missionaries themselves – children helping children. They provide primary school resources throughout the year focused on the Gospel, liturgical seasons and on our various overseas projects including assemblies, liturgies, activities, posters and aids to prayer. All resources are available from <https://missiontogether.org.uk/teachers-resources/>

CAFOD

CAFOD is the official international development and relief agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and is active within the global Caritas family.

CAFOD provide a wide range of resources for primary and secondary schools and have Diocesan volunteers who can help you to promote CAFOD and CST in your school. See <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources> and <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/CAFOD-in-your-area/Shrewsbury>

DIOCESAN YEARBOOK

There are many organisations involved in the work of social justice in the Diocesan community and further afield. Each year the Diocesan Yearbook lists Diocesan and National Associations and Societies who are active in the Diocese. Some of these may be able to provide support for schools in raising awareness of aspects of CST and by providing inspiration and ideas for projects to actively engage pupils in social action. See pages 113-129 (2023 edition).

FAITH IN ACTION AWARD

The CYMFED Faith in Action award scheme is a great opportunity to encourage and inspire young people to get more involved in the community and in local Parishes. Open to pupils from Y6 upwards the Faith in Action award aims:

- To celebrate the faith journey of young people
- To celebrate what already happens
- To encourage tangible living faith in the 'real world'
- To strengthen links between individuals, communities and organisations
- To explore the universal call to holiness
- To work for the Good News and the common good

Schools who wish to participate must contact the Youth Office at youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/ SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
SEPTEMBER				
	Pope Francis' prayer intention for September - For people living on the margins: We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser			Season of Creation CST Care for Creation

importance. Watch the 'Pope Videos' each month https://thepopevideo.org/				
4 September	"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him take up his cross and follow me."." <i>Matthew 16:21-27</i>	22nd Week of Ordinary Time 5 th St Teresa of Calcutta	"Let us not forget: if we are to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, our lives must bear witness to what we preach." <i>Pope Francis</i>	Tuesday 1 st World Day of Prayer for Creation – the start of Creation Time which runs until 4 th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources https://catholicclimatemovement.global/
11 September	"For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." <i>Matthew 18:15-20</i>	23rd Week of Ordinary Time 10th Education Sunday	"Just look at what we can do when we come together." <i>Marcus Rashford</i>	https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234838/Home/Resources/Education_Sunday/Education_Sunday.aspx
18 September	"Lord, how many times do I have to forgive?" <i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	24th Week of Ordinary Time 17 th Evangelii Gaudium Sunday – 1 st celebration 21 st St Matthew 21 st UN International Day of Peace	"When a deep injury is done to us, we never heal until we forgive." <i>Nelson Mandela</i>	21 st International Day of Peace https://internationaldayofpeace.org/ https://paxchristi.net/2020/07/06/catholic-nonviolence-days-of-action/
25 September	God's generosity – "The last will be first, and the first, last." <i>Matthew 20:1-16</i>	25th Week of Ordinary Time 24 th Harvest Sunday 27 th Feast of St. Vincent de Paul	"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." <i>John Wooden</i>	https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Harvest-prayers 27 th Feast of St. Vincent de Paul - Mini Vinnies/Youth SVP
OCTOBER				
Pope Francis' prayer intention for October – For the Synod We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit to all the corners of the world.			Black History Month	Month of the Rosary
2 October	"Which of the two did the father's will?" <i>Matthew 21:28-32</i>	26th Week of Ordinary Time Bishop Mark – Anniversary of succession 1 st Oct St Therese of Lisieux https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/13713/105760/version/1/file/Secondary_Prayer%20Card_St_Therese_of_Lisieux1.pdf Season of Creation ends - 4 th St Francis of Assisi Friday 6 th October CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	God could not have chosen anyone less qualified, or more of a sinner, than myself. And so, for this wonderful work he intends to perform through us, He selected me- for God always chooses the weak and the absurd, and those who count for nothing." <i>St. Francis of Assisi</i>	. 4 th St Francis of Assisi https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/11733/91933/version/4/file/St_Francis_of_Assisi.pdf Friday 6 th CAFOD Harvest Fast Day https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Harvest-Fast-Day

WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/ SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
		Day of Prayer for Needy and Hungry of the World		
9 October	“The Kingdom of God will be given to a people who will produce its fruit.” <i>Matthew 21:33-43</i>	27th Week of Ordinary Time Sunday 8 th Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their dependents 10th World Mental Health Day 2023	“Good intentions are simply not enough. Our character is defined, and our lives are determined not by what we want, say, or think, but by what we do.” <i>Michael Josephson</i> “	Prisons Week https://prisonsweek.org/ https://www.youngminds.org.uk/support-us/fundraising/helloyellow/
16 October	God invites you into his Kingdom <i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>	28th Week of Ordinary Time Sunday 15 th World Missions Sunday 16 th World Food Day 18 th St Luke	“Pay attention to the hungry, both in this country and around the world. Pay attention to the poor. Pay attention to our responsibilities for world peace. We are our brother’s keeper...” George McGovern	Sunday 15 th World Missions Sunday https://missio.org.uk/what-is-world-mission-sunday/ Friday 16 th World Food Day – Grow, Nourish, Sustain, Together
23 October	“Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” <i>Matthew 22:15-21</i>	29th Week in Ordinary Time	“We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us.” <i>St Oscar Romero</i>	
HALF TERM HOLIDAY – I have still put the Sundays in as half-terms vary – check against your school calendar				
Pope Francis’ prayer intention for November - For the Pope : We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.			International Men’s Month	Month of Remembrance
30 October	The Beatitudes <i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st All Saints Day – Holy Day of Obligation 2nd All Souls Day 3rd St Winefride – patron of the diocese 3 rd St Martin de Porres	“Saints are not supermen who are born perfect but rather are ordinary folk who followed God with all their heart.” <i>Pope Francis</i>	3 rd St Martin de Porres https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/7064/58844/version/6/file/St_Martin%20de%20Porres_V2.pdf
WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/ SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

6 November	"All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted." <i>Matthew 23:1-12</i>	31st Week of Ordinary Time	"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." <i>Albert Pine</i>	
13 November	"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." <i>Matthew 25:1-13</i>	32nd Week of Ordinary Time 11 th Remembrance Day 12 th Remembrance Sunday https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday	"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." <i>Leo Buscaglia</i>	13 th – 17 th November Anti-Bullying Week https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/ Thursday 19 th World Toilet Day - https://www.worldtoiletday.info/ Or use CAFOD's World Toilet Day Assembly Friday 20 th Universal Children's Day https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
20 November	"First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean." <i>Matthew 23:14-30</i>	19 th World Day of Prayer for the Poor 22nd Red Wednesday	"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist." – Dom Helder Camara	Red Wednesday – highlighting Christian Persecution and Suffering https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/red-wednesday/ https://www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor/
27 November	Christ the King says "Whatever you do to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me." <i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>	Last Week of Ordinary Time - Christ the Universal King also National Youth Sunday 30 th St Andrew	"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" Pope Francis	http://www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk/ https://homemission.org.uk/home/youth/ 1 st World Aids Day https://www.worldaidsday.org/ https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/HIV-and-AIDS-animation
Pope Francis' prayer intention for December - For persons with disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.				Advent
4 December	"Stay awake!" <i>Mark 13:33-37</i>	1st Week of Advent: Sunday Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees 8 th Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	"But freedom was measured, he supposed, by what you were leaving behind." – Mick Herron	
11 December	"A voice cries in the wilderness - prepare the way for the Lord." <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>	2nd Week of Advent Bible Sunday	"Learn to listen. Opportunity sometimes knocks very softly." <i>Anonymous</i>	

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18 December	“He came as a witness to speak for the light.” <i>John 1:6-8,19-28</i>	3rd Week of Advent	“Every day you are witnessing. What are you witnessing to? Your witness is the total package of your attitudes, character, and actions. It does not lie.” <i>Winkie Pratney</i>	18 th International Migrants Day https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/services/refugee-project/ https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Refugee-resources
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS				
Pope Francis’ prayer intention for January -.FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.				
1 January	“for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,” <i>Luke 2:22-40</i>	The Holy Family 1st Mary the Mother of God	“If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: ‘Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.’ I must admit, this prayer has never failed me.” -St Mother Teresa of Calcutta	1 st January World Day of Peace – see Pope Francis’ new year message of peace
8 January	“Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	The Epiphany of the Lord 8th The Baptism of the Lord	“No one has ever become poor by giving.” <i>Anne Frank</i>	.
15 January	“What do you want?” <i>John 1:35-42</i>	2nd Week in Ordinary Time	“Create the highest grandest vision possible for your life because you become what you believe.” <i>Oprah Winfrey</i>	Day of special prayer for world peace https://www.paxchristi.net/
22 January	“Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.” <i>Mark 1:14-20</i>	3rd Week in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-01/sunday-word-of-god-fisichella-	“Never underestimate the influence you have on others.” <i>Laurie Buchanan</i>	27 th St Angela Merici https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/12549/97594/version/5/file/St_Angela.pdf 27 th Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 Theme –

		press-conference.html		https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/
Pope Francis' prayer intention for February – OR THE TERMINALLY ILL We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.				
WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/ SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
29 January	“Here is teaching that is new and has authority behind it.” <i>Mark 1:21-28</i>	4th Week in Ordinary Time Sunday 31 st Racial Justice Sunday 2nd The Presentation of the Lord	“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” <i>Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	https://ctbi.org.uk/category/witnessing-together/racial-justice/ https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/7064/58844/version/6/file/St_Martin%20de%20Porres_V2.pdf
5 February	“He cured many who were suffering.....” <i>Mark: 1:29-39</i>	5th Week in Ordinary Time Childrens Mental Health Week Thursday 11 th Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day of Prayer for the Sick	“There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.” <i>Edith Wharton</i>	https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/about/ 8 th St Josephine Bakita – Day of Prayer for Trafficked People https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Saints-prayer-cards https://www.caritas.org/2016/02/international-day-prayer-awareness-human-trafficking/
12 February	“Jesus...said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean!’” <i>Mark 1:40-45</i>	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 14th Ash Wednesday	“What happens when people open their hearts?” “They get better.” – Haruki Murakami	
HALF TERM HOLIDAY - I have still put the Sundays in as half-terms vary – check against your school calendar				
19 February	“Repent and believe the Good News.” <i>Mark 1:12-15</i>	1st Week of Lent	“Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!” <i>Anne Frank</i>	Check out CAFOD's & Missio Ash Wednesday and Lent resources
26 February	Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here.” <i>Mark 9:2-10</i>	2nd Week of Lent 1 st St David https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/8846/72202/version/6/file/St_David.pdf 1 st March Women's World Day of Prayer	“Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.” <i>Henri Nouwen</i>	Support Caritas Shrewsbury https://www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk/get-involved/good-shepherd-collection/ Fairtrade fortnight begins https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved/Curren

				t-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight
Pope Francis' prayer intention for March – FOR THE NEW MARTYRS - We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.			Women's History Month	Lent
4 March	"Jesus could tell what a person had in him." <i>John 2:13-25</i>	3rd Week of Lent	"Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking." <i>J.C. Watts</i>	Friday 8 th International Women's Day https://www.internationalwomensday.com/
11 March	'The person who lives by the truth comes into the light.' <i>John 3:14-21</i>	4th Week of Lent 17 th St Patrick https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/13711/105751/version/2/file/St_Patrick.pdf	"Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." <i>Maya Angelou</i>	Friday 20 th International Day of Happiness https://www.dayofhappiness.net/#join
18 March	If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest. <i>John 12:20-33</i>	5th Week of Lent 19th St Joseph, husband of Mary Tuesday 24 th St Oscar Romero (See resources from CAFOD and Missio) https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/24491/175828/version/4/file/St%20Oscar%20Romero%20Sain%20Card.pdf	"Whoever out of love for God gives oneself to the service of others will live, like the grain of wheat that dies, but only apparently... Only in undoing itself does it produce the harvest." <i>St Oscar Romero</i>	Sunday 22 nd World Water Day - https://www.unwater.org/what-we-do/inspireaction/ https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Water-resources
EASTER HOLIDAY 24th March - Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday – 28th ; Good Friday – 29th ; Easter Sunday – 31st March				
WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/ SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
25 March	"Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.' <i>Mark 14:1-15, 47</i>	Palm Sunday 28 th Maundy Thursday	"Don't just count your blessings. Be the blessing other people count on." <i>Anonymous</i>	Holy Week
Pope Francis' prayer intention for April - FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.				Resurrection

15 April	"He then opened their minds to understand...." <i>Luke 24:35-48</i>	3rd week of Easter	"Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt." <i>William Shakespeare</i>	
22 April	'I am the good shepherd." <i>John 10:11-18</i>	4th Week of Easter 23 rd St George https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/9674/7774/8/version/3/file/Secondary_prayer%20card_St%20George.pdf 25 th St Mark	"I think about how the Lord never sleeps nor slumbers as He watches over us. When I lie across the door of the sheep pen to guard the sheep, I remember that He is my protection." – <i>Emmanuel Onimisi</i>	https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/22nd_Earth_Day https://www.earthday.org/earthday/countdown-to-2020/
29 April	"I am the vine, you are the branches." <i>John 15:1-8</i>	5th Week of Easter 29 th St Catherine of Siena https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/9573/7708/2/version/3/file/St_Catherine.pdf 1st May - St Joseph the Worker	The purpose of pruning is to improve the quality of the roses, not to hurt the bush." <i>Florence Littauer</i>	1 st May St Joseph the Worker – Day of Prayer for Human Work
WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
Pope Francis' prayer intention for May –FOR THE FORMATION OF RELIGIOUS AND SEMINARIANS We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.				
6 May	"You are my friends if you do what I command you." <i>John 15:9-17</i>	6th Week of Easter 9 th The Ascension of the Lord	"“I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better." <i>Plutarch</i>	
12 May	"They belong to the world no more than I belong to the world." <i>John 17:11-19</i>	7th Week of Easter Sunday – World Communications Day Mental health awareness week	"Have the courage to 'swim against the tide'. Have the courage to be happy." <i>Pope Francis</i>	https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week
19 May	"As the Father sent me, so I am sending you: receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:19-23	Pentecost Sunday 23 rd Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest	"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" <i>St. Catherine of Sienna</i>	

HALF TERM – I think we all have this half term due to Bank Holiday?				
Pope Francis' prayer intention for June - FOR MIGRANTS FLEEING THEIR HOMES We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.				
3 June	"Take it, this is my body." <i>Mark 14:12-16,22-26</i>	Corpus Christi – the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	"In union there is strength." <i>Aesop</i>	Tuesday 8th World Oceans Day https://www.worldoceansday.org/ http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/ocean.html https://www.arocha.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Prayer-for-the-Oceans.pdf
10 June	<i>'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'</i> <i>Mark 3:20-35</i>	10th Week in Ordinary Time	"Those who have a strong sense of love and belonging have the courage to be imperfect." – Brené Brown	
17 June	"The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed." <i>Mark 4:26-34</i>	11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." <i>Robert Louis Stevenson</i>	
WEEK BEGINNING	LITURGICAL THEME	FEAST DAYS/SPECIAL DAYS	THOUGHT FOR WEEK	OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROMOTING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING
23 June	"Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.". <i>Mark 4:35-41</i>	12th Week in Ordinary Time	"It is better to make a thousand failures than to be too cowardly to ever undertake anything." <i>Clovis G. Chappell</i>	World Refugee Week https://refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/education-resources/ 22 nd Sts Thomas More and John Fisher – Day of prayer for those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.
30 June	"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" <i>Matthew 16:13-19</i>	SS Peter and Paul 3 rd July St Thomas	"I would have preferred someone else to have been in charge of rescuing this story, but once again life has taught me that my role is to be a witness, not the leading actor." – Carlos Ruiz Zafón	

Pope Francis' prayer intention for July- FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK -We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all			
8 July	"They would not accept him." <i>Mark 6:1-6</i>	14th Week in Ordinary Time	"One of the secrets of life is that all that is worth the doing is what we do for others." <i>Lewis Carroll</i>
15 July	"Take nothing with you." <i>Mark 6:7-13</i>	15th Week of Ordinary Time	"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love." <i>William Wordsworth</i>
22 July	"You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while." <i>Mark 6:30-34</i>	16th Week of Ordinary Time	"Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop." <i>Ovid</i>

The colour of the shading is indicative of the Liturgical colours used by the Church at different times or seasons of the year.

Green: 'Ordinary Time' refers to the part of the year outside the seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter. There are 33/34 weeks of Ordinary Time. During this time the Church helps us to reflect on the life and work of Jesus. The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green, a colour seen everywhere in trees and plants and a symbol of life and hope.

Purple is used during Advent and Lent as a sign of penance, sacrifice and preparation. At the midpoint of both of these seasons—Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent) and Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent—rose (pink) vestments are traditionally worn as a sign of joy: we rejoice at the midpoint because we are half-way through the preparation and anticipate the coming joy of Christmas or Easter.

Rose is a lighter version of purple because it signifies the penitential purple is mixed with the white of the approaching festival. In both Advent and Lent there is a moment when the atmosphere of penance is brightened by a glimpse of light from the glorious season for which we are

preparing ourselves. The third Sunday of Advent tells us 'Gaudéte, rejoice!' because the Lord is near and the fourth Sunday of Lent says 'Laetáre, Jerusalem, be joyful, Jerusalem, and all who love her!' because she herself is loved by the Lord.

Red symbolizes the shedding of blood and is therefore used on Palm Sunday (when Christ entered Jerusalem to prepare for His death), Good Friday, any other commemoration of the Lord's passion, the votive Mass of the Precious Blood, the days marking the martyrdom of the apostles (except St. John), and the feasts of other martyrs who offered their lives for the faith. However, red also signifies the burning fire of God's love. For this reason, red vestments are worn on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and tongues of fire rested on their heads and for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

White or gold, a colour symbolizing rejoicing and purity of soul, is worn during the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Easter. White vestments are also used for feasts of our Lord (except those pertaining to His passion), the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and the saints who were not martyrs.