



ST MICHAEL

Catholic Primary and Nursery

Catholic Life Newsletter

TERM 2 • NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2026

Remembering with love and preparing our hearts for Jesus



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the days grow shorter, we begin a term of remembrance, hope and preparation. November invites us to remember loved ones and pray for peace. Advent then calls us to make room for Jesus through prayer, kindness and generosity. Together, we can help our children discover the joy at the heart of Christmas.

Our journey through the liturgical year

We begin in Ordinary Time and celebrate Christ the King on 22 November. Advent starts on Sunday 29 November, beginning a new Church year. Purple is the usual Advent colour; rose may be used on Gaudete Sunday, 13 December. Christmas begins on 25 December, when we celebrate Jesus' birth. White and gold express the joy of the season.

November dates to discover

DATE	CELEBRATION	OUR FOCUS
1 Nov	All Saints	Celebrate the saints and the call to live with love.
2 Nov	All Souls	Pray for those who have died and families who miss them.
8 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	Remember those affected by war and pray for peace.
11 Nov	St Martin of Tours and Armistice Day	Children will observe a two-minute silence in school.
15 Nov	World Day of the Poor	Listen to people facing hardship and respond with care.
22 Nov	Christ the King and World Youth Sunday	Follow Jesus' example of service; value young people.
29 Nov	First Sunday of Advent	Begin preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus.
30 Nov	School Advent Mass	10am at St Michael's Church.

December dates to discover

DATE	CELEBRATION	OUR FOCUS
2 & 3 Dec	EYFS Nativity performances	2pm on both days.
3 Dec	St Francis Xavier	Pray for those who share the Gospel around the world.
6 Dec	Second Sunday of Advent	Prepare for Jesus through prayer and kindness.
7 Dec	Reconciliation Liturgy	10am.
8 Dec	Immaculate Conception of Mary	Celebrate Mary, preserved from original sin from her conception.
9 Dec	Year 1 Nativity	2pm.
10 Dec	Year 2 Nativity	2pm.
13 Dec	Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday	Rejoice that the celebration of Jesus' birth is drawing near.
17 Dec	Christmas Carol Concert	2pm at church.
20 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Make time for prayer as Christmas approaches.
25 Dec	Christmas Day	Celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.
27 Dec	The Holy Family	Give thanks for families and those who care for us.

Christmas dates are included for families to enjoy during the holiday. St Nicholas is traditionally remembered on 6 December; in 2026, Sunday Mass celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent.

People who help us prepare

Mary shows us how to trust God and say "yes" to his call. Joseph teaches us about faithful care and quiet courage. John the Baptist calls people to prepare the way for Jesus. St Nicholas offers a focus for generous giving, while St Martin of Tours is remembered for sharing his cloak with a man in need. Ask: "Whose example could we follow this week?"

November a time to remember

All Saints celebrates the saints in heaven; All Souls invites us to pray for all who have died. Families could write a loved one's name or draw a happy memory for a prayer space. Allow children to share their feelings at their own pace. On Remembrance Sunday, pray for people affected by conflict and talk about being peacemakers in everyday life.

Catholic Social Teaching

The Preferential Option for the Poor

Continuing our focus from Term 1, we give particular attention to people experiencing poverty or hardship. World Day of the Poor on 15 November and our Advent preparations invite us to listen, respect each person's dignity and work together so everyone has what they need.

An Advent gift of kindness

Choose an action together: offer companionship, help a neighbour or contribute suitable items to a food bank if you are able. Ask: "How can we share love in a way that respects the person receiving it?" Every family can take part through prayer and kindness.

Four weeks of Advent together

Spend a few minutes together each Sunday. These family themes offer a simple way to reflect on Advent. Make a paper wreath with three purple candles and one pink candle, adding a paper flame each week, or use battery candles.

DATE	CELEBRATION	OUR FOCUS
29 Nov	Week 1 • Hope	Pray for someone who needs encouragement.
6 Dec	Week 2 • Peace	Make peace: say sorry, forgive or settle a disagreement.
13 Dec	Week 3 • Joy	Share something joyful and thank God for it.
20 Dec	Week 4 • Love	Choose a loving action to welcome Jesus into daily life.

Simple activities for families

Make a kindness Advent calendar Write one small action for each day: include someone, help tidy up, thank a grown-up or offer a kind word. Preparing for Christmas can be about giving love as well as receiving gifts.

Explore the Christmas story Read Luke 2:1–20 from a children’s Bible. Make or draw a Nativity scene and talk about Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Add baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

Try a quiet moment with Scripture Read Luke 1:26–38 together. Ask: “What word or idea stood out? What can Mary teach us?” Let your child respond through talking, drawing or a short prayer.

Share light and welcome Make a card for someone who may feel lonely. At a meal, pray for families who lack food or a safe home, and think together about how to help.

Our family conversation starter

“How can we make room for Jesus by making time for someone else?”

An Advent prayer

Loving God,
As we wait for Jesus, help us to slow down and listen.
Fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy and love.
Help us to notice people who need care and share what we can.
May our kindness prepare a welcome for Jesus.
Amen.

A Christmas prayer

Loving Father,
Thank you for Jesus and the love he brings into our world.
Bless our families and everyone who cares for us.
Be close to those who are lonely, hungry or afraid.
Help us share your love this Christmas and throughout the year.
Amen.

Jesus was born in humble surroundings. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, we can notice families facing hunger, homelessness or loneliness. Our care should include friendship, listening and fair choices, as well as sharing what we can.

Thank you for nurturing faith at home. May this season bring hope to your families, and may the peace and joy of Christ’s birth stay with our whole school community.