



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

# R.E. News At Loyola



*Christmas  
Term 2021*

With bubbles dispersed we are now able to all be together again at school. The boys are happy to be in school and that is why in RE, we have brought everything back to the child's point of view and start them on their learning with what they understand about life and how they are developing an ongoing relationship with God. It is our objective to teach them but through discussion in RE we are privileged to learn so much about your son's character and outlook on life. Fundamentally, this comes from you and your home life. Being positive and loved at home helps the boys bring to school their caring selves. 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. Our boys know that God helps them through using their conscience to assist them to make the correct decisions. They know that God will listen to them in prayer and that they should also thank Him for all they have in their life and do things 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. We will continue to encourage them to do so. ***This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism & Confirmation (Belonging), Advent / Christmas (Loving) plus looking at another faith (Judaism). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.***

Class	Topic – Domestic Church	Topic – Baptism & Confirmation	Topic – Advent / Christmas
EYFS (Lower / Upper Kindergarten & Reception)	Myself – God knows and loves each one of us	Welcome: Baptism – a welcome to God's family	Birthday – Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Pre Prep 1	Families – God's love and care for every family	Belonging: Baptism – an invitation to belong to God's family	Waiting - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Pre Prep 2	Beginnings – God is present in every beginning	Signs and Symbols: Signs and symbols in Baptism	Preparations - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Prep	Homes – God's vision for every family	Promises: Promises made at Baptism	Visitors - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Elements	People – The family of God in Scripture	Called: Confirmation – a call to witness	Gift - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Figures	Ourselves – Created in the image and likeness of God	Life Choices: Marriage, commitment and service	Hope - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one
Rudiments	Loving – God who never stops loving	Vocation and Commitment: The vocation of priesthood and religious life	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.

We are delighted that we are able to join together again as a school for worship so that we can all be together to celebrate God's word. Each week we aim to hold a class Mass or service.

Dates and themes are as below but please note these may be subject to change. Updated details can be found on the weekly newsletter.



In preparation for a class Mass or 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 and ownership.

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 are delighted to be able to welcome family members and friends back to our Masses and I know that the children always look forward to seeing you there.

Throughout the pandemic the boys at Loyola have continued to make donations to Epping Forest Food Bank. We will still be doing this and particularly asking the class who are leading the Mass or service. This is a way that we can help others in the community. There will be a large plastic box for any donations on the school front steps or the boys can take items to the school office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### Important dates this term

22nd September

*Exaltation of the Cross (Rudiments)*

29<sup>th</sup> September

*First Holy Communion (Elements)*

6<sup>th</sup> October

*Our Lady of the Rosary (Prep)*

20<sup>th</sup> October

*Harvest (Pre Prep 2)*

**HALF TERM**

3<sup>rd</sup> November

*All Hallows (Figures)*

11<sup>th</sup> November

*Remembrance Day Service*

17<sup>th</sup> November

*Christ the King (Rudiments)*

24<sup>th</sup> November

*St Cecilia (Figures)*

1<sup>st</sup> December

*Advent Service (Elements)*

8<sup>th</sup> December

*Campion (Boys from Campion house)*

1<sup>st</sup> November All Saints

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

2<sup>nd</sup> November The Commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen.

21<sup>st</sup> November Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King

28<sup>th</sup> November Advent begins

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

8<sup>th</sup> December

*The Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day, The Nativity of the Lord

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

27<sup>th</sup> December The Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph