**1.2 MARY OUR MOTHER**

**CONCEPTS:** Incarnation, Liturgical Year

**About the unit**

This unit is designed to develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of Mary and her role in the Incarnation. It introduces the children to the stories of the Nativity of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel which are told from Mary’s point of view. The unit also gives opportunities for the children to learn about the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas and their respective rituals, signs and symbols.

**Where the unit fits in**

This unit builds on previous learning in the Foundation Stage from F2 ‘God’s Family’.

**Prior learning**

They have learned that God sent his only son Jesus as his greatest gift to us. They will have some knowledge of the Advent wreath and some knowledge of the story of Jesus’ birth.

**Key words**

Mary, Angel, Gabriel, messenger, Elizabeth, good news, ‘Hail Mary’, Advent, wreath, Bethlehem, Christmas, shepherds, heaven

**Links to ‘God’s Story’ and ‘Church’s Story’**

*God’s Story 1*, pp. 24-27

*God’s Story 2*, pp. 54-59

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1: 26-38 (the Annunciation)

Luke 1: 39-56 (the Visitation)

Luke 2: 1-20 (the Birth of Jesus)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

• Stories of Jesus are found in the Bible

• Jesus is God’s Son and was born as a baby in Bethlehem

• Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus

• God sent the angel Gabriel to ask Mary to be Jesus’ mother

• Mary visited Elizabeth and they both shared their good news

• Jesus came to bring the good news that God loves everyone

• Christians celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas, and Advent is a time to prepare for Jesus’ birth

• We can ask Mary to help us, she is our mother in heaven

**WTL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

• Know that God sent the Angel Gabriel to ask Mary to be the Mother of Jesus

• *Reflect on Mary’s response*

• *Hear about Mary’s visit to her cousin, Elizabeth.*

• *Reflect on their good news*

• Know that angels are messengers from God

• Recognise some of the ways Christians and others prepare for the birth of Jesus

• Know the name of the liturgical season Advent & Christmas

• Recognise some signs and symbols of Advent and Christmas, e.g. wreath, nativity, tree, cards, candles, colour purple.

• Knowledge of the story of the Annunciation

• Knowledge of the story of the Birth of Jesus

• Recognise some details of the Visitation and visit of the shepherds

• Know that Catholics call Mary ‘our mother’ and reflect on ways Mary looks after us

**BY THE END OF THIS UNIT PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO:**

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| Recognise stories, and some of their details, including the Visitation, Jesus’ birth and the visit of the shepherds and know that they are from the Bible | Begin to retell (sequence), in any form, the story of the Annunciation | **Talk about, ask questions and say what the story of the Visitation tells them about Jesus, Mary, Elizabeth and their feelings** | **Suggest an answer to questions like, ‘Do we learn anything from waiting?’ ‘What is wonderful about Christmas?’** |
| Recognise some symbols of Advent and Christmas | **Give two examples how Christians get ready for Christmas at home, school and in church** | Talk about and give an example how they can use the Christmas story to guide their actions | Use religious words like, Mary, Angel, Gabriel, messenger, Elizabeth, good news, ‘Hail Mary’, Joseph, Advent, wreath, Bethlehem, Christmas, shepherds, heaven, Son of God |
| Talk about their own feelings and things that matter to them |