**3.2 MARY OUR MOTHER**

**CONCEPTS**: Incarnation, Liturgical Year

**About this unit**

This unit is designed to help the children reflect on the role of Mary. The children will develop their understanding of Advent as a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus and are encouraged to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

**Where this unit fits in**

This unit builds on previous learning in Year Two during the unit 2.2 ‘Mysteries’ and in Year One during the unit 1.2 Mary, Mother of God.

**Prior learning**

Children should have knowledge of the story of the Annunciation and some experience of the customs and symbols of Advent.

**Key Words**

Annunciation, Angel Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth, Saint, Mother, Hail Mary, Blessed, Grace, statue, feast, saviour, Advent Wreath, Crib, Bethlehem, Shepherds, stable, Wise Men, worship, swaddling clothes

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

*God’s Story 2,* pp. 54-61

*God’s Story 3,* pp. 71-72, 74-77

*Church’s Story 2,* pp. 54-63

*Church’s Story 3,* pp. 86-95

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Luke 1: 26-38 (The Annunciation)

Luke 1: 39-45 (The Visitation)

Luke 2: 1-20 (The birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds)

Matthew 2: 1-12 (The visit of the Magi)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

• The Christmas story is made up of various stories from the Gospel of Luke and Matthew

• Jesus is Son of God and a real human being who was born in Bethlehem. Christians call this the Incarnation

• Mary was chosen by God to be the Mother of his son at the Annunciation

• The Visitation was when Mary visited Elizabeth and they both shared their good news

• 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 chose Mary to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God

• *Think about the importance of being chosen*

• Know how Mary responded to God’s call by saying yes to God

• Know that Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and think about how we can help each other

• Know the ‘Hail Mary’ and begin to understand it

• Reflect on Mary’s role as our Mother, how she shows her love for us and how we can show our love for her

• Know about the Mystery of the Incarnation and reflect on mysteries

• Know that Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas

• Identify ways we can prepare for the birth of Jesus during Advent

• Experience an Advent liturgy

• Know about the birth of Jesus and reflect on what this means for us

• Understand that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God

• Know the stories of the shepherds’ and wise men’s visit to see the baby Jesus and that they knew he was the Son of God

• *Think about the gifts we can offer Jesus*

• Use religious vocabulary within the unit, including: Annunciation, Visitation, Angel Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth, Hail Mary, Zechariah, Saviour, Incarnation, Son of God, Advent Wreath, Shepherds, Wise Men, Nativity, Advent, Preparation, Gifts and Mysteries

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

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| Ask and respond to questions about God’s choice of Mary and about their own experience of being chosen | Make simple links between the signs used in Advent and Christmas and their meaning (Advent Wreath & Promises, Nativity scene (crib), Christmas Cards, Carols, Liturgical colours purple and white, tree – star, angel, lights etc.) | Make a simple link between the beliefs Christians hold about Christmas and how it affects their behaviour (e.g. think about practising the virtues and helping those who are lonely, those who are poor, visiting family etc.) |
| Describe the beliefs that Christians hold about Jesus & Mary from the Christmas stories and give a reason why each gift was given | Retell one of the stories of the Nativity of Jesus, ensuring it is accurate in its sequence and detail | **Make simple links between the Hail Mary and the stories of the Annunciation and Visitation, using a given source** (e.g. artwork, prayer, verbal discussion) |
| **Suggest answers to questions like ‘What matters most at Christmas and why?’** | Use religious vocabulary accurately including: Annunciation, Visitation, Angel Gabriel, Mary, Elizabeth, Hail Mary, Zechariah, Saviour, Incarnation, Son of God, Advent Wreath, Shepherds, Wise Men, Nativity, Advent, Gifts | **Describe ways that Catholics show they honour Mary for her role in God’s plan** (the Incarnation) |