**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  | Make a simple link between the beliefs Christians hold about Christmas and how it affects their behaviour |
| 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 |