St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

School Workshop Booklet
Autumn 2 2026

St Gabriel the Archangel
Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Mission Statement

" With kind hearts and a thirst for knowledge, we strive to build a community of love and service by learning from and loving others as Jesus did"

Motto

"Love one another as I have loved you"

John 13:24

St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi Academy Trust :
Rooted in the witness of St Gabriel, God's messenger of Good News, our new brand reflects a community founded on faith, hope, and love.
At its heart is the Cross, signifying our Christ- centred mission to form pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge, and a hunger for justice.
The Archangel's wings symbolise spiritual growth, while the modern ellipsis represents clarity of communication and openness to the future.
Together, these elements honour our Catholic foundations while expressing a spirit of optimism and purpose. Our new visual identity is a visible sign of shred mission to live, learn, and lead as messengers of hope

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Mass & Key Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 19/11/26	Whole School Mass led by Year 5
Monday 30/11/26	Advent Prayer Service Year 6 at 2.30 pm
Thursday 3/12/26	Advent Prayer Service Year 5.6 at 2.30 pm
Monday 7/12/26	Advent Prayer Service Year 3.4 at 9.00 am
Tuesday 8/12/26	Whole School Mass led by Year 4
Wednesday 9/12/26	Advent Prayer Service Year 5 at 9.00 am
Friday 11/12/26	Advent Prayer Service Year 4 at 9.00 am
Monday 14/12/26	EYFS Nativity at 9.00 am
Monday 14/12/26	Advent Prayer Service Year 3 at 2.30 pm
Monday 14/12/26	KS1 Nativity at 5.00 pm
Tuesday 15/12/26	Carols and Mince Pies in the school hall at 10.15 am (All families and members of the parish welcome)
Tuesday 15/12/26	KS1 Nativity at 2.00 pm
Wednesday 16/12/26	EYFS Nativity at 2.00 pm
Friday 18/12/26	KS2 Carol Concert 11.00 am at Sacred Heart

We welcome any suggestions for further enhancement of the Catholic Life of the School. If you have any Queries, please make contact through the school office.

School Contacts: RE Team – Mrs Stonier & Mrs Mortimer

Values and Virtues

Autumn 2: Faith–filled and Hopeful

Faith-filled: We are faith-filled when we are living life as God inspires us to live it, putting the Gospel into action through our actions and deeds. Faith gives us trust in God and in other people. We have to build on it every day through prayer, being part of the faith community of St Mary's and living out the Gospel values. Faith gives us hope.

Hopeful: We are hopeful when we are optimistic about the future, we trust ourselves and others, and we don't give up. Our faith teaches us that God is hope – that Christ walks before us and gives us the courage to follow. Hope makes us unafraid to step into the unknown and face challenges. Hope can deepen or restore our faith.

Perhaps you could be more faith-filled by sharing this prayer with your child at home.



Share this evening prayer with your child

Thank you, God, for a lovely day,
for sun and rain, for work and play.
For all my family and my friends,
and for your love, which never ends.
Amen

Who do you have faith in?
Which prayers do you know by heart?
How can you be faith-filled at home?
What are you hopeful for?
How can we help others have hope for the future?

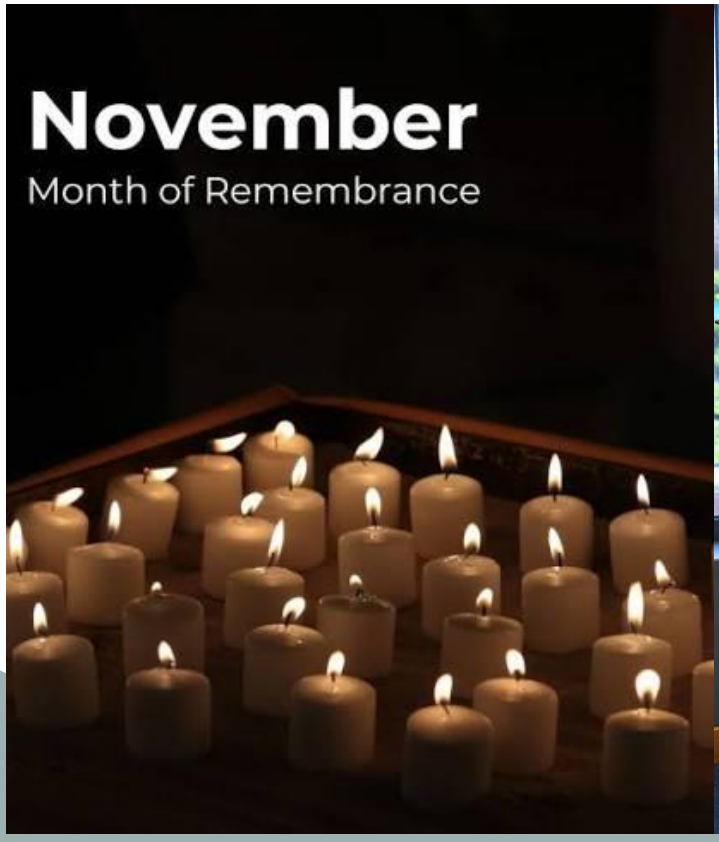
November: Month of Remembrance

The Helping Hands and Catholic Life Leaders are helping our school community to understand the importance of Remembrance and take part in meaningful acts of remembrance that can be shared with families and the wider community.

Throughout November, we will be creating a **Remembrance Tree**, where families are invited to add their own prayers, thoughts and messages in memory of loved ones.

Children will bring home a specially designed remembrance tag to complete with their families and return to school to hang on our tree.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a community of love and service.





ADVENT – PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR JESUS

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 29th November 2026. Sunday Mass at Sacred Tunstall begins at 10.30 am.

What is Advent?

Advent is a special season in the Catholic Church when we prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The word *Advent* means 'coming' or 'arrival'.

Advent lasts for four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of hope, prayer, reflection and preparation. We are encouraged to prepare not just our homes, but our hearts, ready to welcome Jesus.

The Four Weeks of Advent

🕯 **WEEK 1 – HOPE (Sunday 29th November)**
We remember God's promises and look forward with hope to the coming of Jesus.

🕯 **WEEK 2 – PEACE (Sunday 6th December)**
We think about peace and how we can bring peace to others through our words and actions.

🕯 **WEEK 3 – JOY (Sunday 13th December)**
The pink candle is lit to remind us to rejoice as Christmas approaches. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday.

🕯 **WEEK 4 – LOVE (Sunday 20th December)**
We remember God's great love for us and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

What do the Advent Candles Represent?



Purple candles: Preparation, prayer and reflection.

Pink candle: Joy and excitement as Christmas approaches.

Evergreen wreath: God's everlasting love.

Growing candlelight: Jesus, the Light of the World.

How Can We Prepare for Jesus?

We can prepare our hearts by praying, helping others, forgiving one another, showing kindness, and putting our faith into action.

Operation Christmas Child – Help Us Spread Christmas Joy!

Our Helping Hands group, who meet every Tuesday after school, is inviting the whole St Wilfrid's community to support this year's **Operation Christmas Child** appeal.

We believe every child deserves to feel loved, valued and remembered, especially at Christmas. We are collecting donations to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children living in hard-to-reach areas around the world.

Even the smallest donation can make a huge difference, bringing happiness, hope and a smile to a child who may otherwise receive very little.

We would be incredibly grateful for any donations you can make.

Donation deadline: Monday 9th November

Please ensure all donations are brought to school by this date so that our Helping Hands group can pack the shoeboxes in time for delivery.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support in helping us spread a little Christmas joy!





Advent Confessions



Advent is a special time in the Church's calendar when we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, children are encouraged to take time to reflect on their choices and actions, recognise when they may have hurt others, say sorry and experience the wonderful gift of God's love and forgiveness.

This is a valuable opportunity for our children to grow in their faith, strengthen their relationship with God and understand the importance of showing kindness, compassion and forgiveness towards others.

As we journey through Advent together, we hope this special experience will help the children prepare their hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas, remembering that God's love is always there for us.

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." – Psalm 103:8

We keep our Year 6 children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this year in our prayers. We pray that, as they prepare, they continue to grow closer to God and deepen their faith.

Our Family Mass on Sunday 29th December 2026 at 10.30 am will be a special **Mass of Commitment**, when the children will be invited to make their commitment to their Confirmation journey, supported by their families, sponsors and school community.

An Advent Prayer for our families

