



## Resources to support home learning in RE

We believe that parents are the first educators of our faith. This document does not set out to tell you what you should or could have in your home, instead it points towards things which may be useful. As a child, many of us might remember visiting homes (or growing up in them) where every Catholic home had a holy water font at the door, the Sacred Heart picture over the fireplace and statues on the bedside table. **This document is not about what your home should have in it, but about how the RE learning we do in school can be supported at home.** If you have any questions, please ask us, in person or by email to the school office.

Thank you

### Things to hold/look at

A Bible [child's-bible ACN](#) (each time this one is bought, 3 are donated to children in the developing world - you can see where, here [map](#))

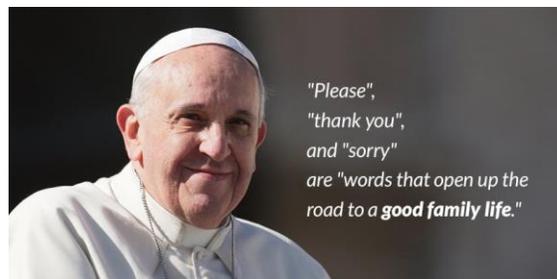
A book of prayers [CTS for Children](#) have some

A Rosary

A religious Advent calendar

A crib/nativity scene

A cross: this one is lovely [holding-cross](#)



### Things you might want to do

Pray as a family.

Check out the weekly newsletter from school which has reflections and prayer links.

Attend Mass on Sundays (or Saturday evenings) Why not take the Wednesday Word with you or read it beforehand. Some good books about the Mass are available here [CTS](#) Mass times are available on the websites of our parishes:

[Holy Cross Carshalton](#)

[Our Lady of the Rosary Sutton](#)

[St Margaret of Scotland, Carshalton Beeches](#)

[Holy Family Church Sutton Green](#)

Say bedtime prayers together (some priests suggest using your thumb to draw a cross on the head of your sleeping children as you go to bed)

Use the Wednesday Word (R - Y4) or the Redemptorist Diary (Y5 Y6) to discuss the weekly Gospel

Discuss Holy Days

Discuss the festivals of other faiths as they happen [festival-calendar](#)

Start family traditions: a prayer every morning during Lent or Advent

Pray the Rosary (or part of it) during May and October. Rosaries are £1 from <https://missiontogether.org.uk>

Receive Reconciliation so your children see its importance to you.



Use the Table Talk on the newsletter each week to get your children talking and philosophising.

Encourage questions...

Talk about your child's Baptism and their name (and how you chose it)

Ask them to tell you about their RE topic (the Curriculum Forecast might be useful for this)

Have a short time of silence - your children might surprise you - they ask for this in school!

Have phone-free meals

### **Websites to visit**

For you - if they ask tricky questions or you are not sure about something: <https://bustedhalo.com/> has lots of information about the Catholic Faith, but it is not aimed at under 11s.

For information about the week's Gospel reading: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>



We know that Pope Francis has asked us to put down our phones and listen to each other, but **here are some apps** that might be useful to you and/or your children for those times when technology is just the thing!

**3-minute retreat:** three minutes of peace are at your fingertips. Download Loyola Press's free app, the 3-Minute Retreat, for a peaceful prayer experience that helps you re-connect with God, give purpose to your day, and relax, wherever you are. Every day, the app guides you on a new bite-sized retreat filled with Scripture passages, soothing music, and reflection questions that you can pray at your own pace.

**Reimagining the Examen:** a wonderful way to slow down your day and enjoy a quiet but prayerfully productive moment. Inspired by St. Ignatius's 500-year-old prayer, this app provides brief, guided meditations — which is helpful when your mind is prone to wandering.

**Pray as You Go:** as the name indicates, [this app](#) is especially helpful for those of us who feel like our day gets away from us. It offers new prayer podcasts each day featuring reflections on the daily readings that are great for centering our focus during the drive to work or walk to class.

**The Vatican News:** it can be difficult sometimes to stay up-to-date on national or even local news, so it's not surprising when things happening across the ocean slip under our radar. [This app](#), otherwise known as the "Pope App," is a great resource for checking in on current Vatican news. It's always good to know what Papa Francisco is up to, or follow him on **Twitter**.

**!Laudate:** [this app](#) has it all. From Liturgy of the Hours to the Order of the Mass to every prayer you've ever wanted to pray (but haven't gotten around to memorizing), this app has you covered. It's been given the title "#1 Catholic App" on iTunes for a reason!