

# To understand and research important Saints

For R.E. over the next two weeks I would like you to complete a research project about Saints. On slides 2-11 I have included some activities for you to start your research. I would also like you to research and complete a fact file on 3 other Saints.

# All Saints

[twinkl.com/imagine/saints](https://www.twinkl.com/imagine/saints)

## Think

- How old is this picture?
- What does it show?
- Who are the different people?
- How can you tell?
- What clues can you see?



## Respond

Research the life of a saint of your choosing. It might be your namesake or one with a particular connection to you. Write a biography about their life.



## Discuss

What makes a person a saint?  
Is simply living a good and kind life enough or should they have done something exceptional?



## Discover

**Fact:** All Saints' Day is a Christian feast to celebrate all the saints, known and unknown. It is also known as All Hallows, the name of which gives its name to All Hallows Eve or Halloween.

**Question:** What traditions are associated with the celebration of All Saints Day? Use your research to create an information booklet.



## Solve

In the Roman Catholic Church, a saint is someone who has been canonised (declared a saint) by the pope.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the following popes canonised new saints: Pius X canonised four saints, Benedict XV canonised three, Pius XI 34 saints, Pius XII 33 saints, John XXIII ten saints, Paul VI 84 saints, and John Paul II canonised 482 saints.

How many saints were canonised in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in total?

**Challenge:** If each of the saints is given their own feast day, how many weeks would it take to celebrate them all? How many years?



## Reimagine

Use colours and collage to create an abstract picture to celebrate the lives of all the saints.



# All Saints Answers

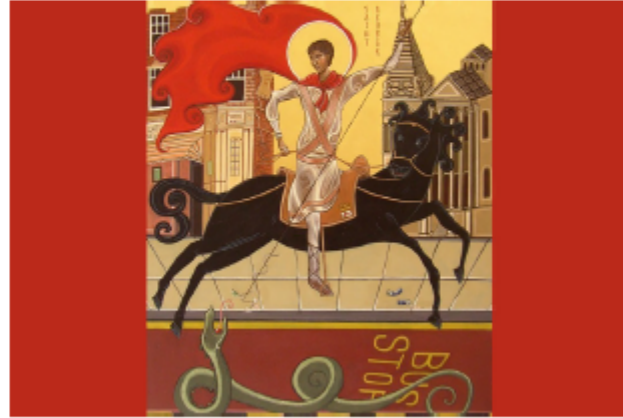
How many saints were canonised in the 20th century in total?	How many weeks would it take to celebrate them all?
4 + 3 + 34 + 33 + 10 + 84 + 482 = 641 saints	There are seven days in a week: $641 \div 7 = 91 \text{ r}4$ 9 weeks and 4 days
	<b>How many years?</b>
	There are 365 days in a year: $641 \div 365 = 1 \text{ r}276$ 1 year and 276 days

# Saint George

[twinkl.com/imagine/saints](https://www.twinkl.com/imagine/saints)

## Think

- Who is this? What is he doing?
- What is unusual about this icon?
- What is he giving to the dragon?
- What can you see in the background?



## Discuss

Usually, Saint George is portrayed killing the dragon, rather than giving it flowers. He is shown on a modern street, with litter on the pavement. What is the artist's message? Why is it important to look after animals and our environment? How should we do this?



## Respond

Rewrite the story of Saint George and the dragon as if it were set today. Would it be a dragon he has to defeat or something else?



## Reimagine

Draw an icon of another saint of your choosing in a modern setting. Who would you choose? Where would they be?



## Solve

The Golden Legend, a medieval story of Saint George and the dragon, describes how villagers would have to feed the dragon two sheep every day. How many sheep would the dragon eat every year? Every decade (not including leap years)?

**Challenge:** If the dragon had been born on a leap year and lived for 156 years, how many sheep would it have eaten in its lifetime?



## Discover

**Fact:** Despite being patron saint of England, legends describe Saint George as a Roman soldier in the Middle East. He is often depicted slaying a dragon.

**Question:** Who was patron saint of England before Saint George? Of which other countries is Saint George the patron saint?



# Saint George **Answers**

How many sheep would the dragon eat every year?	How many sheep would it have eaten in its lifetime?
$365 \times 2 = 730$	$730 \times 156 = 113\,880$ sheep not including leap years
How many sheep would the dragon eat every decade?	$156 \div 4 = 39$ leap years
$730 \times 10 = 7300$	$39 \times 2 = 78$ extra sheep on leap years $113\,880 + 78 = 113\,958$ in the dragon's lifetime

# Saint Nicholas

[twinkl.co.uk/imagine/saints](https://www.twinkl.co.uk/imagine/saints)

## Think

- What are these?
- How do they link to a saint?
- How has our representation of this saint changed over the centuries?



## Respond

Research the 'real' Saint Nicholas. Create a list of adjectives to describe what you think his personality might have been like. Perhaps you could include some similes.



## Discover

**Fact:** In October 2017, after 20 years of excavations, archaeologists in Turkey announced that they had found a tomb which they believed could be the final resting place of Saint Nicholas, who lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

**Question:** Who was Saint Nicholas? Why is he regarded as a saint? What legends surround his life? How did his image become the image of Santa Claus that we associate with Christmas today?



## Solve

Many stories tell of Saint Nicholas making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, 1545km over land from Demre, where he lived much of his life. If he could walk 22 miles a day, how many days would it take him to walk to Jerusalem? How many weeks?

**Challenge:** If he travelled by sea, the journey time would be cut by 40%. How many days would it take by sea?



## Reimagine

Saint Nicholas is often portrayed wearing a red coat with white fur trim but this hasn't always been the case. Design a new outfit for Saint Nicholas. Will you come up with something modern or traditional, flamboyant or practical?



## Discuss

Saint Nicholas followed Jesus' teaching to "sell what you own and give your money to the poor". Is this an easy thing to do? Is it helpful or not?



## Saint Nicholas **Answers**

How many days would it take him to walk to Jerusalem?	How many days would it take by sea?
Children could use division, chunking or repeated addition: $1540 \div 22 = 70$ It would take 70 days travelling.	40% of 10 weeks = 4 weeks 10 weeks - 4 weeks = 6 weeks It would take 6 weeks (or 42 days) to travel by sea.
How many weeks would it take him to walk to Jerusalem?	
$70 \div 7 = 10 = 10$ weeks	

# Saint Paul

[twinkl.com/imagine/saints](https://www.twinkl.com/imagine/saints)

## Think



- Where is this?
- When was it built?
- What happened to the previous cathedral?
- Who was Saint Paul?



## Respond



Create a tourist leaflet for visits to St Paul's Cathedral. Include facts about its history, interesting places to see and illustrations.

## Discover



**Fact:** Saint Paul was one of the most of important saints of the early church. He was originally known as Saul and even oversaw the persecution of Christians until he experienced a conversion to Christianity.

**Question:** Why did Saint Paul convert to Christianity? What did he do after his conversion? Where did he travel? What did he write?

## Solve



St Paul's Cathedral is 365 feet high, however Old St Paul's Cathedral, which was destroyed during the Great Fire of London, was 493 feet high. How much taller was the old cathedral than the current one?

Building of the cathedral designed by Sir Christopher Wren started in 1675 and was completed in 1710. How long did it take to build?

**Challenge:** What was the average height constructed each year?

## Reimagine



Design a new cathedral for a large city. What style will it be? What materials will you use? You might also want to make an architectural model.

## Discuss



In order to raise enough money to maintain the buildings, some cathedrals charge an entry fee. Should cathedrals be free for everyone or should tourists pay if they are not using the cathedral as a place of worship?



## St Paul Answers

How much taller was the old cathedral than the current one?	What was the average height constructed each year?
$493 - 365 = 128$ feet	$365 \div 35 = 10 \text{ r}15 = 10.43$ feet per year (to two decimal places)
How long did it take to build?	
$1710 - 1675 = 35$ years	

# Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

## Think

- Who is this girl?
- How old is she?
- When was this photo taken?
- Why is she considered to be a saint?



## Discuss

Towards the end of her life Thérèse struggled with unbelief and doubts about the existence of God and heaven. Does God exist? Can we ever know for sure? Is there an afterlife? What is it like?



## Respond

Thérèse wrote about how to live a simple life that she referred to as **The Little Way**. Consider and describe how you and others can lead a simpler, better life through little acts of kindness; doing simple things to show great love.



## Solve

Thérèse was born in 1873. In 1888, at a young age, she became a nun and lived in Carmelite community until her death in 1897. She was canonised (made a saint) in 1925. How old was she when she became a nun? How old was she when she died? How old would she have been when she was canonised?



## Discover

**Fact:** From a young age, Thérèse wanted to become a nun and devote her life to God. Although she knew she would never perform great miracles or go on missions, her simple way of living continues to inspire many Christians.

**Question:** What is a nun? What is life like for a modern nun? What inspires people to become nuns or monks?



## Reimagine

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is often referred to as **'The Little Flower'**. Find a flower or a picture of one and draw it in great detail. What characteristics make that flower uniquely beautiful?



## Saint Thérèse of Lisieux **Answers**

How old was she?

Thérèse was 15 years old when she became a nun.

She died at the age of 24 years.

Had she lived until 1925, she would have been 52 years old.

Fact File  
For Saint

Empty rectangular box for a title or header.

Seven horizontal lines for writing text.

Empty square box with a dark red border, likely for a portrait or illustration.

Empty rectangular box for a paragraph of text.

Three horizontal lines for writing text.

Empty rectangular box, likely for a small illustration or icon.

Four horizontal lines for writing text.