

RE Newsletter January 2019



"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh"
Matthew 20 v.11

Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year! As we start 2019, we think of the hope that Jesus brought us -

Looking Back....



Masses: Since September Fr. Paul, our School Chaplain, has kindly come into school to celebrate four Masses with us. The children, led by members of the new Junior Chaplaincy Team, have played an increasing role in the preparation and delivery of these Masses (helped by the Adult Chaplaincy Team) and we have been pleased to welcome so many parents for these special events. You are always

Junior Chaplaincy Team:

In September, the Junior Chaplaincy Team was established, comprising of two Chaplains from each class in Years 1 to 6. These Junior Chaplains are learning how to prepare the Altar and Offertory Table for Mass and how to choose readings, prayers and music for weekly Collective Worship in their own classes; they did this particularly well during Advent. They have also played an invaluable role in sitting with Reception children in Assemblies and Masses in order to model the correct responses. In November, some of the older Junior Chaplains walked to the Cathedral for an historic visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury.



Rosary Club: We have been meeting each Monday lunchtime for a time of quiet reflection and prayer. We think about the Mysteries of our Lord's life, pray decades of the Rosary and offer up personal prayers and intentions. The Adult Chaplains take it in turns to run Rosary Club each week and we hope that, in the Spring Term, even more children will come...all are welcome! In October, members of Rosary Club helped run our 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary Day', an event which we will repeat in May - Mary's month.

Mini-Vinnies: Our Mini-Vinnie Team has doubled in size since September. Led by Mrs Beaugeard, they meet regularly to discuss ways in which they can enhance the Catholic Life of the school. They have proved to be formidable fund-raisers too...



Fundraising: Encouraged and co-ordinated by the Mini-Vinnies, raising funds to help those less fortunate than ourselves has been a big focus of the Autumn Term. With many of our families affected by the devastating floods in Kerala, ... & ... planned and organised a successful cake sale, the proceeds of which were given to CAFOD to help with their Kerala aid. In total, funds raised for this, Mrs Ludden's Cambodia Fund and the Christmas Carol Service donations for 'Mind' totalled £1.099. Thank you for all the help and support (and cakes!) you provided.

Looking Forward...

Lent

We will begin the season Lent with a special Ashes Liturgy for all the children. They will also be exploring the themes of forgiveness and mercy. We will be offering the children opportunities to reflect on their own behaviour and experiences of forgiveness and being forgiven.



Holy Week

The children will all be learning more about the events of Holy Week and will be following Jesus as he makes his way into Jerusalem towards his death on Calvary

Jesus is Risen!

We tend to think that Christmas is the most important time in the Church's year, but the Resurrection of Jesus is by far the most important for Christians. When we as Christians say that our hope is in the Risen Jesus, we mean it is our greatest hope. When Jesus rose on the first Easter morning, it was a brand new kind of life. He promises this same life to all who hope in him. No wonder that Easter is the greatest feast!



Here is a summary of some of the topics your child will be learning about this term.

Reception - Celebrating, Gathering and Growing

In the first half term, the children in the Reception classes will explore how their families at home and their church family gather together. They will be thinking of the many things we celebrate together. Throughout the topic, the children will be given opportunities to talk about their own experiences of celebrating and to describe how they feel. They will think about how we need others to celebrate with.

The children will think about how they gather together in school to talk to God and how God's family gathers together for Mass.



At home, you could help your children by:

- Looking at photos of family celebrations
- Planning a family celebration together
- Find some time to gather together as a family to talk to God at home
- Join your parish family as it gathers for Mass or other celebrations

In the second half of the term, the children will be learning about growing. They will explore Spring as a time when things begin to grow. They will prepare for Easter by investigating the many things in God's world which grow and will experience Lent as a time to grow in love to be more like Jesus. They will hear the stories of Good Friday and Easter Sunday and share in the school liturgies which make Holy Week very special for us.



At home you could help your children by:

- going for a walk and looking for signs of spring
- sharing stories and photos of your family as it grows
- reading your child's Bible together and sharing the stories of Easter Week

Year One - Families and Celebrations

***"The Christian family ... can and should be called a domestic church.
It is a community of faith, hope and charity"***

Catechism of the Catholic Church



The children will learn about what it means to be a member of a family and a member of the school community.

They will learn what it means to belong to the Church family.

They will hear how Jesus' family took him to the Temple and think about why this was a special occasion. They will learn about some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions.

At home you could help your children by:

- discussing the importance of celebrations in our lives
- encouraging the children to think about Church celebrations e.g. Christmas, Easter etc.

Change

After half-term the children will be looking at the ways in which we all change and grow. They will come to understand that Lent is a time to change and grow in preparation for the celebration of Easter.



The children will also be using this time leading up to Easter to focus on the prayers we use in class and in school - prayers of praise and thanks, as well as sorry prayers. They will be learning about how talking to God is central to their relationship with God and their faith. They will be using their prayer corners to help them develop their prayer life in school.

At home you could help your children by:

- praying together and sharing some of the prayers that you know
- reading the stories of Easter together from your child's Bible
- making an Easter garden

Year Two - The Chosen People

"In order to gather together scattered humanity God calls Abram ... and makes him Abraham, that is, 'the father of a multitude of nations.' ... God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt ... he gave them his law so that they would recognise him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Saviour."

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn that we are chosen by God. They will learn that God chose certain people to lead and guide his people. They will hear how God chose Abraham and Moses to be great leaders. They will also hear the stories of Samuel and Daniel from the Old Testament. They will have an opportunity to reflect on how we, too, should always trust God. They will learn that God chooses unexpected people. They will have a chance to think about their own response to God.

The Good News

After half-term, the children in Year Two will learn that Jesus brought the good news of God's love and that this changed people's lives. They will learn that Jesus used God's love to help others.

They will reflect on how they can bring good news to their family and friends.

At home you could help your children by:

- highlighting opportunities when they can give thanks to God
- reading stories about Jesus helping people, e.g The Feeding of the Five Thousand

Good
News!



"Jesus is sent to preach good news to the poor. Jesus identifies himself with the poor of every kind and makes active love toward them the condition for entering his kingdom."

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will be finding out more about 'The Our Father' as the prayer Jesus taught his friends to pray.

Year Three—Being a Christian

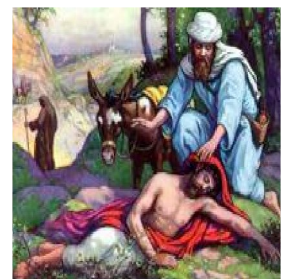
"The greatest commandment of all: "Listen Israel, the Lord your God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself."

Mark 12: 29-30

Year Three will develop their understanding of what being a Christian involves. They will reflect on the joy and challenges involved in following Jesus and learn about these through the lives of Saints Peter and Paul. The children will reflect on their gifts and talents and the gifts the Church calls Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They will explore how to use the gifts God has given to us to be a Christian.

At home you could help your children by:

- encouraging them to recognise and praise the gifts and talents of others
- talk about receiving Holy Communion and help them to make the link between receiving the gift of Jesus and becoming more like Jesus



Called to Change

"During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community ... from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table."

Catechism of the Catholic Church

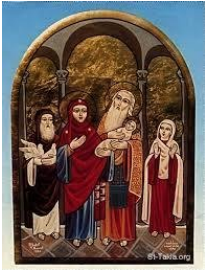
The children will develop their understanding that Jesus called people to change, to turn away from doing wrong and receive the love of God. They will learn that it is not always easy to change and will find out about some people who changed through the help of Jesus. They will learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's love and forgiveness and begin to learn an Act of Sorrow. They will learn that Lent is a time to change in order to prepare for Easter.



At home, you could help your children by:

- thinking about how Jesus changes our lives
- reading the story of Zacchaeus

Year Four - Jesus the Teacher



The children will learn that Jesus was born into a Jewish family and revisit the story of the presentation in the Temple. They will learn that Jesus attended synagogue as a child and as an adult read the Torah.

The children will learn that Jesus came to show us the way to live, understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know and understand some of the parables Jesus told.

The children will have a chance to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today and recognise that Lent gives us an opportunity to live as Jesus wants us to.

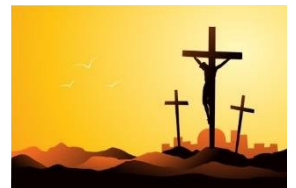
At home, you could help your child by reading some of the well-known parables and talk together about what they mean for us today.

Jesus the Saviour

Jesus "is truly God and, as a man, truly human. His life, death and resurrection are the central event of all human history and at the heart of faith. His cross is the sign of his unique offering of himself for each and every human being."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Year Four will learn that Jesus is truly God and, as man truly human, and learn that Jesus came to share our life so that we can share his life. They will learn that when Jesus died on the cross, he took away our sins. They will look closely at the events of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.



At home you could help your children by:

- reading the stories of Jesus' last week with them
- visiting church during Holy Week

Year 5 Inspirational People (Vocations)



The children will learn about following Jesus and how Jesus described a true disciple. They will have a chance to reflect on their commitment to being a follower of Jesus. They will learn the story of a person who had a special love for those rejected by society and about someone who was an inspiration for young people. They will identify people today who are an inspiration in their service of others.

At home you could help your children by telling them about people who have been inspirational for you.

Reconciliation

"There is no limit to God's grace, nor to God's mercy and forgiveness when we fail. Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing. Reconciliation makes present Jesus' call to conversion, involves contrition for our sins, confession of them to a priest, and absolution spoken by the priest in the name of Jesus Christ. In the celebration of the sacrament we acknowledge (confess) God's holiness and mercy and are reconciled to God and the community of the Church."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory



Year Five children will learn that sin is a failure of love and that when we sin we hurt ourselves and others and damage our relationship with God. They will begin to understand that God loves and forgives us if we are truly sorry and learn that God heals our friendship with him and others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They learn how we can prepare ourselves to receive this Sacrament and learn what happens during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

At home, you could help your children by talking to them about what strengthens their relationships with others in their family, and their friendships outside the home.

Year Five children will also be having lessons on the Books of the New Testament from a representative of Walk Through The Bible.

Year Six - Jesus, the Bread of Life

"At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that become in reality Christ's Body and Blood. Catholic faith adores this enduring presence of Christ not only within the celebration of the Mass but also outside it."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They will begin to understand that in the Mass we participate in Jesus' sacrifice to God the Father and learn what happened at the Last Supper.



They will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will learn that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus.

The children will have a chance to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and on the sacrifices they can make during Lent.

At home you could help your children by:

- bringing their attention to the Eucharistic prayer during Mass
- asking them during the week to explain what they have been learning during their RE lessons

Jesus, Son of God

God's Self-Revelation and the covenant relationship reach their fullness in Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. He is truly God and, as a man, truly human. His life, death and resurrection are the central event of all human history and at the heart of faith. His cross is the sign of his unique offering of himself for each and every human being. As truly God, Jesus reveals the truth and love of God; as truly human, Jesus reveals the perfect response to God and intimate communion with his Father - 'Abba'. *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

Year Six will learn that Jesus healed many people, brought others back to life and that His miracles led many to believe that he was the Son of God. They will learn that Jesus' enemies plotted to have him arrested, and learn about the arrest and the trial before the high priest. They will learn about Jesus' trial before Pilate and learn that Jesus was condemned to death and crucified. They will also learn what Jesus said before he died and about His glorious resurrection.

The children will have the chance to reflect on the miracles of Jesus. They will have the opportunity to make the Stations of the Cross and will reflect on the meaning of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus for us today.

At home, you could help your children by:

- discussing what they have found out in class and how it will affect their life journey
- looking at the Stations of the Cross in your church and talking about their relevance for us today.



Values Education

This term all children will be exploring the following values in their assemblies and in their classrooms:

January - Generosity

February - Growth Mindset

March - Justice

Prayers of Praise - Collective Worship

In school, we will be encouraging the children to join in with prayers of praise in assembly and in class prayer time.

We will be looking at traditional prayers and hymns of praise and worship, and incorporating them into our times of collective worship at school.

At home, you can help by saying together the 'Glory Be'....

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - January 6th

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - January 13th

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - February 2nd

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES - February 11th

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 6th



ST DAVID, BISHOP, PATRON OF WALES - March 1st

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - March 19th

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - April 14th

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 18th

GOOD FRIDAY - April 19th

EASTER SUNDAY - April 16th

CHARITY DAYS



SIGN2SING DAY - Thursday 14th February
March

FAMILY FAST DAY - 15th

