

RE Newsletter April 2019



I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11. 25

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term RE Newsletter; I hope that you all had a happy and peaceful Easter and had a chance to enjoy the glorious weather. It is hard to believe that we are beginning the final term of the school year already; the last two terms have sped by, with a lot happening and much to be proud of.

Over the next few weeks, we continue to celebrate Easter, the most important time in the Church's year. We will be remembering the events between the Resurrection and the Ascension and celebrating the feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 9th, when the coming of Holy Spirit signalled the birth of our Church.

The month of May is dedicated to Jesus' mother, Mary; in school we will be celebrating with a Rosary week, processions and daily prayer.

Class and year group Masses and liturgies will also continue to be celebrated this term, and there will be opportunities to meet children from other schools in the CMAT to explore and celebrate their faith together.

As always, we welcome you to a wide variety of events that will be happening - please see the list at the end of this newsletter and watch out for any additional events or dates in the 'Weekly What's On' and on the school noticeboards.

Finally, we pray especially this term for all those children taking exams and for the adults supporting them, both at home and in school. We also pray for Fr Paul who is unwell; he is in our thoughts and we wish him a full recovery.

Looking Back....



Masses and Liturgies:

Last term Fr Paul helped us celebrate our **Epiphany Mass** and the **Ash Wednesday Liturgy**, with class 3B and the Junior Chaplains helping with the planning, organisation and delivery of both. In the final week of term, class 3S acted out the events of Holy Week in our **Easter Liturgy**. It was lovely to be able to welcome so many parents to these events - your presence and support is very much appreciated by all the children and it is lovely to be able to worship together as a school family.

Please continue to join us for masses and liturgies, and also feel free to stay for our Monday morning whole-school worship at 9am if you would like to.



The Junior Chaplaincy Team worked with the Diocesan **Ignite Team** last term, learning about the liturgical year and how to plan class-based worship using a wide variety of resources. The Junior Chaplains in each class from Years 1 to 6 also decided that they would like to plan and present their own Assembly to help other children in the school use our school Prayer Garden effectively. This term they will continue to practice their presentation, which will be shared in a Monday assembly in May (the date is still to be confirmed, so look out for details in the 'Weekly What's On!')

Pupil-led Class Worship Throughout the school, helped by the Junior Chaplains, children are now having more opportunities to plan and deliver weekly worship within class. They are becoming more confident about independently choosing relevant readings, prayers and hymns based on the liturgical year, the Values of the Month or themes covered in RE lessons.

Rosary Club Rosary Club - open to all children in Years 3 and above, takes place each Monday lunchtime. There are a number of children who attend regularly but there is room for more, so please encourage your child to come along - especially during May, which is Mary's month.

Mini-Vinnies New members received their certificates and badges in Assembly and all the Mini-Vinnies were visited by Barbara Quail, the Regional director of this junior part of the St Vincent de Paul Society. She joined them for one of their fortnightly sessions with Mrs Beaugeard and Mrs Savage as they prepared CAFOD Collection boxes to be distributed to every child in the school. Many thanks to those of you who returned your boxes - there is still time to send them back, even if they're not full, as every penny counts.



Cambodia Mrs Ludden was warmly welcomed back into school where she shared her recent visit to Cambodia with the school in an Assembly. We have committed to helping her raise money to provide bicycles.



RE Visits Some of the Mini-Vinnies joined worshippers at St in Eaton to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. Members of the congregation commented on the children's excellent behaviour and their respectful and reflective attitudes. The Mini-Vinnies found it interesting to spot the similarities and differences between Anglican and Catholic worship and the visit strengthen community links.

Year 6 also had an opportunity to deepen their understanding of different worship when they visited a Jewish Experience exhibition at Norwich Cathedral. They thoroughly immersed themselves in the day, meeting with local Jewish adults who guided them through activities exploring the similarities and differences between the Christian and Jewish faiths.

During the last week of term Year 3 visited Walsingham as part of their preparation for their First Holy Communion. They worked with Fr Luke and the Ignite Team to deepen their understanding of the Mass and to work together to deepen their faith.

Stations of the Cross Also in the last week, children throughout the school had the opportunity to follow in Christ's footsteps as they walked the Stations of the Cross. They reflected on different aspects of His journey and thought about how some of the messages applied to their own lives.

Looking Forward...

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

Reception— Good News and Friends

This term the children in Reception children will be exploring two topics:

Good News The children will talk about how everyone has good news to share and they will be thinking of ways they can pass on the Good News of Jesus to others. At home you can talk about good news you have had in your family and how you shared it.

Friends The children know all about how we make friends. They will find out all about Jesus' friends and hear what Jesus tells us about friendship. They will talk about learning to say sorry and about forgiving others. You can help by looking for opportunities for reconciliation in the day to day life of your family.



Year One — The Resurrection

"Jesus' Resurrection ... is the source of our future resurrection: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

Catechism of the Catholic Church



Year One will learn that Jesus appeared to his disciples in the Upper Room and will think about the times when they have experienced great joy and surprise. They will learn that Jesus helped his disciples to understand that he was risen from the dead and was with them (John 21: 9-14) and this made them very happy. They will learn that when Thomas heard that Jesus was alive he did not believe it. They will also become aware that sometimes, like Thomas, we don't understand what is happening.

In the second half-term, the children will be talking about holidays and holy days and learning about Pentecost as one of the Church's holydays. They will be exploring the theme of 'meals' and finding out how God's church family celebrates a meal together every Sunday. At home, you could help your children by reading stories from the Bible about Easter and Pentecost. You might like to share meals together as a family. When you go to church, help your child to see the Eucharist as God's family sharing a meal together

Year Two — Eastertide

"It is the Holy Spirit who forms and guides God's people to know God and enter into communion with God through Jesus Christ."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory



Year Two will learn that Jesus rose from the dead and still lives with us. They will find out how Jesus told his disciples that he would go back to Heaven but promised that the Holy Spirit would come. They will learn that Jesus ascended into Heaven and promised to return again and that this gives us hope. They will also know the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost and learn about the beginning of the Church. They will know that the Holy Spirit is promised to us all.

Year Two will also learn and reflect on the importance of the celebration of the Mass. They will learn about the readings at Mass and why we should listen to them and learn that at the Offertory we offer gifts to God. They will also hear that at the Consecration the bread and wine are changed into Jesus.

At home you could help your children by:

- reading the stories of Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost with them
- helping them to concentrate at church, perhaps by using a children's Mass Book
- talking about how the Holy Spirit helps us.

Year Three — Celebrating Easter & Pentecost

"God's Self-Revelation is perfected in us by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, promised by Jesus and revealed at Pentecost."



Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Year Three will learn that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead on Easter Sunday. They will learn that because of this, we too will rise from the dead. They will hear the story of the appearances of Jesus on the road to Emmaus and to Thomas. They will also hear and reflect on the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

After half term, many of the children will be making their First Holy Communion. In school the children will be learning more about the Eucharist. This work will culminate in a special celebration of the Mass in July.

At home you could help your children by:

- reading the stories of Easter and Pentecost with them
- discussing with them what they would have felt if they were one of the disciples.
- supporting the parish First Holy Communion programme.

Year Four—The Mission of the Church

"Through the Church Christ fulfils and reveals God's plan to unite all things in him. Christ gave his Church a structure in calling and choosing twelve apostles. With them and their successors he shares his mission, his power and authority. In the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the Church was revealed and its mission to the nations was begun... The ultimate purpose of this mission is to share in the communion of life and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory



Year Four will learn that Peter was chosen by Jesus to play a special role in the Church and that Jesus gave his followers a mission - to spread the Good News to others. They will explore how Pope Francis fulfils that same role in the world today. They will learn that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to help his followers and that Pentecost was the beginning of the Church. They will learn about the missions of Peter and Paul and about Stephen the first martyr of the Christian faith.

After half-term, the children will learn that we all belong to a community. They will learn about different types of community and develop their understanding of what it means to belong to the community of the Church. The children will be introduced to the Creed - the statement of the Catholic faith - and learn about the structure of the Church's liturgical year.

At home you could help your children by:

- discussing with them the life of St Peter, the first Pope
 - finding out more about Pope Francis and the role he plays in spreading the Good News in today's world
 - reading the missionary journeys of St Paul in Acts of the Apostles
 - talking about the part we all are called to play in our Church community
 - reading the Creed carefully together at Mass
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Year Five—Life in the Risen Jesus

"The Church therefore urges her sons and daughters to enter with prudence and charity into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions. Let Christians, while witnessing to their own faith and way of life, acknowledge, preserve and encourage the spiritual and moral truths found among non-Christians, also their social life and culture."

Nostrae Aetate



Year Five will learn the story of the appearance of Jesus to Mary of Magdala and learn that the Risen Jesus is present among us in different ways. They will learn about the Feast of Pentecost as the birthday of the Church and the celebration of the Spirit's transforming power. They will learn how the early Christians, and how each of us, by the way we live our lives, the way we treat others and by our words and actions, show that we value service.

After half-term, Year Five will learn that we live in a country where people have different beliefs and different cultures. They will learn that Christianity comes from Judaism and learn something about Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. The children will learn what Christianity shares in common with other faiths and learn some of the differences between the faiths.

At home you could help your children by:

- reading and discussing the story of Mary of Magdalen
- reading the story of Pentecost with them and discussing how the apostles changed
- discussing what they have learned about the Holy Spirit and how they can apply this to life
- finding out about different places of worship

Year Six — The Work of the Apostles

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Strengthened by this mission, the apostles went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it."

Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC 2



In this topic the children will learn how the apostles received the Holy Spirit. They will reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit working in the apostles and think about how the Holy Spirit can help them today. They will learn about the character of the first Christian community and read about the special role that Peter and Paul played in spreading the Good News.

After half-term the children will learn about Jesus' teaching and example of service of others. They will develop their ability to recognise that God has given us all gifts and talents to use in the service of him and his people. They will learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understand that we receive these gifts in a special way through the Sacrament of Confirmation. The children will have an opportunity to reflect on a life of service through the role of the priest, religious and married life.

At home you could help your children by:

- reading the story of Pentecost with them and discussing how the apostles changed
- discussing the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- discuss the many ways in which we can be called to serve God and our neighbour
- chatting about their gifts and talents, both obvious ones and hidden ones

Pilgrimage

All children in the school will find out about the important role pilgrimage plays in Christian life. The youngest children will think about places that are special to them both inside and outside school. The older children will learn about churches and cathedrals as places which are important to Christians and then investigate places throughout the Christian world which are centres for pilgrimage. The children will also consider how pilgrimage is a major feature of other world religions.

Our Junior Chaplains will be making pilgrimages to Walsingham.

At home you could

- make a family visit to Walsingham
- visit a church you haven't been to before
- think about places that are special to you as a family



Values Education

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

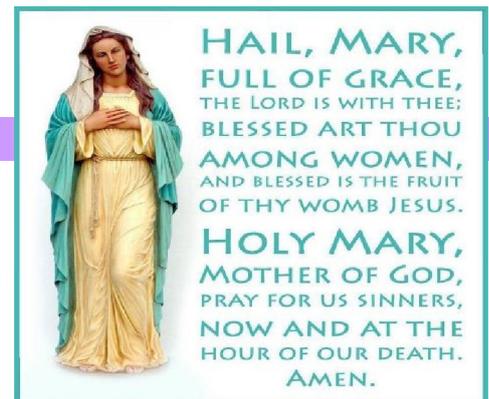
April - Peace

May - Wisdom

Prayers of Praise, Hymns and Sung Responses.

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 learning and practising a wider range of hymns and sung responses with the help Alex Savage from Notre Dame and Daniel Justin from St John's Cathedral. We will be incorporating them into our times of collective worship at school.

At home, you can help by saying together the 'Hail Mary':



Important Dates for This Term

Feast Days

- 13th May - Our Lady of Fatima
- 30th May - Ascension of the Lord
- 16th June - Holy Trinity
- 20th June - Corpus Christi
- 24th June - Birth of John the Baptist
- 29th June - Feast of St Peter and St Paul

Charity Days

- Comic Relief Cake sale - Friday May 10th

Class Masses & Liturgies at 9am

- 4M - Tuesday 14th May
- 5W - Tuesday June 4th
- Yr1 & Yr2 Liturgy - Tuesday 11th June
- 6W - Wednesday 12th June
- 6HW - Thursday 13th June
- 4B - Wednesday 19th June
- 5M - Wednesday 26th June
- Yr 3 First Holy Communion Mass - 3rd July 9:30 am

School Dates

- Junior Chaplains:** Walsingham School's Pilgrimage - Friday 24th May
- Mini-Vinnies:** Beach Retreat Day - Friday July 12th at St Mary's, Lowestoft.
- Rosary Club:** Rosary on the Roof - Monday 20th May
- Rosary Week:** 20th- 24th May
- Yr 4 Pentecost Day:** Monday June 10th at St Francis of Assisi
- St John the Baptist Cathedral Art Exhibition:** Beginning 28th June until July 15th