



Religious Education Spring Newsletter 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new termly Religious Education Newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed the first half of this term and that you had a restful break.

This academic year there have been some changes being made to our RE curriculum with the introduction of the new Religious Education Directory – To Know You More Clearly. We have decided along with the other local Catholic schools to implement a phased introduction of the new RED and have begun by introducing the new curriculum to EYFS this year.

We have also introduced a new resource to our collective worship called Ten Ten. Ten Ten aims to bring our school community into conversation with God through prayer and the Gospel. Ten Ten also has a wide variety of resources to support parents with worship at home. These will be posted regularly on our school website and can be found at <https://saint-patricks.org.uk/ten-ten-monthly-newsletter/> within the Ten Ten Monthly Newsletter tab which you'll find in the 'Our Catholic Life' drop down tab.

Religious Education Spring EYFS

In the Autumn term in EYFS we studied two themes – Creation & Covenant and Prophecy & Promise. This term our topics are Galilee to Jerusalem and Desert to garden.

Branch 3 - Galilee to Jerusalem

In Branch 3 through scripture, we learned about the Epiphany and how the Magi visited Jesus with gifts (Matt 2:1-12), when Jesus blessed the little children (Mk 10:13-16) and the feeding of 5000 (Jn 6:1-14). We learned that Jesus is God's Son and that he came for everyone. We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does. We are called to help the poor and hungry. Through Catholic Social Teaching we learned that you need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor, and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. Everyone in the world needs this but many people do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people. **An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.**

Branch 4 – Desert to garden

In Branch 4 we learn that Lent is a time to care for others. Jesus died on a cross and this is a sad time. Jesus was given new life by God his Father. Jesus rose and everyone celebrates. We look at a simplified version of the key events of Holy Week, especially Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Through Catholic Social Teaching we will deepen our understanding that many people don't have the basic things that they need, and that Jesus wants the people who already have what they need, to help others. **Rights and Responsibilities.**

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

(4th-26th January)

- Year 1 **SPECIAL PEOPLE** – People celebrate in Church
- Year 2 **BOOKS** – The books used in Church
- Year 3 **JOURNEYS** – Christian family's journey with Christ
- Year 4 **COMMUNITY** – Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
- Year 5 **MISSION** – Continuing Jesus' mission in the diocese (ecumenism)
- Year 6 **SOURCES** – The Bible, the special book for the Church

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.

Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

Encourage children to use references to find stories in the Bible.

EUCHARIST - RELATING

(29th January – 1st March)

- Year 1 **MEALS** – Mass, Jesus' special meal
- Year 2 **THANKSGIVING** – Mass, a special time to thank God
- Year 3 **LISTENING & SHARING** – Jesus gives himself to us
- Year 4 **GIVING & RECEIVING** – Living in communion
- Year 5 **MEMORIAL SACRIFICE** – Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
- Year 6 **UNITY** – Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives.

Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

Discuss with your children the importance of the Eucharist and how it links to Jesus at the last supper.

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

(4th – 28th March)

- Year 1 **CHANGE** – Lent; a time for change
- Year 2 **OPPORTUNITIES** – Lent; an opportunity to start anew
- Year 3 **GIVING ALL** – Lent; remembering Jesus' total giving
- Year 4 **SELF-DISCIPLINE** – Celebrating growth to new life
- Year 5 **SACRIFICE** – Lent; a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus
- Year 6 **DEATH & NEW LIFE** – Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practise self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up cakes, and donate the money to a charity.

If you have an older child provide them with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross.

Ask the children how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

What we are doing this term

This term, Years 2 and 5 had a visit from Margaret Lucid who is a CAFOD school volunteer. She talked about 'Everyone is special' (Human Dignity), 'Showing we care' (Solidarity) and 'Taking Part' (Participation).

Year 2



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Year 5



Important Dates this term

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
1st January – a feast day of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the aspect of her Motherhood of Jesus Christ.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
6th January – commemorating the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Christ and the Miracle at Cana.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
8th January – commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John the Baptist.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
2nd February – Candlemas Day, we celebrate Jesus' Presentation at the Temple and Mary being purified, with many bringing candles to their churches to be blessed.

ASH WEDNESDAY
14th February – Junior Mass 11am
Infant service 2.45pm

ST JOSEPH SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
19th March

EASTER WEEK

PALM SUNDAY	24 th March
MAUNDY THURSDAY	28 th March
GOOD FRIDAY	29 th March
EASTER SUNDAY	31 st March