

# *Catholic Primary School*

## **RE Newsletter 4**

### *The Season of Lent*

Dear Parents,

The word Lent comes from an old English word that means 'lengthen' and refers to the turning of Winter into Spring when the days lengthen and the cycle of life is being renewed once more. There are so many things around us during this season to be thankful for. There is more sunlight, birdsong is more noticeable, spring bulbs are in bloom and trees are beginning to show signs of coming to life. These signs of new life are echoed in the season of Lent through which the Church bids us to reawaken our spiritual sensibilities and refocus on tending to the Lord who calls us 'come back to me, with all your heart'. Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, brings to mind the importance of being thankful for everything, including life itself which is a pure gift. The journey of Lent is a journey towards the new way of living that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, promised to us through the power of our most celebrated season – Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus.

We tend to celebrate Christmas as if it's the most important time in the Church's year, but the Resurrection of Jesus is the most important event for Christians. When Christians say that their hope is in the risen Jesus, they mean it is their 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!

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we support your children in their Religious Education.

#### **Special intentions for our prayers from the Church's prayer cycle for Lent:**

Candidates for the sacraments

The needy and the hungry of the world

Women's World Day of Prayer (1<sup>st</sup> March)

Penitents and Wanderers

#### **Dates from the Church's calendar:**

1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>St. David</b> , Patron of Wales	25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>The Annunciation</b>
	Women's World Day of Prayer	31 <sup>st</sup> March	Fourth Sunday of Lent
6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> April	Fifth Sunday of Lent
10 <sup>th</sup> March	First Sunday of Lent	14 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Second Sunday of Lent	18 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Holy Thursday</b>
	<b>St. Patrick</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Good Friday</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>St. Joseph</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Third Sunday of Lent		

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## *Nursery - Good Friends*

This half term, the children in the Nursery will be learning about how Jesus chose good friends and how He wants us to be good friends. They will think about how Jesus is a good friend and how friends help us

and how we can help others. During Lent the children will learn how Jesus taught us to forgive others and also how He had a special meal with his friends.

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## Reception— Sorrow and Joy

There is no limit to God's grace, nor to God's mercy when we fail  
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This half term, the children in the Reception classes will be learning about joy and sorrow. They will begin to understand that we are capable of hurting others and that we should always try to be kind to each other. They will learn that we can say sorry when we hurt someone but we need to ask Jesus to help us to do this. They will also begin to learn that Jesus forgave those who hurt him and know that we can forgive other people when they hurt us.

### At home

You could help your children by:

- talking to them about what makes them happy
  - talking to them about how they can be kind to other people
  - reminding them to say please and thank you and to say sorry when it is appropriate.
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## Year 1—Following Jesus

**"From the beginning, Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to them and gave them a share in his mission, joy and sufferings."** *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Year 1 will hear how Jesus chose some of the first disciples (Luke 3. 5: 1- 11) and reflect on how we choose our friends. They will hear how Martha and Mary were friends of Jesus and think about how we can be his friends. They will listen to the story of Jesus and his followers going into Jerusalem and think of how we can praise Jesus. They will learn that Jesus died on Good Friday and know that God raised Jesus.

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- Encouraging them to invite a friend to play.
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## Year 2—The Mass

**"In the Eucharist we receive him as our life and food, a promise of the eternal banquet of heaven. At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that becomes 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."**

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Year 2 will 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 appreciate that at the Consecration the bread and wine are changed into Jesus' Body and Blood.

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- reading some bible stories with them.
- encouraging them to attend 'Children's liturgy' during Sunday Mass



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## Year 3 – The Eucharist (The Mass)

*“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 of that what happens at Mass, happened at the Last Supper, and they will recognise the links between the Last Supper and the Mass. They will understand why Christians go to Mass, that in Mass we offer thanks to God the Father for the gift of his Son, that during Mass the bread and wine become the blessed body and blood of Jesus and that we receive Jesus when we receive Holy Communion. The children will also have the opportunity to know some parts of the Mass and understand their significance as well as becoming more familiar with some of the responses during Mass.

### At home

You could help your children by:

- with your child reflect on the significance of the Eucharist as they prepare for their First Holy Communion.
- take your child to Mass and discuss the various parts of the Mass.



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## Year 4 – 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.”**

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Year 4 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, about what happened in Holy week and what happened on Easter Sunday.

### At Home:

You could help your children by:

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

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## Year 5 – 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.”**

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Year 5 will learn that sin is a failure of love and learn 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 friendships
  - reading the stories of Jesus' last week with them.
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## *Year 6 - Jesus, the Messiah*

**Jesus' 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 6 will deepen their understanding of Jesus, reflect on what they believe and in their faith. They will reflect on some big questions: What is faith? What is belief? Who is Jesus? They will seek to answer these by looking in the book of evidence – in the 4 gospels. The children will look at the evidence and understand that Jesus is the Messiah, and be aware of what this means to us. They will reflect on the events of Holy Week and the importance of these events for us.

### **At Home**

You could help your children by:

- discuss what they have found out in class and how it will affect their life.
  - look at the Stations of the Cross and talk about their relevance for us today.
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