St Francis 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
Women's World Day of Prayer (1st March)
The needy and the hungry of the world
Penitents and Wanderers

Dates from the Church's calendar:

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

Nursery and Reception– Joy and Sorrow

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 Nursery and 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

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



Year 3 –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 sin and receive the love of God. They will learn that it is not always easy to change and find out about some individuals 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 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." *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

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, learn what happened in Holy week an learn 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

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." *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

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

Year 6 – Jesus, Son of God

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 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 participate in a dramatisation of the passion, death & resurrection of Jesus. They will also reflect on the meaning of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus for us today.

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