

St Francis Catholic Primary School

RE Newsletter Spring 2

The Season of Lent

Dear Parents,

19th Feb – 29th March 2024

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 renewed once more. 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 and refocus on tending to the Lord who calls us 'come back to me, with all your heart'. 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.

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!

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; Penitents and Wanderers

Dates from the Church's calendar:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 13 th February | Shrove Tuesday | 19 th March | St Joseph, Husband of Mary |
| 14 th February | Ash Wednesday | | |
| 18 th February | First Sunday of Lent | 17 th March | Fifth Sunday of Lent |
| 1 st March | St David, Patron of Wales | | Holy Week |
| 25 th February | Second Sunday of Lent | 24 th March | Palm Sunday |
| 3 rd March | Third Sunday of Lent | 28 th March | Holy Thursday |
| 17 th March | St Patrick, Patron of Ireland | 29 th March | Good Friday |
| 10 th March | Fourth Sunday of Lent | 31 st March | Easter Sunday |

Nursery - Good Friends

This half term, children in Nursery will learn that Jesus chose friends to help him bring the Good News to people. They will learn that Jesus was very loving and forgiving and that he will help us to forgive and say sorry. Children in Nursery will learn that Good Friday was a sad day but that Easter Sunday was a very happy day.

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, children in Reception 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

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 / Reconciliation

"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.”

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Year 4 will learn that Jesus is truly God and 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, and learn what happened in Holy week.

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.”

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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 learn what happens during the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how to receive it.

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 / 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’.”

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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 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.
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