



# RE NEWSLETTER

## THROUGH CHRIST WE BELIEVE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE.

ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Spring Term 2026

As in the Autumn term children from Nursery to Year Four are learning from an updated Religious Education Curriculum. Starting from scripture, the children work on the same themes at an age and stage-appropriate level. Topics last for half a term. Children in Years 5-6 change to the new curriculum at a later date and are following the *Come and See* Programme of Study in the meantime.

#### Galilee to Jerusalem

5th January - 13th February

**Early Years** - The children hear the Bible stories of the Wise Men, Jesus welcoming the little children, Jesus blessing the children and The Feeding of the 5000. They learn that Jesus is God's son and came for everyone and so we are called to help the poor and hungry. The children will also learn the 'Glory Be' prayer.

**Year 1** - Children hear the Bible Stories from Luke's Gospel including The Presentation, Finding in the temple and Zacchaeus. They will learn that Jesus is the 'light to all nations' and that The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus (known as Candlemas in Britain) is celebrated by Christians around the world. To live out the faith, the children learn that all Christians are called to follow Jesus, share the Good News with others and to take care of each other.

**Year 2** - The children will hear Bible stories including Jesus' baptism, the preaching of John the Baptist and the choice of the twelve. They will also be introduced to miracles and parables. They will learn about the church's teaching that when people make bad choices (sin) they turn away from God. Jesus teaches that God loves and forgives and that being sorry helps us to change and become better people.

**Year 3** - In addition to the story of the Epiphany (three wise men), the children will be listening to and learning about some of Jesus' miracles and parables. They will learn that praying the 'Our Father' helps Christians to continue to build the kingdom begun with Jesus. By the end of this unit the children will know about the life of a saint who worked to build the kingdom of God.

**Year 4** - In relation to scripture, children will find out about why Catholics pray the Creed at Mass, how Catholics experience God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how the Anointing of the Sick brings God's strength to help those who are sick.

#### Home Activities:



**Early Years** - Jesus wants us to take extra care of people who do not have food, water, homes, schools. How can we do this?

**Year 1** - Jesus is the light to all nations. Think about how you can spread the light of Jesus in your family.

**Year 2** - A saint is an ordinary person who does extraordinary things. Do you have a saint name in your name or family. Research a saint that is special to you.

**Year 3** - When his friends asked Jesus how to pray he taught them the Lord's Prayer. Pray the Our Father together as a family.

**Year 4** - Think about what you would like to say sorry to God for and how you can forgive others.



Thank you





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### Desert - Garden

23rd February - 27th March

**Early Years** - The children learn that Lent is a time to care for others, Jesus died on a cross and it is a sad time, Jesus was given new life by God his Father, Jesus rose and everyone celebrates. They will be introduced to simple signs of Easter such as an Easter garden and learn about different cultures and traditions during Lent and Easter.

**Year 1** - The unit begins with a focus on Ash Wednesday as the start of Lent, a special time for praying, fasting, and helping others as Jesus taught us to do. The children hear stories from the Bible including Jesus being tempted in the desert for 40 days. Some of the key stories for Holy Week are also heard: Jesus entering Jerusalem, The Last Supper and the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

**Year 2** - By the end of this unit the children will know that the Church teaches that Lent is a time of preparing our hearts and minds for Easter through reconciliation and forgiveness. They will learn the importance of saying sorry to God and others for their sins. They will hear that the church teaches that the Easter Vigil Mass is the high point of the year and is rich in symbols of light and darkness.

**Year 3** - In a focus on the Miracles of the Loaves and the Last Supper, the children learn how Jesus showed his love by giving the gift of himself transformed into bread and wine. He made his apostles priests of his promise when he told them to 'Do this in remembrance of me'. Catholics gather to celebrate Mass where they listen to holy scripture and meet Jesus in Holy Communion.

**Year 4** - In this branch, pupils will explore Lent's themes of forgiveness and reconciliation and the idea that devotion to God leads a person to do good works. They will also look at Holy Week in St Matthew's gospel and see that St Matthew shows Jesus as the servant-Messiah. For Lent, they will explore two parables.

### Home Activities:



**Early Years** - Discuss and find out about the pre-Lenten tradition of Shrove Tuesday known as Pancake Day as you enjoy yours at home.

**Year 1** - As part of the unit the children hear the Story of the Widow's Mite. Discuss that we can learn from this story.

**Year 2** - Make a sorry card for someone you may need to apologise to or write a sorry prayer card to God.

**Year 3** - Find out about some different cultural practices associated with Holy Week (e.g., Maundy money in the UK, Green Thursday in Germany).

**Year 4** - Think about how Lent is a time to live out the works of mercy (e.g. by praying for someone who is sad, being patient, fasting, giving time or money to those in need).





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### 'Come and See' Year 5 & Year 6

#### Local Church - Community

**Y5 Mission** - Continuing Jesus' mission in life (ecumenism)

**Y6 Sources** - The Bible, the special book for the Church

#### Home Activities:



Explore the [Archdiocese Website](#), exploring the number of churches and finding out about our Archbishop and Bishop.

#### Eucharist - Relating

**Y5 Memorial and Sacrifice** - Eucharist as the Living Memorial of Christ's Sacrifice

**Y6 Unity** - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

Look through family photographs to help your child remember important events and special people in their lives. Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

#### Lent/Easter - Giving

**Y5 Sacrifice** - Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus

**Y6 Death and New Life** - Celebrating Jesus' Death and Resurrection

As a family discuss how you are going to practice self-control or self-giving during the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes or donate money to charity.



#### The Stations of the Cross

Catholics are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross, particularly during Lent. You may wish to watch this video of the Stations of the Cross together as a family, click on the picture below:





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### CHURCH CALENDAR - SPRING TERM 2026

#### Important Dates This Term:

**FEB**

**18**

#### Ash Wednesday

Wearing ashes on our foreheads is a tradition of repentance that comes from the Old Testament.



**MAR**

**29**

#### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, is the last Sunday before the Easter Triduum. We recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, just days before he was to die. The celebration marks the beginning of Holy Week.

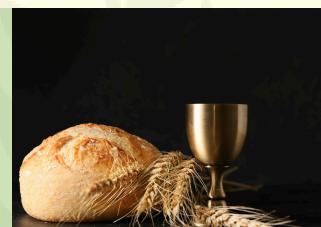


**APR**

**02**

#### Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday was the day that Jesus shared his final meal with his followers before he was crucified. Christians know this meal as the Last Supper. Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus' institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

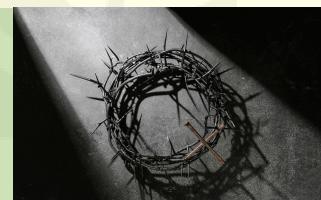


**APR**

**03**

#### Good Friday

Good Friday is the day Christians celebrate Jesus, the Son of God, giving his life to set us free. It is a sombre day of fasting and penance. It is a special day to remember the love God has for us.

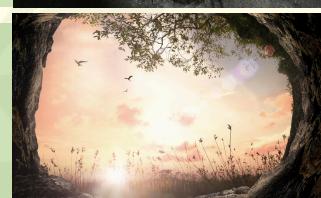


**APR**

**05**

#### Easter Sunday

At Easter, we rejoice in the empty tomb—Jesus' resurrection. Easter is the day Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified.



Through the Ten Ten Resources [Online Parent Portal](#) for Prayer and Liturgy, you can access the Daily Classroom Prayers that children will be praying each day in school. Perhaps you could pray the prayers at home as a family too! Ask your child's school about the login details if you don't already have them.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>



*"Dear young people, aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. Then you will see the light of the Gospel grow every day, within you and around you." Pope Leo*

