



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 2024



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Local Church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

The children will also spend a week studying Islam. At St. Joseph's we recognise that our children come from a diverse range of cultures and the children are also given opportunities to discuss their own religious beliefs.

Attached is a list of important dates in the liturgical calendar for this term along with details of the themes that the children will look at each week linking to our Trust Values and Catholic Social Teaching

### LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

Early Years	<b>CELEBRATING</b> - People celebrate in Church
Year 1/2	<b>BOOKS</b> - The books used in Church
Year 3/4	<b>COMMUNITY</b> - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5/6	<b>MISSION</b> - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)

### 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.

### EUCCHARIST - RELATING

Early Years	<b>GATHERING</b> - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1/2	<b>THANKSGIVING</b> - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3/4	<b>'CELEBRATING THE MASS: What do Catholics Believe and do?</b>
Year 5/6	<b>MEMORIAL SACRIFICE</b> - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice

### 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

### LENT/EASTER - GIVING

Early Year	<b>GROWING</b> - Looking forward to Easter
Year 1/	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> - Lent: an opportunity to start anew
Year 3/4	<b>SELF DISCIPLINE</b> - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5/6	<b>SACRIFICE</b> - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus

### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity. If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

# IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

## **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Sunday 1st January

## **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Sunday 7th January

## **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Sunday 8th January

## **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

Thursday 2nd February

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

## **ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Tuesday 19th March

## **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

Saturday 25th March

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Sunday 24th March

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Thursday 28th March

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

## Statements to Live By

Each week the children are introduced to a weekly Statement to Live By and a Trust Virtue. These are linked in themes and to the Catholic Social Teaching core values of: The Dignity of the Human Person, The Common Good, Solidarity and Subsidiarity. Out of these flows the principles of the Preferential Option for the Poor, Participation, Economic Justice and Care for our Common Home, among others.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Statement</b>	<b>Trust Virtue</b>	<b>Catholic Social Teaching</b>
8/1/24	13. I try to love others as I live myself, my school.	Ambition and Self Belief	Participation, Dignity of Work
15/1/24	14. I try to follow our school and classroom rules	Confidence and Self-Belief	Participation and Subsidiarity
22/1/224	15. I know I belong in a community that includes Solidarity	Confidence, Honesty and Self Belief	Dignity of Work, Peace,
29/1/24	16. I know we are happiest when we are united.	Honesty, Resilience and Self Belief	Common Good.
5/2/24	17. I listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you.	: Compassion and Justice	Solidarity and Preferential Option for the Poor
19/2/24	18. I co-operate with others in work and play.	Honesty, Resilience	Dignity
26/2/24	19. I try to use words that make the world a better place. (Please, sorry, thank you).	Self-Belief and Resilience	Peace and the Common Good
4/3/24	20. I try to appreciate the beauty and the wonder in the world around	Honesty, Respect and Justice	Rights and Responsibilities
11/3/24	21. I know that it is ok for me to make mistakes	: Compassion	Solidarity, Dignity and Pref Option of the Poor Remembrance
18/3/24	22. I can learn from my mistakes and failures	Confidence and Resilience	Solidarity and Subsidiarity
25/3/24	23. I try to keep going when things are difficult and not give up hope	Resilience	Solidarity