



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

RE Newsletter 5

SUMMER TERM 1

Dear Parents,

The Church is celebrating the great feast of Easter – Jesus risen from the dead. This celebration goes on until the solemnity of Pentecost (Sunday 23rd May), the birthday of the Church. At Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who empowers and enables us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. During this term the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, Jesus' mother.

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in our prayers, especially at this time.

Prayer Cycle of the Church for Eastertide: *New Members of the Church, Vocations, Human Work, The Right Use of the Media, The Church*

Dates from the Church's calendar:

21st April St. Anselm

23rd April **St. George**, Patron of England

29th April St. Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe

1st May **St. Joseph the Worker**

3rd May Ss Philip & James, Apostles

4th May English Martyrs

13th May **Ascension Thursday**

14th May St. Matthias, Apostle

23rd May **Pentecost Sunday**

24th May Mary, Mother of the Church

25th May St. Bede, Doctor of the Church

27th May Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

Class

Class 1 – New Life

"Jesus' life, death and resurrection are the central event of all human history and at the heart of faith"

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

This half term, the children in Reception will be learning about new life. They will learn about the story of the empty tomb, and learn that Jesus appeared to his disciples. The children will begin to understand the special gift of joy and peace that Jesus gave to his friends (John 20: 19-21) and can give to us as well. They will hear the story of Jesus going back to his Father and learn that one day we shall hopefully go there too.

At home you could help your children by:

- planting an Easter garden
- looking for signs of new life
- practise the Sign of the Cross, 'Our Father' & 'Hail Mary'
- encouraging them to write their own prayers



Class 2 – The Resurrection

"Jesus' Resurrection ... is the source of our future resurrection: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Class 2 will learn that Jesus appeared to his disciples in the Upper Room and will think about the times when they have experienced great joy and surprise. They will learn that Jesus helped his disciples to

understand that he was risen from the dead and was with them (John 21: 9-14) and this made them very happy. They will learn that when Thomas heard that Jesus was alive he did not believe it. They will also become aware that sometimes, like Thomas, we don't understand what is happening.

At home

You could help your children by:

- reading stories from the Bible about Easter and Pentecost
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Class 3 – Celebrating Easter & Pentecost

“God’s Self-Revelation is perfected in us by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, promised by Jesus and revealed at Pentecost.”

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Class 3 will learn that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead on Easter Sunday. They will learn that because Jesus rose from the dead we too will rise from the dead. They will hear the story of the appearance of Jesus on the road to Emmaus and to Thomas. They will also hear and reflect on the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

At Home

You could help your children by:

- talking to them about how the Church celebrates the resurrection
- reading the story of Pentecost with them
- discussing with them what they would have felt if they were one of the Disciples



Class 4 – The Mission of the Church / The Early Christians

“Through the Church Christ fulfils and reveals God’s plan to unite all things in him. Christ gave his Church a structure in calling and choosing twelve apostles. With them and their successors he shares his mission, his power and authority. In the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the Church was revealed and its mission to the nations was begun... The ultimate purpose of this mission is to share in the communion of life and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Class 4 will learn that Peter was chosen by Jesus to play a special role in the Church and that Jesus gave his followers a mission – to spread the Good News to others. They will learn that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to help his followers and that Pentecost was the beginning of the Church. They will learn about the missions of Peter and Paul and about Stephen the first martyr of the Christian faith.

At Home:

You could help your children by:

- discussing with them the life of St Peter and that he was the first Pope
- reading the missionary journeys of St Paul in Acts of the Apostles (Ch 16 ff)



Class 5 – The Work of The Apostles

“Prayer is a living relationship with God in, with and through Jesus Christ. All prayer, whether private or public is God’s gift, the action of the Holy Spirit in us and an expression of this living relationship. Prayer is an expression of the universal search for God and of the response of faith to God’s Self-Revelation”

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Class 5 will learn that the apostles of Jesus were ordinary people who answered the call to follow Jesus. They will reflect on their own calling to be a follower of Jesus. They will know how the apostles changed when they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and reflect on how they can be changed. The children will know something about how the early Christian community lived and learn that the life of the first apostles was not easy.

At Home

You could help your children by:

- reading and discussing the story of Mary of Magdala
 - talking with them about prayer
 - making time for prayer to get
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