



## *St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School*

### **RE Newsletter Spring 1**

*Be the light to those around you!*

Dear Parents,

We begin this term full of the joy of the Christmas season which ends for us at the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus on 8<sup>th</sup> January. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) when Jesus is recognised as 'The Light of the World'. We must also remember that each one of us is called to be a 'light', an inspiration to those around us.



In this issue of the newsletter you will find what your child is learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.

Dates from the Church's calendar:

6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Thomas Aquinas
8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> January	St. John Bosco
12 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Aelred of Rievaulx	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Presentation of the Lord</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Anthony (desert Father)	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	St. Blaise
24 <sup>th</sup> January	St Francis de Sales	8 <sup>th</sup> February	St Josephine Bakhita
25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Conversion of St. Paul</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> February	Our Lady of Lourdes
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ss Timothy and Titus		

During the winter of Ordinary Time, i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions: **Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.**

### *Class 1 - Getting to know Jesus*

This half term, children in Reception will be getting to know Jesus. Throughout the unit, the children will be given opportunities to become aware that Jesus has a great love for each one of us and will think of ways in which we can show our love for Jesus. They will hear that Jesus cured people who were sick and think of ways we can show our love for sick people.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- saying or sharing prayers together
- talk about people who help us e.g. nurses, doctors
- talk about how we can help others
- giving them jobs which help at home



## Class 2 - Families and Celebrations

***“The Christian family ... can and should be called a domestic church. It is a community of faith, hope and charity”***

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The children will learn about what it means to be a member of a family and to be a member of the school community. They will learn what it means to belong to the Church family.

They will hear how Jesus' family took him to the Temple and think about why this was a special occasion. They will learn about some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions.

### At home

You could help your children by:

- discussing the importance of celebrations in our lives
- talking to your child about their baptism

## Class 3 - The Good News

***“Jesus is sent to preach good news to the poor. Jesus identifies himself with the poor of every kind and makes active love toward them the condition for entering his kingdom.”***

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The children will learn that Jesus brought the good news of God's love and that this changed people's lives. They will learn that Jesus used his power to help others and reflect on the importance of these events.

They will reflect on how they can bring good news to their family and friends.

### At home

You could help your children by:

- highlighting opportunities when they can give thanks to God
- read stories about Jesus helping people, e.g. The feeding of the 5000

## Class 4 - Celebrating the Mass

***“In the Eucharist we receive Christ 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 become 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.”*** *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

They will know why Sunday is special for Christians and will know that we come to Mass to hear the teaching of Jesus and pray to him. They will learn that in the Mass we offer thanks to God the Father for the gift of his Son and learn that during Mass the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. They will learn that when we receive Holy Communion we receive Jesus and learn that Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. They will also learn some of the responses in the Mass and understand that Jesus died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- talking to them about all the things we have to be thankful for
- talking to them about how Sunday is a special day for Christians



## *Class 5 - Inspirational People*

***“Love of neighbour ... involves working for a just society... It includes love for the poor. Love of neighbour is also an expression of our search for God.”*** *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

The children will learn about the conditions for following Jesus and learn how Jesus described a true disciple. They will have a chance to reflect on their commitment to following Jesus or their own faith. They will learn the story of a person who had a special love for those rejected by society and about someone who was an inspiration for young people. They will identify people today who are an inspiration in their service of others.

### At home:

You could help your children by

- encouraging them to research some information about inspirational people and saints