



## 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 9<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.



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.**

Dates from the Church's calendar:

6 <sup>th</sup> January	The Epiphany of the Lord	28 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Thomas Aquinas
9 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of the Lord	31 <sup>st</sup> January	St. John Bosco
12 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Aelred of Rievaulx	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Presentation of the Lord
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	Conversion of St. Paul	11 <sup>th</sup> February	Our Lady of Lourdes
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ss Timothy and Titus		

### *Little Acorns - The Holy Family*

**"They come to appreciate their friendship with Jesus."**

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

This half term, the children in Little Acorns will be learning about Mary as the Mother of Jesus and the story of Jesus getting lost in the Temple. They will think about how Mary and Joseph felt about this and how happy they were when they found him.

The children will learn that Jesus loves little children and will think of ways to be kind and helpful to others. They will talk about how the Good Samaritan helped the man who was hurt and how we should be like him.

#### **At home:**

You could help your children by:

- sharing that Jesus is your friend.
- talking about how you are part of the Church and school family.
- discussing ways that they can help others.

## *Foundation Stage 2 - Getting to Know Jesus*

This half term, the children in Foundation Stage 2 will be getting to know Jesus. Throughout the topic, 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



## *Year 1 - Families and Celebration*

***"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 in Year 1 will learn about what it means to be a member of a family and to be a member of the school community. They will also 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
- encouraging children to think about Church celebrations e.g. Christmas, Easter etc



## *Year 2 - 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 in Year 2 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
- reading stories about Jesus helping people, e.g. The feeding of the 5000



## *Year 3 - 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 in Year 3 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
- talking to them about what happens at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and your own experience of receiving the Sacrament
- encouraging them to receive the Sacrament often and being a good role model.

## *Year 4 - Jesus the Teacher*

This half term, the children in Year 4 will learn that Jesus was born into a Jewish family and find out about the story of the presentation in the Temple. They will learn that Jesus attended synagogue as a child and as an adult read the Torah. They will know that Jesus travelled about teaching people.

The children will learn that Jesus came to show us the way to live, understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know and understand some of the parables Jesus told. The children will have a chance to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today and recognise that Lent gives us an opportunity to live as Jesus wants us to.



### **At home:**

You could help your children by:

- reading some well-known parables, e.g. 'The Sower' and talk about what they mean for us.

## *Year 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*

This half term, the children in Year 5 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. 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
- discussing with them what makes someone inspirational and thinking about people who inspire them.

## *Year 6 – Exploring the Mass*

***“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*

The children in Year 6 will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They will begin to understand that in the Mass we participate in Jesus’ sacrifice to God the Father and learn what happened at the Last Supper.



They will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will learn that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus. The children will have a chance to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and reflect on the sacrifices they can make during Lent.

### **At home:**

You could help your children by:

- bringing their attention to the Eucharistic prayer during Mass
- asking them during the week to explain what they have been learning during their RE lessons