

## 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:

21<sup>st</sup> April St. Anselm

23<sup>rd</sup> April **St. George**, Patron of England

29<sup>th</sup> April St. Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe

1<sup>st</sup> May **St. Joseph the Worker**

3<sup>rd</sup> May Ss Philip & James, Apostles

4<sup>th</sup> May English Martyrs

13<sup>th</sup> May **Ascension Thursday**

14<sup>th</sup> May St. Matthias, Apostle

23<sup>rd</sup> May **Pentecost Sunday**

24<sup>th</sup> May Mary, Mother of the Church

25<sup>th</sup> May St. Bede, Doctor of the Church

27<sup>th</sup> May Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

### *Nursery and Reception – New Life*

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

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This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes 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



### *Year 1 – 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*

Year 1 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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## Year 2 – Eastertide

**“It is the Holy Spirit who forms and guides God’s people to know God and enter into communion with God through Jesus Christ.”**

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Year 2 will learn that Jesus rose from the dead and still lives with us. They will learn that Jesus told his disciples that he would go back to Heaven but promised that the Holy Spirit would come. They will learn that Jesus ascended into Heaven and promised to return again and that this gives us hope. They will also know the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost and know that the Holy Spirit is promised to us.

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- talking about how the Holy Spirit helps us
- having a close look at the Paschal (Easter) Candle when at Mass

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## Year 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.”**

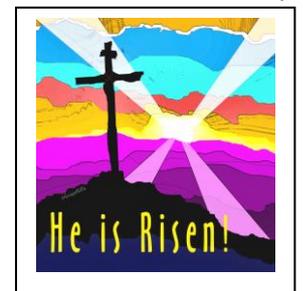
*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

Year 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



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## Year 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.”**

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Year 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)
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## *Year 5 – Life in the Risen Jesus*

**“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”**

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Year 5 will learn the story of the appearance of Jesus to Mary of Magdala and learn that the risen Jesus is present among us in different ways. They will learn about Jesus’ teaching on, and example of, prayer and have a better understanding of the Lord’s Prayer. They will learn that we can pray in different ways.

### **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 together
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*This half term Year 6 could be taught the unit on the Kingdom of God or the unit entitled Called to Serve*

## *Year 6 – Kingdom of God*

**“Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.” (Matthew 6:33)**

The children will be introduced to Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom of God; a teaching central to his life and mission. They will be taught the concept of the Kingdom of God through some of the parables and miracles of Jesus and will explore the ways in which people respond to Jesus’ invitation to belong to his Kingdom.

The children will have the chance to:

- reflect on what the Kingdom of God is like and is not like
- understand some of the parables of the Kingdom
- reflect on the importance of responding to the invitation to the Kingdom
- reflect on the words and deeds necessary to show commitment to the Kingdom
- know there are three kinds of miracle
- know that Jesus’ miracles reflected the beginning of the Kingdom and show us what God is like

### **At Home**

You could help your children by:

- asking them to explain the meaning of the Kingdom of God
- discuss the parables and their meaning
- read a miracle story and discuss what it tells us about God

## *Called to Serve*

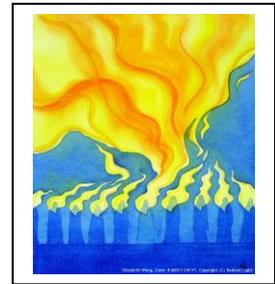
**“The gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to share the mission of the Church.”**

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The children will learn about Jesus’ teaching and example of service of others. They will develop their ability to recognise that God has given us all gifts and talents to use in the service of him and his people. They will learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understand that we receive these gifts in a special way through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The children will have an opportunity to:

- reflect on the Sacrament of Confirmation and the commitment necessary of a Christian
- reflect on a life of service



### **At Home**

You could help your children by:

- discussing the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Sacrament of Confirmation
- discussing the many ways in which we can be called to serve God and our neighbour
- chatting about their gifts and talents, both obvious ones and hidden ones