

# RE Newsletter

We've had such a busy term all trying to grow in 'faith, love and learning'. The children have had many opportunities to develop spiritually and continue to impress us with their reverence and respect. It's been great to be able to welcome families back into school to share in key liturgical feasts and church season reflections.

## Fundraising this term...

Wow...an AMAZING effort and huge thanks for all your support in this term's fundraising efforts. The GIFT Team did a brilliant job of organising our fundraising efforts from sharing in assembly to promoting with posters around school.

The children really enjoyed coming up with ideas for their class £5 challenge. We've had hotdogs on sale, chocolate, cakes and croissants.

A fantastic sum of £376 raised to date will be donated to 'Vista', who empower children and young adults who are blind or partially sighted. This is a cause close to our school family with one of our children being affected.



As a school, we always ensure we support local charities too. The GIFT Team chose 'The Brick' as our other focus. They talked to the children in assembly about creating a 'box' for people who don't have a lot. We have been overwhelmed with the donations. HUGE thanks to those families who have sent in one of the 66 boxes!!



## Assemblies & Celebrations

We've really enjoyed being able to gather back together in our Key Stage bubbles to worship and celebrate.

Every Monday, we gather together to share in our Collective Worship with Mrs Crowder.

We've loved welcoming all of our families back to share in our celebrations and reflections. Year 2 started us off with their Harvest assembly. Year 5 led us at the beginning of October to reflect on the month of the Holy Rosary. Year 6 helped us to reflect on the thanks we give to those who have given their lives in service when the whole school stopped, silent on 11th November.

KS2 classes have led us in our Advent reflections as we prepare for Christmas.

The children in Nursery, Rec & KS1 have really enjoyed putting on their Christmas plays.

The children have all worked very hard learning their lines to share these important times in our Church calendar.



## Judaism Week

Across school, the children all explored different aspects of the Jewish Faith ranging from Rec children looking at the Jewish festival of life ...Y3 exploring Synagogues to Y6 finding out about the Jewish New Year Rosh Hashanah.



# The Posada 'Wandering Nativity'

This year, we welcomed the 'Wandering Nativity' into school from St Theresa's Primary last week. This is known as The Posada—a Mexican tradition which sees us reflect on the journey Mary and Joseph faced and think about our own journey in life and those who face difficult paths. The Posada is visiting all the cluster primary schools for St Peter's.

Our GIFT Team took the 'Wandering Nativity' focus around each Key Stage 2 class and led the children in a beautiful Collective Worship which they had planned themselves.

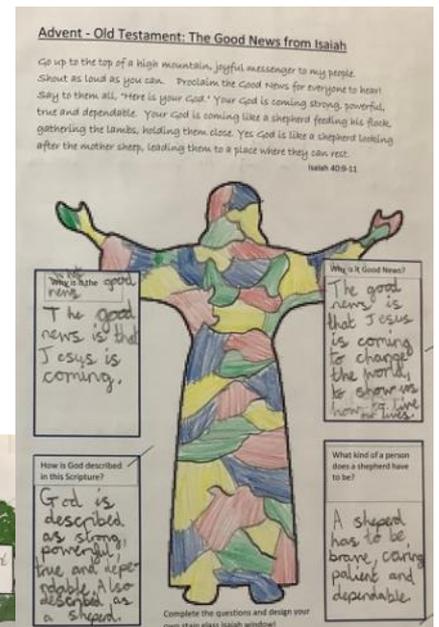
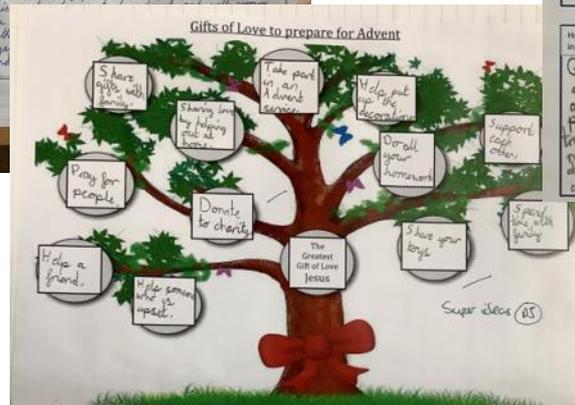
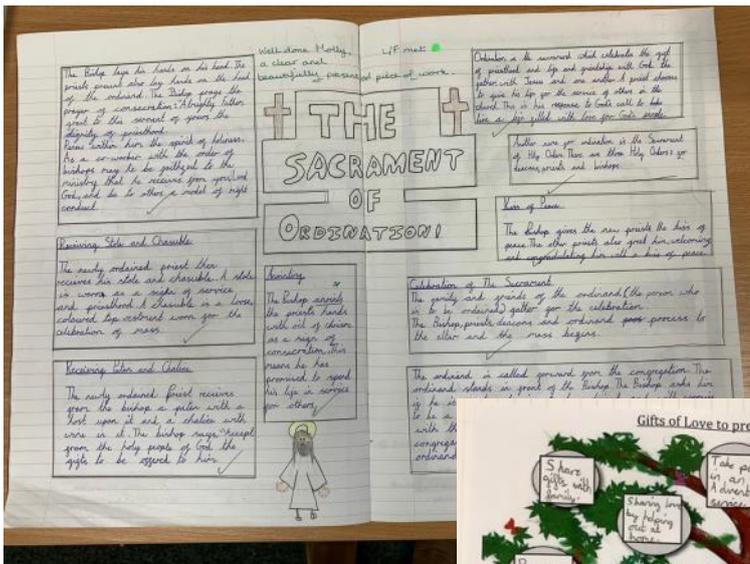


## Sacraments

We say a special prayer for our Year 4 and 5 children who made their Sacrament of Reconciliation in school this week. We pray for them as they continue their faith journey as they prepare to make their First Holy Communion in the Summer term.

## Come and See Religious Education Curriculum

This term, the children have worked very hard on the three topics. Below you can see the depth of knowledge and understanding with examples of the children's work. Next term our three topics will look closely at the local church, Eucharist theme and Lent/Easter.



## Come & See Spring Term

### LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Early Years | CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church                                       |
| Year 1      | SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family                                   |
| Year 2      | BOOKS - The books used in Church   |
| Year 3      | JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ                              |
| Year 4      | COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish |
| Year 5      | MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)                     |
| Year 6      | SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church                           |

### 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.

### EUCHARIST - RELATING

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Early Years | GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist                    |
| Year 1      | MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal   |
| Year 2      | THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God                            |
| Year 3      | LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us                             |
| Year 4      | GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion                                    |
| Year 5      | MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice |
| Year 6      | UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion                      |

### 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 celebrations.

### LENT/EASTER – GIVING

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Early Year | GROWING - Looking forward to Easter                                   |
| Year 1     | CHANGE - Lent: a time for change                                      |
| Year 2     | OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew                    |
| Year 3     | GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving                    |
| Year 4     | SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life                      |
| Year 5     | SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus |
| Year 6     | DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection          |

### 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.

## Next Term...

Next term we will celebrate the following feasts. The children will take part in a range of worship and reflection. Spring term sees us prepare for Easter with our Lenten preparations. The GIFT Team will be playing a pivotal part in organising the reflections and fundraising—more details to follow.



### THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

*This feast is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the 6<sup>th</sup> January*

The Epiphany of the Lord is one of the greatest feasts in the Church's year and in many parts of the world it is celebrated as the most joyful day of Christmas-time. The word 'epiphany' means 'showing'. We rejoice that the glory of God is shown to the whole world through the person of Jesus Christ. That glory is shown to the Magi who come from far away and followed the star to Bethlehem. The wise men are the first of many people who would seek Jesus and find him.

### THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*This feast is celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany*

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season and prepares us to follow the teachings of Jesus and celebrate his life during the coming year. As Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan by John the Baptist the followers of John saw the heavens open and the voice of God was heard. This voice invited all those who saw Jesus to listen to his message. In this event God's glory was revealed and so the Baptism of the Lord is another 'epiphany' or 'showing'.

### Ordinary Time

*From the end of the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent).*

*From the day after Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent.*

For a few weeks in January and February, and then all through the summer and autumn, the Church is in Ordinary Time. "Ordinary" comes from the word "ordinal" and means "counted". In other words, each of the weeks has a number (for example, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time). During Ordinary Time the Sunday gospels follow Jesus from story to story in Matthew, Mark or Luke. Each of these gospels is read for one year in the church's three-year cycle of Sunday Mass readings. Sunday after Sunday we also read through the various letters of Paul

### LENT

*Begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday in the evening – approximately 6 weeks.*

In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth and a time for discerning and doing good. Traditionally we give more time to prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money given to the 'poor' or good causes). This helps us to say 'Yes' to God's will and 'No' to our selfish ways in order to become better followers of Jesus. The season begins by recalling the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert and prepared to proclaim the Good



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### NEXT TERM

#### MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1 January

#### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 January

#### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9 January

#### THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

2 March

#### ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF MARY

19 March

#### THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

25 March

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

10 April

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

14 April

#### GOOD FRIDAY

15 April

#### EASTER SUNDAY

17 April

### Next half term's Mass

KS2 will continue to attend Mass in church on Tuesday once a term. All welcome to join us. If anyone can help to accompany them down to church, please let Mrs Heapy know and meet us at the office for 9.05am Thank-you.