



# RE NEWSLETTER

— O ST MARY'S SPRING FIRST HALF-TERM 2024 —

## Key Dates this term

6th January – Epiphany

8th January – Baptism of the Lord

14th January – Peace Sunday

25th January – The conversion of St Paul.

2nd February – The Presentation of the Lord.

14th February – Ash Wednesday

You can find further information about RE and Catholic life and Mission news on our website here:

<https://www.stmaryrc.org.uk/RE-News/>

Pope Francis has designated this year to be the Year of Prayer.

***"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening out hearts to charity." Pope Francis***

## GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

Dear Jesus, so loving and near,  
Help us know you, hold you dear.  
In stories and songs, let us find,  
Your love, gentle and kind.  
Amen.

## SPRING FIRST HALF-TERM

We hope you all had a restful and holy Christmas and we wish you all a wonderful start to a New Year. Spring is approaching, and with it Signs of new life will appear, bringing us to the most celebrated season in our liturgical year – Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus.

We are continuing to embed our Mission: Nurturing our God Given Talents. The apostle Peter encourages us to use our gifts for the service of others. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another". Our talents are not just for personal gain, but should be used for the Glory of God and the well-being of the community.

Our school follows Pope Francis's "Fratelli tutti," teaching kindness, respect, and responsibility through practical actions. With your support, let's instill a spirit of love and solidarity in our children's lives. In his message "Laudato Si" Pope Francis, emphasis of caring for our planet. At St Mary's, we teach that we have stewardship and encourage the children to contribute to a healthier Earth. Mrs Everett has been working with the children to care for our school grounds. We hope you can support these messages at home.

Below is some information about what your child will be learning in their RE lessons this term and some things you can do at home to support them. Please also look at twitter for photos throughout the term.

Each lesson will link with Catholic Social Teaching, our moral compass guiding us on how to live our faith in the world.

If you have any question about our RE teaching or the catholic life and mission of the school please contact a member of the RE team.

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION

**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — John 14:6**

This half term, the children in Nursery and Reception will be learning about how to build a relationship with Jesus. The children will learn that Jesus has a great love for each of us and how they can show their love. They will hear about times when Jesus healed the sick and ways they can help others. They will know that Jesus showed that he was the Son of God at the wedding at Cana and think about what this means.

### **At home you could help your children by:**

- helping them understand how we can show our love for Jesus.
- talking about how we can help others in need.

## FAMILIES AND CELEBRATIONS

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Dear Lord,

bless our school each day, Guide in work and in play. In learning, love, and unity, Thrive as one community.

Amen.

## THE GOOD NEWS

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Dear God,

Grant us courage to share Your good news through our actions and words. May Your love and grace shine through us, drawing others to You.

Amen.

## CALLED TO CHANGE

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Dear God,

Grant us the strength to forgive, In moments of hurt, help us live. May compassion guide our way, Bringing healing day by day.

Amen.

## YEAR 1

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**"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."**

— **Joshua 24:15 (ESV)**

The children will be reflecting on what it means to be a member of a family. It introduces children to thinking about what it means to be a member of the school community and the Church family.

The topic also gives opportunities for the children to think about why it is important that God is our Father in heaven. Children will hear about how Jesus' family took him to the Temple and to understand why this was a special occasion. Children will link this in to discuss some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- discussing ways they are a part of many families and why this is important,
  - preparing them for different occasions within the Church's calendar.
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## YEAR 2

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**"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."**

— **Mark 16:15**

The children will be learning how Jesus can change sadness into joy. The topic will explain the importance of thanking Jesus for his help and how He uses His power to help others and reflect on the importance of these events. The children will learn that Jesus brought the good news of God's love and what that meant for us.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- helping them understand why it's important to thank Jesus.
  - looking at ways they can spread the good news of God's love.
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## YEAR 3

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**"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."**

— **Luke 6:36**

The children will know that Jesus called people to change and turn away from sin to receive the love of God. They will learn about Jesus' teaching on sorrow and forgiveness, and know that it is not always easy to change and turn away from sin. They will learn about individuals who changed and turned away from sin, and to know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's love and forgiveness.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- teaching them what it means to say we are sorry,
  - deepening their awareness of how forgiveness makes a person whole again.
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## JESUS, THE TEACHER

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Dear Lord,

We thank you for Jesus, our Teacher. Open our hearts to His lessons of love and grace. May we embody His wisdom and share it with others. In His name, we pray.

Amen.

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## INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

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Dear God,

Guide us to live a good life marked by love, wisdom, and compassion. May our choices reflect positive values, and may we find strength in challenges.

In joy, let us be grateful, and in difficulty, may Your light guide us.

Amen.

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## JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE

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Dear Lord,

Thank You Jesus, the Bread of Life. May His teachings sustain us, drawing us closer to You each day.

Amen.

## YEAR 4

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**"And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes."**

— Mark 1:22

In this topic, the children will learn that Jesus was presented in the Temple, and how he was brought up in the Jewish faith. They will learn about how Jesus taught people and showed us the way to live. They will understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know some of the parables Jesus told.

**At home you can help your children by:**

- teaching them to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today,
- helping them recognize that Lent is an opportunity for us to change our behaviour and live as Jesus told us.

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## YEAR 5

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**"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."**

— Matthew 18:11

In this topic the children will be learn that Jesus has come for everyone and how to reflect on how we can join his mission. They will understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how this reflects on what it means for them. They will know that the Beatitudes show us the way to live and think of ways they can help us to be true followers of Jesus. They will understand why Jesus blessed the merciful and what this means for us. They will know why Jesus blessed the pure in heart whilst reflecting on the presence of God within them,

**At home you could help your children by:**

- helping them think of what they can do to help those suffering today,
- discussing what it means to be a saint and think about how it would affect their life.

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## YEAR 6

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**"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'"**

— John 6:35

In this topic the children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a celebration of thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They will understand in the Mass we participate in Jesus' sacrifice to the Father. The children will know that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus. The children will be given the opportunity to reflect on all God's gifts to us and thank him.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- helping them understand why we should appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.
- reflecting on sacrifices we can make during Lent.