



RE NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S SUMMER FIRST HALF-TERM 2024

Dates from the Church's calendar:

23rd April - St George, patron saint of England

25th April – St Mark

1st May – St Joseph the Worker

9th May – Ascension

19th May – Pentecost

The children have been learning about Catholic Social Teaching. Please find information below about CST and how you can support your child's learning at home.

Stewardship

God created the sun and the stars, the water and earth and every creature.

How can we take care of the beautiful world that God has given us?



SUMMER FIRST HALF-TERM SUMMARY

Dear Parents,

As we return to school we are still celebrating Easter – JESUS IS RISEN! This celebration goes on until the great feast of Pentecost (Sunday 19th May) the birthday of the Church. At Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who gives life to the Church.

During this half-term the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, Jesus' mother. The children will be encouraged to say the Rosary in class and at home throughout this month. The Faith Friends will be leading the Rosary each Friday throughout May.

During this term many of our children will receive the Eucharist for the first time as they make their First Holy Communion. This is a great occasion for them and we ask that you remember them all in your prayers.

Nursery and Reception NEW LIFE

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

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

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 and Hail Mary

Human Dignity

Each of us is beautifully made in God's image, and he or she reflects God's glory.

Help your children to love all people, regardless of gender, disability, age, race, religion, ethnicity, nationality or culture. Celebrate diversity by reading stories about families that are different to yours.



Participation

We all have the right and duty to participate fully in society.

Together we can confront the problems of our world and seek solutions. Involve your children in community activities and help to them to know that what they have to contribute is important.



Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity involves making sure that decisions are made that think about everyone. We all have a voice. Everyone has important ideas and we all need to have our say.

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 rose 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
- talking to them about times when they have experienced great joy or surprise.

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."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

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 to them about how the Holy Spirit helps you
- having a close look at the Paschal (Easter) Candle when at Mass, or online

YEAR 3 CELEBRATING EASTER AND 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:

- reading the story of Pentecost with them
- discussing with them what they would have felt if they were one of the disciples



Solidarity

Being in solidarity is recognizing others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good.

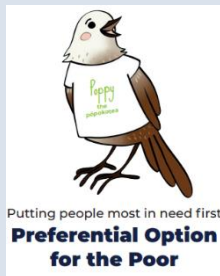
How can we support each other at home and in our communities?



Preferential Option for the Poor

This means that we think first about the needs of those who are most vulnerable. Jesus taught us that we feed the hungry and look after the sick.

Maybe you could encourage your children to give old toys to charity?



Distributive Justice

God's plan was for all people to share in the goods of this world. This means that no person should struggle to have basic needs of life such as food, shelter and clothing.

Maybe encourage your children to donate extra Easter Eggs to a food bank.

YEAR 4 THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

"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."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

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

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"

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Year 5 will learn the story of the appearance of Jesus to Mary of Magdalene 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 Magdalene
- talking with them about prayer
- making time for prayer together

YEAR 6 THE WORK OF THE APOSTLES

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.' Strengthened by this mission, the apostles went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it."

Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC 2



Promoting Peace

Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.

Encourage your children to resolve any conflicts they have with siblings in a peaceful way. Model peacefulness in your daily interactions.



The Common Good

Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all, leaving no one behind.

Help everyone to flourish, help each other be the best that we can be.



The children will learn how the apostles changed when they received the Holy Spirit. They will reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit working in the apostles and think about how the Holy Spirit can help them today. They will learn about the character of the first Christian community and read about the special role that Peter and Paul played in spreading the Good News

At home you could help your children by:

- reading the story of Pentecost with them and discussing how the apostles changed
- discussing what they have learned about the Holy Spirit and how they can apply this to life



Faith Friends have had a busy term supporting the prayer life of the school.