

## St Francis Catholic Primary School

### Religious Education Spring 2 Newsletter

#### The Season of Lent



23<sup>rd</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents,

The word Lent comes from an old English word that means 'lengthen' and refers to the turning of winter into spring when the days lengthen and the cycle of life is renewed once more. There is more sunlight, birdsong is more noticeable, spring bulbs are in bloom and trees are beginning to show signs of coming to life. These signs of new life are echoed in the season of Lent through which the Christian Church bids us to reawaken and refocus on tending to our relationships with one another and with God who calls us 'come back to me, with all your heart' (Joel 2:12). Lent is the time to reset ourselves, take stock of how we are living and journey towards the new way of living that Jesus promised to us through the power of our most celebrated season – Easter. We tend to celebrate Christmas as if it is the most important time in the Church's year, but the Resurrection of Jesus is the most important event for Christians. When Christians say that their hope is in the risen Jesus, they mean it is their greatest hope. When Jesus rose on the first Easter morning, it was a brand new kind of life. He promises this same life to all who hope in him. No wonder that Easter is the greatest feast!

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find what your child is learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.

#### Dates from the Church's calendar:

22 <sup>nd</sup> February	First Sunday of Lent	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Fifth Sunday of Lent
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Lent Fast Day (CAFOD)	25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Second Sunday of Lent	29 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Holy Week: Palm Sunday</b>
	St David (Patron of Wales)		In Holy Week the Church celebrates the salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his earthly life, from his entry into Jerusalem until his passion and death.
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Day of Prayer		
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Third Sunday of Lent		
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Fourth Sunday of Lent		
	Mother's Day		
17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick (Patron of Ireland)	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>Holy Thursday</b> of the Lord's Supper
19 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph (Husband of Mary)	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Good Friday</b> of the Lord's Passion
		5 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Easter Sunday</b>

Special intentions for our prayers from the Church's prayer cycle for Lent:

**Candidates for the sacraments; the needy and the hungry of the world; Women; Penitents and Wanderers.**

# St Francis Catholic Primary School

In the Early Years and Key Stage 1, religious education (RE) this half term will follow the new Catholic RE programme called '*Lighting the Path*' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese of Leeds. All Key Stage Two classes will follow *Lighting the Path* from September 2026. *Lighting the Path* uses a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.



**'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path'**

*Psalm 119:105*

## *Nursery & Reception - Desert to Garden*

Children in the Early Years will begin their religious education this term learning about the season of Lent. The children will focus on Lent as a new beginning making links with the signs of new life in the natural world around them. Children will then focus on the events of the last week of Jesus' life, Holy Week, and hear an account of the Resurrection.



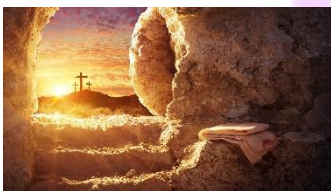
### **At home**

You could help your children by:

- going for a walk and noticing the signs of new life in nature.
- spending time reading stories from the last week of Jesus' life, especially his entry into Jerusalem and his Last Supper.

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## *Year 1 - Desert to Garden*



Pupils will begin their religious education this term by exploring the season of Lent as the time Christians prepare for Easter and to know the stories of the last week of Jesus' life and his resurrection.

### **At home**

You could help your children by:

- looking for signs of new life in nature as you go for a walk
  - reading stories of the last week of Jesus' life, especially his entry into Jerusalem and his Last Supper.
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## Year 2 - Desert to Garden

In this branch, pupils will explore the theme of reconciliation during Lent and learn about the steps that are involved in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Pupils will explore the significance of the symbols of light and water and how they are linked to the celebration of Easter.



### At home

You could help your children by:

- talking about the importance of the symbol of light
  - reading stories about the last week of Jesus' life
  - talk about the importance of forgiveness and saying 'sorry'.
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### Key Stage Two

During this academic year (2025-26) children in Key Stage Two will continue their RE using *The Way, the Truth and the Life* programme which is published by the Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education.



## Year 3 - Called to Change / Reconciliation



The children 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, and other inspirational people, change our lives for the better.
  - reading the story of Zacchaeus and other stories from the life of Jesus that focus on forgiveness.
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## Year 4 - Jesus the Saviour

Year 4 will learn that, for Christians, Jesus is truly God and truly human and learn that Jesus came to share our life so that we can share his life. Pupils will focus on the last week of Jesus' life, what Christians call Holy Week, learning about significant events especially, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his Last Supper and Good Friday.



### At home:

You could help your children by:

- reading the stories of Jesus' last week
- visiting a church during Holy Week.

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## Year 5 - Reconciliation



Year 5 will learn about the importance of reflecting on our actions through considering the consequences of actions. They will learn what the parable of the Forgiving Father has to say about the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation and explore how each stage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is reflected in the narrative of the parable. Pupils will then explore the significance for themselves of how Jesus offers forgiveness even as he dies on the cross to those who crucified him and to the good thief.

### At home

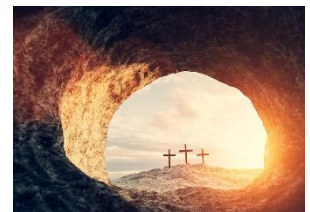
You could help your children by:

- talking to them about what strengthens their friendships
- encourage them to remember to say 'please', 'thank you' and 'sorry' at appropriate moments.

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## Year 6 – Jesus the Messiah

Pupils will deepen their understanding of the Christian belief that Jesus was the promised Messiah. They will explore how Jesus' teachings and healings gained him followers, but also that the religious leaders plotted to do away with him. Pupils will then conduct a detailed exploration of the significant events in the last week of Jesus' life and how the last week, Holy Week, is celebrated by Christians in church and at home. Pupils will reflect on the meaning of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus for Christians today.



### At home

You could help your children by:

- encouraging them to spend some of their own time reading stories from the last week of Jesus' life.