



Dear Parents,

We began this term full of the joy of the Christmas season which ended with the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus on 9th January. On the 2nd February we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) when we remember and celebrate that Jesus is the 'light of the world'. We must also remember that each one of us is called to be a 'light', an inspiration to those around us.



In this issue of the RE newsletter you will find what your child's topics in each year group.

I hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep the staff in your prayers as we continue to support your child/ren with their religious education.

Dates from the Church's calendar:

3 rd January	Most Holy Name of Jesus	25 th January	The Conversion of St Paul
8 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	26 th January	Ss Timothy & Titus
9 th January	The Baptism of the Lord	28 th January	St Thomas Aquinas
12 th January	St Aelred of Rievaulx	31 st January	St John Bosco
17 th January	St Anthony	2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord
24 th January	St Francis de Sales	3 rd February	St Blaise
28 th January	St Thomas Aquinas	11 th February	Our Lady of Lourdes

Noah-EYFS— Getting to know Jesus

"God's Self-Revelation and the covenant-relationship reach their fullness in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God." [RECD p.14]

This half term, the children in the Reception classes will be getting to know Jesus. Throughout the topic, the children will be given opportunities to become aware that Jesus has a great love for each one of us and will think of ways in which we can show our love for Jesus. They will hear that Jesus cured people who were sick. They will think of ways they can show our love for sick people.

At home

You could help your child by:

- saying or sharing prayers together
- talk about people who help us e.g. nurses, doctors
- talk about how we can help others
- giving them jobs, which help at home



Moses Families and Celebration

"The Christian family ... can and should be called a domestic church.

It is a community of faith, hope and charity"

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn about what it means to be a member of a family and to be a member of the school community. They will learn what it means to belong to the Church family. They will hear how Jesus' family took him to the Temple and think about why this was a special occasion. They will learn about some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions.



At home

You could help your child by:

- discussing the importance of celebrations in our lives encourage children to think about Church celebrations e.g. Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Elijah Class- Chosen People

"In order to gather together scattered humanity God calls Abram from his country, his kindred and his father's house, and makes Abraham, that is, 'the father of a multitude of nations.' 'In you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.'" [CCC591]

In Year 2 the children will know we are chosen and gifted by God and we thank God for choosing us by helping others. They will know why God chose Abraham and that he trusted in God to guide him and reflect on how we trust God. To know that God chose Moses to help his people and that we are also chosen to help others and to understand that Daniel had to be brave and have faith because he was chosen.



At home

You could help your child by:

- reading some of the parables with your child and discuss their relevance in today's world.
- discussing why Lent is an important time for Christians to reflect and make changes to their lives so they can become closer to God.

Abraham- Being a Christian

"The greatest commandment of all: "Listen Israel, the Lord your God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself." Mark 12: 29-30 "

The truth of our union with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is tested by whether or not we really love our fellow men and women." Pope John Paul II, 1979

Year 3 will develop their understanding of what being a Christian involves. They will reflect on the joy and challenges involved in following Jesus and learn about these through the lives of St. Peter and St. Paul. The children will reflect on their gifts and talents, and the gifts the Church calls Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They will reflect on how to use the gifts God has given to us to be a Christian.

At home

You could help your child by:

- encouraging them to recognise their gifts and talents
- talk about how they can use their gifts and talents to help others

Solomon Class- Jesus the teacher

"Jesus' 'religious' life was that of a Jew obedient to the law of God, a life in the community. From this whole period, it is revealed to us that Jesus was obedient to his parents and that he increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man." CCC 531

The children will learn that Jesus was born into a Jewish family. They will learn that Jesus attended synagogue as a child and as an adult read the Torah. They will learn that Jesus travelled about teaching people. The children will learn that Jesus came to show us the way to live, understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know and understand some of the parables Jesus told. The children will have a chance to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today.

At home:

You could help your child by:

- reading some well-known parables, e.g. 'The Sower' and talk about what they mean for us today
- discuss how you live out your faith

Jonah Class God's Covenant/ Commandments

"The Ten Commandments are the word of God, regarded in the Old Testament as a gift and sign of God's love. They express the implications of belonging to God through the covenant of Sinai. Jesus summed them up by saying, "This is the first and greatest commandment: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

The children will learn that God loves us and calls us into friendship with him and will understand that the Ten Commandments are a gift from God to help us. They will learn how Jesus summarised the Ten Commandments (Matthew 22: 36-40) and begin to understand how we can show our love for God by keeping his commandments with his help and that God sent his Son Jesus into the world because he loves us, and that we celebrate this gift at Christmas.

At home:

You could help your child by:

- talking to them about how we try to live by the Ten Commandments
- by reflecting on ways, we can deepen our relationship with God through prayer and kind acts

Samson Jesus, the bread of life

"At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that become in reality Christ's Body and Blood. Catholic faith adores this enduring presence of Christ not only within the celebration of the Mass but also outside it."

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The children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They will begin to understand that in the Mass we participate in Jesus' sacrifice to God the Father and learn what happened at the Last Supper. The children will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will know that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus. The children will have a chance to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and reflect on the sacrifices they can make during Lent.

At home:

You could help your child by:

- bringing their attention to the Eucharistic prayer during Mass
- ask them during the week to explain what they have learned during their RE lessons

Mrs Price

Head of School

"Love of neighbour... Involves working for a just society ... It includes love for the poor. Love of neighbour is also an expression of our search for God."

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