

# St George's Catholic Primary School



## ***RE Newsletter 3***

Dear Parents/carers,

A warm welcome back, even though it has been decidedly chillier since our return to school! It is through the joys of all the seasons that we can take time to pause, reflect and observe the beauty of the world around us. We began our new spring term with a Mass and Liturgy led by Fr Daniel and seminarian Shane. Fr Daniel reminded us that we can pray anywhere, anytime and although prayer life is central to the faith life of the school, we look forward to starting our preparations for the Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope. In spring term 1 we will celebrate the Feast Day of one of our House Saints, St. Josephine Bakhita and hold our Lent Spirituality Day as Ash Wednesday falls during half-term this year. We will also mark Racial Justice Sunday with the theme, *'Seeing one another in the life of the Church.'* Our Catholic Social Teaching will focus on Solidarity and Peace, which we also reflected on during our first Friday Liturgy of the new term where we marked Peace Sunday and thought of ways in which we can be peacemakers.

At the end of the newsletter, you will find some images celebrating the Religious Education, Catholic Mission and Prayer life of the school. This includes examples of our RE boards, which not only outline the learning journey of the children throughout their RE topic, but also celebrate their work and foster their sense of awe and wonder through 'Big RE' questions.

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.

As always, we ask you to keep us in your prayers and we welcome any ideas of ways in which we can further promote the Religious Education, Catholic Mission and Prayer and Liturgy of our School.

*During the winter of Ordinary Time, i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions:*  
***Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed.***

St George, *Pray for us*  
St Francis of Assisi, *Pray for us*  
St Thérèse of Lisieux, *Pray for us*  
St Josephine Bakhita, *Pray for us*  
St Oscar Romero, *Pray for us*

## **Nursery and Reception – Galilee to Jerusalem**

The children will hear the story of the visit of the Magi, learn that Jesus blessed the little children and hear the story of the feeding of the 5,000. They will learn that the Magi visited Jesus with gifts, that Jesus is God's Son and came for everyone, that Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas, that Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes and takes care of everyone. The children will learn that the church prays the 'Glory Be' as a response to the coming of Jesus.

The children will link their work in this topic with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Preferential Option for the poor: the children will learn that we need food, water, a house, a school to go to, a doctor to see as does everyone else on Earth, but that many people do not have these things. The children will learn that Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people. The children will link their work in RE across the EYFS curriculum- examples include:

### **Communication and Language**

Using appropriate and kind language when speaking to our friends and each other.

Spreading the word of God.

### **Literacy**

Following a recipe to make bread.

Create a list of rules appropriate for the garden as a class-how can you be a good friend?

### **Understanding the World**

Making bread linking to feeding of the 5000.

Looking up in an atlas where the kings travelled to and from.

Role play the story of the Magi visiting baby Jesus. What did they say to Jesus? What would you have said if you were there?

### **PSED**

Showing love for one another-How can I be a kind friend?

Understanding the importance of sharing.

Building relationships with other children as part of the friendship bench.

Creating a kindness phone-can speak kindly to their friends.

### **Physical Development**

Kneading the dough to make the bread.

Re-enacting the journey the Magi took to visit baby Jesus, pretending to be the donkey.

Creating a dance to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

### **Expressive Arts**

Making crowns and wrapping paper.

Making friendship bracelets.

Creating our own songs to show love for one another

### **Mathematics**

Subitising with the nativity scene (3 Magi etc)

Comparing sizes of different containers for different gifts the wise men gave.

Pattern making for wrapping paper for the gifts and crowns

### **Liturgical Celebrations**

Epiphany

The feast of St Josephine Bakhita

Candlemas

### **At home**

You could help your child by talking about the people that care and look after them and what your child can do to show love and care towards others. To retell the story of the Magi visiting baby Jesus, then discussing what Jesus did as he grew, for example, feed the 5,000 so that no one there would go hungry. How can we help to support those who are hungry?

## Year 1 – Families and Celebrations

***“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 children by:

- discussing the importance of celebrations in our lives
- talking to your child about their baptism

## Year 2 – The Good News

***“Jesus is sent to preach good news to the poor. Jesus identifies himself with the poor of every kind and makes active love toward them the condition for entering his kingdom.”***

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The children will learn that Jesus brought the good news of God’s love and that this changed people’s lives. They will learn that Jesus used his power to help others and reflect on the importance of these events.

They will reflect on how they can bring good news to their family and friends.

### At home

You could help your children by:

- highlighting opportunities when they can give thanks to God
- read stories about Jesus helping people, e.g. The feeding of the 5000

## Year 3– Sacrament of Reconciliation

***“During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community ... from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table.”***

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The children will develop their understanding that Jesus called people to change, to turn away from making wrong choices and receive the love of God. They will learn 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.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- Thinking about times that they have said sorry to others- how did it make them feel? How do they think it made the other person feel? Why is it important to forgive others and ask for forgiveness?
- Thinking about how Jesus changes our lives.
- Reading the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19 1:10)
- Asking them to think about how their preparations are going for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation (if applicable)

### **Year 4 – Jesus the Teacher**

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 link this to our visit from Rabbi Danny last term. 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 children by:

- Reading some well-known parables, e.g. 'The Sower' and talk about what they mean for us.

### **Year 5 – Inspirational People**

***"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."*** *Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

They children will identify people today who are an inspiration in their service of others. The children will learn about St Damien De Veuster and the moral and social choices he made, comparing this with other peoples' responses to moral and social issues. The children will learn that the Beatitudes show us the way to live and how they can help us to be true followers of Jesus.

#### At home:

You could help your children by

- encouraging them to research some information about inspirational people and saints

### **Year 6 – 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."***

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

The children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

They will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will learn 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 children by:

- Asking them during the week to describe what they have been learning during their RE lessons – can they explain it to you? Can they link different sources, e.g. Scripture and the Liturgy of the Eucharist?



*Luke (and a very proud Mrs Williams) with his amazing work that he produced on the Nativity story outside of his RE lesson in Golden Time!*

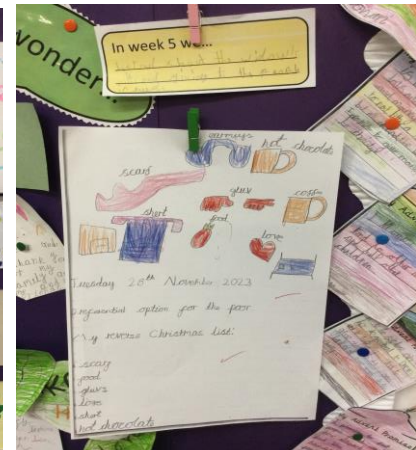
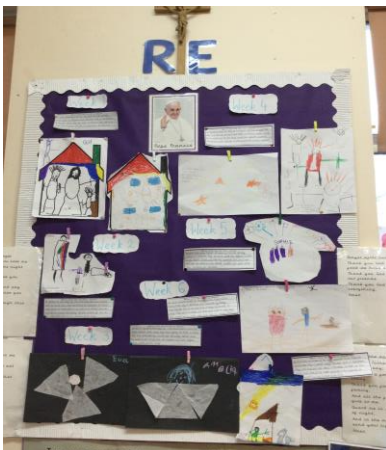


*Some members of our Liturgy team helping some of the children in the infants to write their response to our weekly mission.*



*Some of our Liturgy Team reading the Nativity story to the children in the infant playground.*

### *Examples of our RE boards during Advent*



*Examples of our 'What I know, what I want to find out and what I've learnt' learning journey in Year 1*

