

St George's Catholic Primary School



RE Newsletter 5

Dear Parents,

The Church is celebrating the great feast of Easter – the Resurrection of Jesus. This celebration goes on until the solemnity of Pentecost (Sunday 8th June), the birthday of the Church. During this term the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, Jesus' mother. You can join us in praying the Rosary in our Rosary Garden during the month of May - details can be found in our weekly newsletter and on the school website.

Earlier this week we celebrated the Feast Day of our school Saint, St. George. This year the Church celebrated this Feast Day on Monday 28th April, as this year, the 23rd April falls within the Easter Octave. Throughout the year we have been learning about the values and virtues of St. George and how we can live these out, so that we may be best version of ourselves and so we can give the best of ourselves to others. We further developed the children's understanding of the unique charism of our school as part of the celebrations that we held on Monday.

*St. George, he gives us courage, to do what's right and know what's wrong
The talents you gave, I'll use, not save, to show them to the world*

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus this half term is on the Dignity of Workers and the children explored this principle last week and gathered together for a special Celebration of the Word on Friday. Following this, the children were given a 'Big RE' question to explore and made a class pledge to live out throughout the rest of this half term.

We have been fortunate this year to welcome a Rabbi and Imam to enhance our learning on Judaism and Islam. Next half-term, we look forward to welcoming a Greek Orthodox Priest to talk to the children about Easter, which this year, was celebrated on the same day as the Catholic Church. Learning about other religions and cultures is one of the ways in which we fulfil our call to love our neighbour. The Catholic nature of schools entails "*a willingness... to try to understand better the religion of one's neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture.*" (Catholic Bishops' Conference, p.3)

We continue to remember Pope Francis in our prayers. We marked his passing with special reflections in school last week. Our Prayer and Liturgy team led a special Celebration of the Word today for Pope Francis and thought of a special mission for the children which will also become our new Digital Apostles mission for this term.

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in our prayers.

Nursery and Reception: Branch 5 – To the ends of the Earth

'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' (Mt 28:19).

In Nursery the children will:

- Hear that Jesus went back to his Father.

- Hear that Jesus sent a special friend, the Holy Spirit.
- Learn that the Holy Spirit is our friend and that the Holy Spirit looks after us.
- Celebrate that the parish church is a special place where we meet our friends. We sing and say prayers.
- Learn that we gather with friends at church, especially on a Sunday.

In Reception, the children will:

- Hear the story of Pentecost (retell in a simple way)
- Hear about the early Christian community (Acts 2:42-47)
- Will learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- Hear the Good News lived out by the early Christian community.
- Will celebrate that Pentecost is a special celebration in the church. That Sunday is a special day for the church to celebrate.
- Catholic Social Teaching: Jesus knows that people can be happy with family and friends. He tells us that we can let these important people help us. He asks us to help them too. We are Called to Live as Family and Community. [Community and Participation]
- Catholic Social Teaching: All people are God’s children. That makes us brothers and sisters. We are connected to each other. [Solidarity and Peace]

Year 1—To the Ends of the Earth

In this branch, the children will hear the story of the Road to Emmaus, the Ascension, and the story of Pentecost. They will complete a cycle of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and encounter the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Apostles and then the early Church. The children will make connections to the life of Jesus and the Good News He spread, to the apostles’ mission when they are filled with the Holy Spirit. The children will also explore how Pentecost is celebrated through art and music across the world.

At home

You could help your children by:

- Reading stories from the Bible about Easter and Pentecost
- If applicable, discuss how you celebrate Pentecost in your own culture and traditions.

Year 2 – To the Ends of the Earth

The children will revisit the account of Pentecost and the Ascension and will focus on how people are changed by the Holy Spirit. They will explore how people are changed by the Holy Spirit through the examples of the apostles, St Paul, and other saints that speak to their lives. The fruits of the Spirit are looked at not only through how saints behave, but also through how they pray – their ‘interior life’. The children will learn the names of the fruits of the Spirit and will reflect on how these require thinking time (praying time) as well as actions in the world. They will explore the words of the prayer ‘Come Holy Spirit’ (which the children are familiar with when praying a Visio and Lectio Divina) and how this prayer invite transformation into their hearts. They will look at examples of how some Christian individuals of communities have made big changes in the world, for example, a saint who made peacebuilding in their life.

At Home

You could help your children by:

- Talking about how the Holy Spirit helps us
- Researching the life of a Christian individual or saint who has worked/worked to build peace.

Year 3—Celebrating Easter & 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, that we too can have eternal life in Heaven. 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:

- Talking to them about how the Church celebrates the resurrection
- Reading the story of Pentecost with them
- Discussing with them what they would have felt if they were one of the disciples

Year 4—The Early Christians

“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. As part of their homework, they will research the lives of Jesus’s disciples and share this information with their peers.

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 (Ch 16 ff)

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 Resurrection of Jesus 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:

- Talking with them about prayer and making time for prayer together. Maybe you could ask your child to make up their own prayer that you could say together?

Year 6 – The Transforming Spirit

**“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

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 learnt about the Holy Spirit and how they can apply this to their lives.

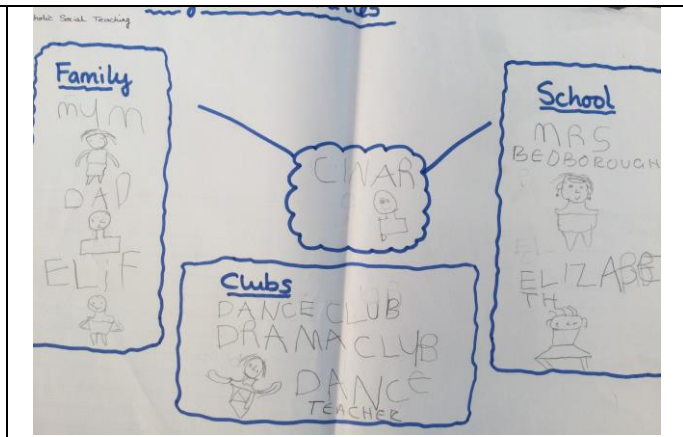
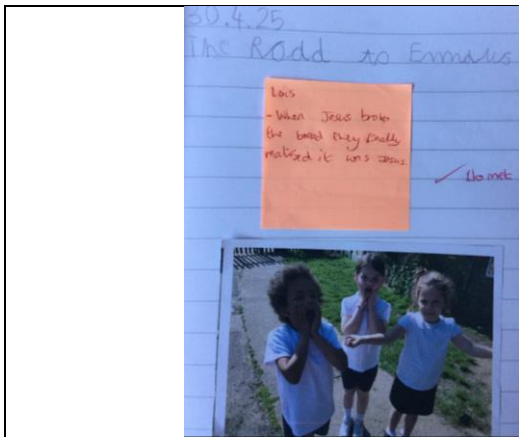
Examples of work from across the school



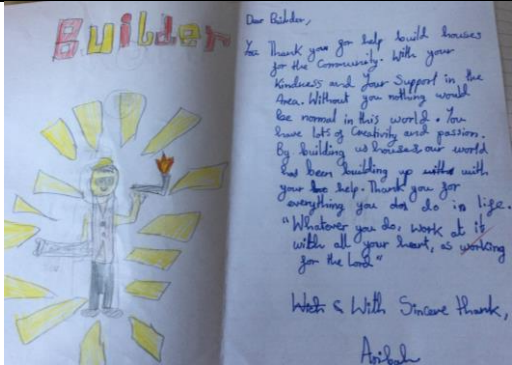
Our new (fluffy!) friends in Nursery! The children are learning about Easter and new life.



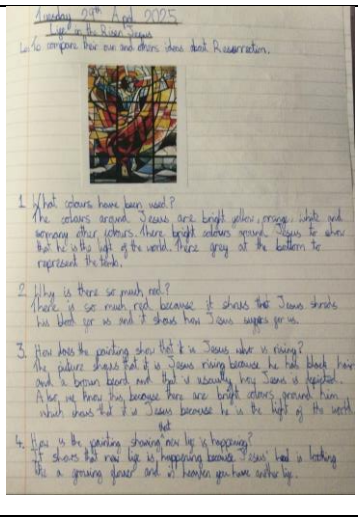
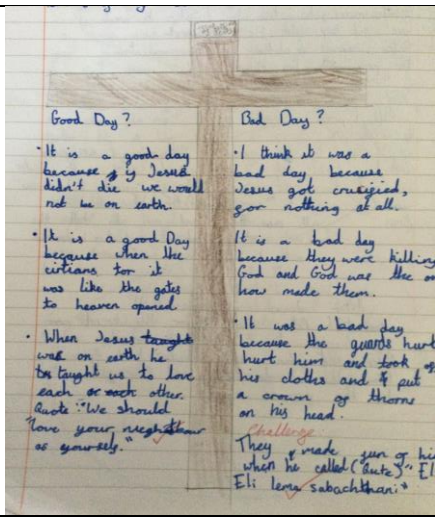
The children in Reception used their wooden blocks to recreate the Mount of Olives.



The children in Year 1 role played the story of the Road to Emmaus as part of their new topic, To the Ends of the Earth. Last term, they also spoke about the communities that they are part of.

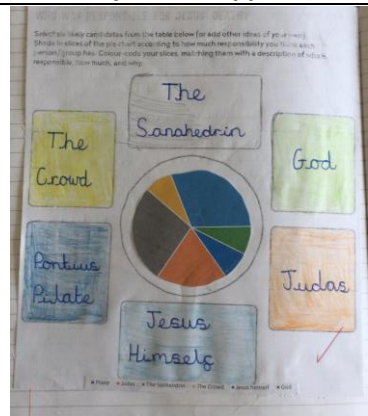
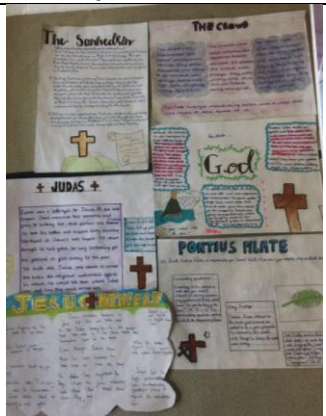


The children in Year 3 made cards to say 'thank you' to workers in our community. They also created their own Eucharistic artwork.



The children in Year 4 explored the meaning behind Good Friday.

The children in Year 5 enjoy reflecting on religious works of art to support them in their learning.



The children in Year 6 had a debate about the Crucifixion of Jesus.