



# St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School  
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Newsletter 25

Friday 31 March 2017

Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her. **John 20:17-18**

### Catholic Life of the School

As we complete the Lenten journey over the next two weeks, we will be reminded about the nature of Christ through the Gospel. We will hear about Christ's power as he raised Lazarus from death; we will hear about Christ's majesty as he entered Jerusalem with the crowds shouting 'Hosanna', and we will also reflect on Christ's crucifixion and resurrection which paid the price for all our sin and offered us the free gift of eternity in the presence of God.

In our Passion presentations this week, the children beautifully re-enacted the key events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. It was wonderful to experience the children's understanding of the significance of these events and how these have changed our lives forever.



*Jesus' love for us is not an illusion. His cross is the price of true love.  
The Church is born from Jesus' supreme act of love on the Cross.  
(Pope Francis)*

### Attendance

- ★ Class 6R have won the Attendance Cup this week for achieving best class attendance.
- ★ The Classes with the best attendance for the year so far are 2S, 4O, 6L and 6R.
- ★ Punctuality still needs improvement. Please remember that all children from Reception to Year 6 may arrive from 8.30am at their designated gates. Please take full advantage of this early arrival as it not only helps your child to prepare for their learning day but also eases congestion.
- ★ **Parents who choose to take their child out of school during term time will each be referred to Brent Education Welfare and may be issued with a £120 Education Penalty Notice Fine per child (reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days of issue date)**
- ★ Please remember that if your child is absent from school and we have not already been informed in advance, parents must telephone the school by 9.00am on every day of absence. This is a very important safeguarding measure to ensure we know the whereabouts of every child.

**Happy Easter! Children return to school on Tuesday 18 April**

## Year 5 Storylab

On Tuesday 28 March, the Year 5 classes attended the Storylab presentation at Capital City Academy. The show featured stories written by children from Brent schools. The children in Class 5M, 5S and 5K particularly enjoyed seeing their own exciting, imaginative and hilarious stories being acted out on stage! They had a great time; it was good for the children to see how an idea develops into a piece of writing which can then be acted out for others to enjoy.

There are also shows on Saturday 1 April, at 10.30am and 12.30pm, for parents to attend if they wish to enjoy this experience too.



## Easter Raffle

The Easter Raffle took place this morning at St Joseph's with all funds raised going towards the Stained Glass Window Appeal.

<b>1st Prize</b>	Ciel 2F
<b>2nd Prize</b>	Mia 1B
<b>3rd Prize</b>	Mateusz 2F



## Reception Chefs!

Some of our youngest children have had their first lessons in becoming master chefs!

On Friday, the children prepared some wonderful Easter treats. As well as having lots of fun mixing the ingredients and tasting the end product, the children also learned about the science of cooking.

Please ask your children what they know about how a 'solid' turns into a 'liquid' - you should anticipate a detailed scientific explanation!



## Lenten Boxes

Owing to the overwhelming response to the Lenten Appeal, we are still counting the money!

Every single penny will be sent directly to the Catholic Children's Society to support their wonderful work with some of the most vulnerable families.

## St Joseph's Mission Statement

At St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that by learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

In order to achieve our mission:

- We stand on holy ground
- We will always open our doors in welcome
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our school
- We will always be witnesses to our faith by following in the footsteps of Christ

## Behaviour

At St Joseph's, we have the highest expectations for standards of behaviour. Therefore, if any child is placed on 'Restart', parents will be informed.

Children will be held to account if their behaviour disrupts the learning experience for themselves or others. Parents are expected to fully support this policy in line with their agreement to follow all school procedures when they accepted a place for their child to attend St Joseph's.

## Safeguarding

St Joseph's treats seriously its responsibility to ensure children are safe and well.

Where there is information causing a level of concern, the matter is discussed between the Executive Headmistress and Education Support Manager to determine if other agencies, such as Social Services, should be informed of the matter.

Where appropriate, parents are informed if the school decides to make a referral to Social Services. In line with their own procedures, Social Services may instruct the school that parents should not be informed in particular cases.

The school follows Social Services guidance with regards to referrals and information sharing to ensure our approach is child-centred.

## Letters and Reminders

A number of letters have been sent home recently in relation to school uniform, school meals and the After School Club.

### School Uniform

At St Joseph's it is our policy that all children from Nursery to Year 6 will wear school uniform during school hours and when participating in a school-organised event outside normal school hours. The school governors and leadership team consider personal appearance of the greatest importance and all pupils are expected to be in full school uniform at all times. It is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that their child arrives at school in accordance with the School Uniform Policy.

It is imperative that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name. As stated in our School Uniform Policy, **the school cannot take responsibility for items of uniform that are lost or mislaid** either in or out of school. Please speak to your child about the importance of taking responsibility for their own uniform

**The school will not reimburse parents or make any contributions towards any items of uniform lost or mislaid at school.** We will make every effort to find any lost item but if we fail to do so, it the responsibility of the parent/ guardian to replace the item.

All parents should check their child's uniform regularly to ensure that it is their own. If not, please return the item to the school so that it can be returned to the rightful owner.

***Please note that shoes with Velcro fastenings will be banned from September 2017***

### School Meals

The price of school meal will increase to £12 per week (£2.40 per day) from 18 April 2017. This increase is necessary to offset the rising cost of buying in fresh produce to prepare the school meals.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 they are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM).

If your child is in any other year group and you are receiving benefits, your child may be entitled to Free School Meals. If you think you may be eligible, please apply online through the Brent website.

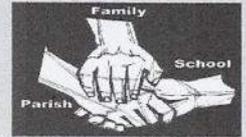
Please remember to make payments at least one week in advance using the online Scopay system.

### After School Club

The After School Club charges have been reviewed and will be increasing to £50 per week with effect from 7 September 2017. The last price increase for the After School Club was in 2012. In reaching this decision, we have taken into account the increased cost of resources and staffing.

After School Club fees must be paid at least a week in advance using the Scopay online payment system.

# From Lent to Easter



## Religious Education

### Key Idea: From Lent to Easter

This unit is intended as the second for the Spring Term in the academic year 2016/2017. The season of Easter celebrates the most basic belief of our Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus. Although Easter Sunday is not taught in this framework, the season and events that lead to it are presented to pupils.

### Unit Content

This framework explores the **Season of Lent** and the **events of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Good Friday**, as we find them in both the Gospel of Matthew and the liturgy of the Church.

### Attitudes and Spiritual Dispositions

It is hoped that this framework helps pupils develop:

- An openness to the story of the Passion of Jesus
- An appreciation of the liturgy (especially of the major actions of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday) in deepening a relationship with God
- Reflectiveness in prayer

### Activities to try at home

You are the first educator of your child in faith.

Your child's learning in religious education will be much higher if you and the school are engaged in talking about the same ideas and beliefs. Help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this unit is being taught:

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Talk with your children about the ways in which your family lives the Lenten practises of giving alms (giving to charity especially), prayer and fasting.
  - Give alms: collect for a charity - food, clothing or money.
  - Pray: In the last framework pupils learned the Our Father. Pray prayers of thanks recognising that we have what we need: food, safety, people who love us.
  - Fast: Make an area of 'fasting' your goal: 'fast' on criticism, intolerance, greed and gossip this Lent. Remember the Bishops requirement for fasting and abstinence for those between 18 and 60

### An idea for prayer at home



#### Prayer Activity

Loving God,

As we begin the season of Lent, help us to be thoughtful about how we are living. Make our actions more reflective of you and your love for us so that we might come closer to you and ready to celebrate your resurrection at Easter.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our friend and companion. Amen.

# Calendar for Lent 2017

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**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**1st Sunday of Lent (A)**  
5 Don't be tempted to miss Mass in favour of TV or a lie-in

**2nd Sunday of Lent (A)**  
12 The angels and saints rejoice when you pray

**3rd Sunday of Lent (A)**  
19 Light a candle of thanksgiving in Church today

**4th Sunday of Lent (A)**  
**Mother's Day**  
26 What makes mum special? Let her know she's loved

**5th Sunday of Lent (A)**  
2 Share a meal with family and loved ones

**Palm Sunday (A)**  
9 Take your palm branch home and place it somewhere to remind you of Jesus

**Easter Sunday**  
16 You can't sing too many Alleluias today!

**6** Look at yesterday's Gospel; for how many days and nights did Jesus fast? (Mt 4:1-11)

**13** What were Jesus' final words in yesterday's Gospel: 'Do not be a ... d' (Mt 17:7)

**20** **St Joseph, Husband of Mary**  
What did St Joseph do for a living?

**27** Pray for healing for those you know who are sick

**3** Jesus' friend died. Jesus wept. Jesus raised him up. Who was it? (Jn 11:35-45)

**Monday of Holy Week**  
10 Yesterday's Gospel reading is very long and is called: The P..... of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**28 Feb** **Shrove Tuesday/St David**  
**Pancake Day!**  
What do you like on yours?

**7** Pray for the children of Syria and Palestine

**14** Honesty is the best policy - don't tell lies

**21** Don't judge someone just because they're different

**28** Have you been hurtful today? Say sorry

**4** Bullying is just wrong!

**Tuesday of Holy Week**  
11 Be thoughtful and prayerful this week. It is H... W...

**1 Mar** **Ash Wednesday**  
Lent is a gift; a journey; an opportunity; begin it with Ashes

**8** Don't complain - bring some positive ideas instead

**15** Pray for the mentally and physically challenged

**22** Ease up - no one is perfect! So who's perfect?

**29** **Pray for our world**  
Notice when someone does something kind. Praise them for it

**6** Compliment someone - don't gossip about them

**Wednesday of Holy Week**  
12 Be silent for 5 mins and pray for the poor, the homeless, the displaced

**2** Chose some Lent projects: - what to give up; - charities to give to

**9** Pay attention in lessons - save the day dreams for later!

**16** Don't be grumpy if you don't get your own way

**23** Don't be bossy - be considerate!

**30** Notice when someone does something kind. Praise them for it

**6** Newbies need friends!

**Thursday of Holy Week**  
13 'Do this in memory of me'

**3** Abstain from meat on Fridays. Try beans, egg or cheese

**10** Play a board game with friends - no electronic devices!

**17** **St Patrick**  
Wear something green to acknowledge St Patrick

**24** Don't push and shove - be polite!

**31** Don't sit around all day - do some extra walking, running or skipping

**7** Drink water with your meal. Pray for those who don't have clean water

**Good Friday**  
14 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?'

**4** Make a to-do list of helpful jobs

**11** Could you give good used clothes or games to charity?

**18** Go to Confession and know forgiveness

**25** **Annunciation of the Lord**  
Say the Angelus prayer as a family

**1 April** I am Old but also New, I may seem strange but all is true. I am 66 but really only 1. I can be pocket-sized or weigh a ton! **What am I?**

**8** Plant a flower in a clear plastic cup/ bottle and watch the roots grow too

**Holy Saturday**  
15 Pray for those receiving the Sacraments on this night

*Open the door of your heart to others because each person is a gift (Pope Francis)*