



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 21

Friday 03 March 2017

...One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. **Matthew 4:4**

Catholic Life of the School

The Gospel reading for our focus this weekend comes from Matthew 4:1-11. This passage tells us of the time when Satan tried to test Jesus' authority as the Son of God. Satan wanted to distract Jesus from his true mission and approached him at a time when Jesus was vulnerable; alone and fasting in the wilderness.

Jesus knew that he could defeat Satan with the Word of God. When we face temptations, we too are encouraged to seek strength and resilience from God's Word.

On Wednesday, we received ashes at special services in the school halls which were beautifully led by our parish priests. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and in remembrance of the 40 days of fasting and prayer which Jesus experienced in the wilderness, we make a commitment to fast from something. Some people choose to make more effort to change something or to start something new which reflects our desire to be more like Jesus. Pope Francis tells us:

***Lent is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change in each of us.
Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others.***

In line with this message from the Holy Father, children brought Lenten boxes home on Wednesday. Please encourage children, family and friends to donate gold and silver coloured coins during Lent. All proceeds will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society.

Merit of the Week Award

The following children have received Merit Certificates in our whole school assembly for demonstrating excellent standards in their learning and behaviour:

Abel 2F, Caroline 2O, Chase 2S, Michelle 3K, Shaniah 3M, Abbisha 4G, Joene 4O,
Olga 5K, Harry 5M, Irunna 5S, Joshua 6L and Christiano 6R

Student of the Week Award

2F Patrycja	For always putting maximum effort into her work
3K Kelly	For setting an example to her peers with excellent manners and respect for others
5K Lara Mae	For always being a good role model and always trying her best with her work

Attendance

Classes 2O and 6L have won the Attendance Cup this week for achieving best class attendance.

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.

World Book Day

On Thursday 2 March, St Joseph's joined in the celebration of World Book Day.

Thank you to all the children and parents who supported this initiative in which we were also fundraising for the stained glass window in our restored school building.

We hope that you enjoy looking at the photos below and that the children enjoy using their book tokens!



Easter Raffle

Next week, the children will bring home a letter with details about our Easter Raffle which has been organised to support the Stained Glass Window Appeal.

Please look out for this letter next week!

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.

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

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

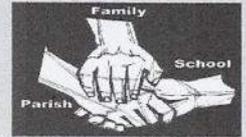
1 Apr I am Old but also New, I may seem strange but all is true. I am 66 but really only 1. I can be pocket-sized or weigh a ton! **What am I?**

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)

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.