



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 23

Friday 17 March 2017

...those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. **John 4:14**

Catholic Life of the School

At Mass on Sunday, we will hear the Gospel from John 4:5-42 in which Jesus talks with a woman at the well.

This event has a number of things for us to think about but perhaps the most important message is one which was shared by St Louis de Montfort: **God is a spring of living water which flows constantly into the hearts of those who pray.**

The woman was so moved by her encounter with Jesus that she told everyone in the city about what had happened. The Gospel goes on to tell us that many people went to Jesus because of the woman's testimony then they also believed that Jesus was the Messiah and the Saviour of the world.

In your family prayer time, you may wish to reflect on how you experience God's love and how you see God's love at work in your family. Pope Francis reminds us:

**God's love for us is so great, so deep.
All God wants is for us to accept his love.**



St Patrick's Day

Friday 17 March is St Patrick's Day which is celebrated in Ireland and across the world.

St Patrick is accredited with many good works in Ireland including the banishing of snakes from the land and for securing the Christian foundations of the nation.

This verse from St Patrick's Breastplate demonstrates his faith and his mission to share this with others:

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.*

Attendance

Classes RS and 6R 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.

St Joseph's Day Mass

On Monday 20 March, children from Years 3 to 6 will be attending the 10.00am St Joseph's Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden.

St Joseph, a carpenter by trade, was the foster father of Jesus and the husband of Mary.

Parents and family members are very welcome to join us as we celebrate this patron saint of workers, fathers, travellers, unborn children and immigrants.

E-Safety

The school has sent letters to parents this week to remind them of the importance of keeping their children safe when they are using digital and online technology.

There are many benefits to online communication. In fact, you are now reading a newsletter which was published on the school website and you can now send this to anyone in the world who also has access to the internet.

You will therefore understand how easy perpetrators can access children through online communications. There are now so many reports of young children being groomed and manipulated via devices such as gaming consoles, mobile phones and tablets. Children are freely expressing their feelings on Social Media which makes them vulnerable to abuse from strangers and from people that know them.

Please visit [**NSPCC Share Aware**](#) and www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ for resources which you can use to discuss this topic with your children.

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.

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

Please remember to return the Lenten Boxes to school on Friday 24 March

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)
26 **Mother's Day**
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.