



St Joseph's News

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter 24

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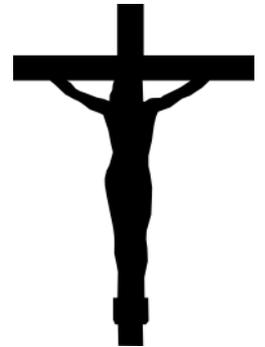
The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight. **John 9:11**

Catholic Life of the School

At Mass on Sunday, we will hear the Gospel from John 9:1-38, which tells of Jesus healing a blind man. This reading offers another example of the grace and compassion God has for all of us and, by following Jesus, we can be healed too. Our faith brings light to our lives; it changes how we see the world and brings healing.

In your family prayer time, remember that God is active in the world today. This means that we can ask for healing for ourselves and for others. Do you know someone who needs healing for an illness or maybe you know someone who has hurt feelings? Ask God to bring healing and comfort to their situation.

As we continue the Lenten journey, we will reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus. Through Christ's unimaginable suffering, we were healed and forgiven by his sacrifice on the Cross.



Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal
(St Thomas More)

Mothering Sunday

The traditions of Mothering Sunday began in the Church with people visiting their 'home' or 'mother' church; this would often be the Church in which they were baptised or the local parish Church. This was a day to celebrate the Church for being the 'mother' of the faithful.

This Sunday, we will be thinking about our mothers and about those who have been mother-figures in our lives. Three important characteristics which can be seen in mother figures are **Compassion, Commitment and Concern**. These values are reflected in our Church and can also be experienced in our encounters with God.

During this Lenten period, we also think about Mary, mother of Jesus. Her compassion, commitment and concern for Jesus was apparent throughout his life and particularly as her son gave up his life on the Cross.

Attendance

★ Class 2O 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 attended the 10.00am St Joseph's Mass at The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden.

Fr Stephen celebrated a wonderful service in which we gave thanks to St Joseph for his life and works.

We were joined by parishioners from the community who commented on the children's wonderful singing and smart uniforms.

Thank you to all the parents and family members who were able to join us at the Mass.



Easter Raffle

The Easter Raffle will take place next week. Please check the next Newsletter for information about the winners!

Lenten Boxes

The children have brought back their boxes which are overflowing with donations!

We have started to count the money so the Catholic Children's Society can receive the funds before the Easter holidays. If you have forgotten to bring in your box, please do so by **Monday 27 March**.

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

Letters and Reminders

A number of letters have been sent this week in relation to school uniform, school meals and 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 is 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.

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.

Current After School Club users must complete the slip on the letter issued this week and return to the School Office.

Executive Headmistress - Response to Terrorism

Further to the events in Westminster on Wednesday, I would like to reassure all of our children and parents that their safety and well-being is always the school's main priority.

Unfortunately, due to various incidents over the last few years, it is little wonder that young people are so frightened about terrorism. Sadly we now live in a world where we have come to anticipate these inhumane attacks, so it is vital that we do not brush young people's fears aside. Instead, we must listen to their worries and reassure them that there are people doing everything they can to keep us all safe.

As such, we must all do what we can to ensure that our children are safe. If your child makes their own way home from school, please ensure that they have reached their destination by the expected time, without stopping on the streets to talk or calling to shops etc.

Likewise, if you are collecting your child from school, please ensure that you arrive on time to avoid unnecessary distress or worry to your child.

I am sure that you will join all the staff at St Joseph's in praying for those who have had their lives impacted by acts of terrorism. Psalm 61 offers these comforting words:

***Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;
for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy***

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)
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)