



## Religious Education 2026: Spring First Half Term

Be the light to those around you!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We begin this term full of the joy of the Christmas season which ends for us at the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus on 11<sup>th</sup> January. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) when Jesus is recognised as 'the light of the world'. We must also remember that each one of us is called to be a 'light', an inspiration to those around us.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find what your child is learning about in their year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and, as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.



Dates from the Church's calendar:

1 <sup>st</sup> January	Mary, the Holy Mother of God		
6 <sup>th</sup> January	The Epiphany of the Lord	1 <sup>st</sup> February	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time
11 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of the Lord	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Presentation of Jesus
18 <sup>th</sup> January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	8 <sup>th</sup> February	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time
24 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Frances de Sales	15 <sup>th</sup> February	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time
25 <sup>th</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	18 <sup>th</sup> February	Ash Wednesday

Mrs. Bannister  
Religious Education Subject Leader

### Reception - Getting to know Jesus

This half term, the children in our Reception class will be getting to know Jesus. Throughout the topic, the children will be given opportunities to become aware that Jesus has a great love for each one of us and will think of ways in which we can show our love for Jesus. They will hear that Jesus cured people who were sick and think of ways we can show our love for sick people.

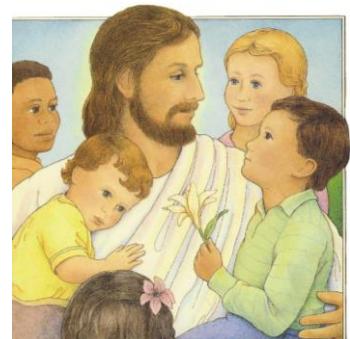
**The Way,  
The Truth and  
The Life**

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- Saying or sharing prayers together.
- Talking about people who help us e.g. nurses, doctors.
- Talking about how we can help others.
- Giving them jobs which help at home.

\* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>



# Presentation



## Year 1 - Galilee to Jerusalem

### The Vine and The Branches

The focus of this branch is for pupils to develop an early understanding of the Christian belief that through the ministry of Jesus, some of those who encountered him recognised he was the Son of God.

Feb 2

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- Sharing any or all these Bible narratives together: The Presentation, The Finding in the Temple or Zacchaeus meets Jesus.
- Find out about how people around the world celebrate Candlemas.

Talk about how each of us can 'be a light' to others during our daily lives, linking to our school scripture, 'Let Your Light Shine'. (Matt. 5: 16)

- \* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>

## Year 2 - Galilee to Jerusalem

### The Vine and The Branches



In this branch, pupils will deepen their knowledge from Year One about who Jesus is and understand how he teaches about the nature of God through parables and miracles. Parables are a literary form where a comparison is made to tell a more profound truth. Jesus uses them to teach about the nature of God.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- Sharing some parables of Jesus together, such as The Lost Sheep.
- Reading stories about Jesus performing miracles, such as The Calming of the Storm and The Cure of the Paralysed Man.

- \* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>



## Year 3 - Galilee to Jerusalem

### The Vine and The Branches

In this branch, pupils will encounter the Gospel of St Matthew. Matthew's gospel is divided into seven books. The first contains the birth and infancy narratives, the last describes Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, and the five books in between give an account of the life and ministry of Jesus. In parts of this gospel, St Matthew gathers similar stories and accounts as they all point to the same message.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- Finding the following parables of Jesus in the Bible and reading them together: The Pearl, The Treasure and The Sower.
- Saying the Our Father together and discussing its meaning.

- \* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>

## Year 4 - Galilee to Jerusalem

### The Vine and The Branches

In this branch, pupils will consider Jesus' question to Peter, 'Who do you say I am?' They will also reflect on Jesus as the servant Messiah and how he announces the Kingdom of Heaven to those at the edge of society. Alongside learning from Scripture, pupils will also understand the historical and cultural context in which Jesus' healings occur.

But you,  
Who do  
You say  
I AM?"  
MATTHEW 16:15. EHV



#### At home

You could help your children by:

- \* Discussing your experience of the sacraments - particularly Reconciliation.
- \* Use a map to locate the Biblical sites in the Holy Land, such as Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee.
- \* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>

## Year 5 - Galilee to Jerusalem

### The Vine and The Branches

#### Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name;  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses.  
As we forgive those  
who trespass against  
us; and lead us not  
into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.  
Amen



In this branch, pupils will explore the 'new law' given by Jesus, his summary of the law of Moses, and the transfiguration of the Jesus, where the disciples Peter, James and John see him accompanied by Elijah, the greatest of the prophets and Moses, the giver of the Law. Pupils will also look at how Jesus shows the love of neighbour in action through one of his parables and the Our Father as the perfect prayer and summary of the whole gospel (CCC 2774).

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- \* Finding out about the life of St. Josephine Bakhita
- \* Explore different artistic representations of The Transfiguration and discussing how the artwork communicates this event in Jesus' life.

- \* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>

## Year 6 - Galilee to Jerusalem

### The Vine and The Branches

In the next three branches, pupils in Year 6 will study the gospel of St John. In this gospel, St John presents Jesus as the Messiah who reveals his kingdom through seven signs. In the Bible, the number seven indicates perfection. St John emphasises Jesus' divinity through his seven 'I am' statements that are reminders of the revelation of God as 'I am' to Moses in the burning bush (Ex 3:14). In this branch, pupils will explore the seven signs of John's gospel and one of Jesus' 'I am' statements.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- \* Supporting them in drawing an image which expresses each of the seven 'I am' statement in the gospel of St. John.
- \* Asking them during the week to explain what they have been learning during their Religious Education lessons.
- \* Going to Mass in church or online together. Our parish church of St. Winefride's can be found here: <http://www.stwinefridesneston.org.uk/>