



Dear Families,

As we return to school the Church is celebrating the great feast of **Easter** - Jesus is risen from the dead. This celebration goes on until the great feast of **Pentecost** (Sunday 24th May), the birthday of the Church. At Pentecost, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who empowers and enables us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. This half term also includes the feast of the **Ascension** (Thursday 14th May).

During this half term, the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, Jesus' mother.

Christ is risen, Alleluia! He is risen indeed, Alleluia Alleluia!

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we support your children in their Religious Education.
Mrs. Bannister.

Dates from the Church's calendar:

5 th April	Easter Sunday	23 rd May	Pentecost
23 rd April	St. George	25 th May	Mary, Mother of the Church
1 st May	St. Joseph the Worker	28 th May	Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest
4 th May	The English Martyrs	31 st May	The Most Holy Trinity
14 th May	The Ascension		

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

Reception— New Life

This half term, the children in the Reception class will be learning about new life. They will learn about the story of the empty tomb and learn that Jesus appeared to his disciples. The children will begin to understand the special gift of joy and peace that Jesus gave to his friends (John 20: 19-21) and can give to us as well. They will hear the story of Jesus going back to his Father and learn that one day we shall hopefully go there too.



At Home

You could help your children by:

- planting an Easter garden
- looking for signs of new life
- practise the Sign of the Cross, 'Our Father' & 'Hail Mary'
- encouraging them to write their own prayers

The Vine and The Branches

Year 1 – To the Ends of the Earth

In this branch, pupils will hear the accounts of the Road to Emmaus, the Ascension, and the story of Pentecost. They will complete an age-appropriate narrative cycle of the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and encounter the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Apostles and then the early Church. The scriptural passages in this branch ensure consolidation of the narrative sequence of the life of Jesus Christ and enable children to make connections between the Good News of Jesus and the apostles' mission when they are filled with the Holy Spirit.



At Home

You could help your children by:

- discussing the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the apostles, and of the Church.
- reading a children's Bible to find out about the Biblical moments listed above and talking about the places, people and events in this narrative.

The Vine and The Branches

Year 2 – To the Ends of the Earth

St Augustine describes the Holy Spirit as the 'quiet guest of our soul'. As pupils revisit the accounts of Ascension and Pentecost, the focus of learning is on how people are changed by the Holy Spirit. Welcoming the Holy Spirit into our hearts invites a conversion of the heart by receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit and allowing these to bear fruit in our lives (CCC 1830-1832). Pupils will explore how people are changed by the Holy Spirit, through the examples of the apostles, St Paul, and other saints. It is important that the fruits of the Spirit are not only looked at through how saints behave, but also through looking at how saints pray - their 'interior life'.



At Home

You could help your children by:

- talking about making the 'right choices' in daily life, linked to our school's core values.
- asking them about their understanding of the Holy Spirit and supporting them in this.
- discussing the events of the Ascension and Pentecost.

The Vine and The Branches

Year 3– To the Ends of the Earth

As pupils progress in their knowledge of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, they spend some time revising and discussing the series of events after the Resurrection of Jesus, as well as deepening their knowledge of these. In this branch, pupils look beyond Matthew's gospel into the acts and letters of the apostles. Pupils will look at how Mass today mirrors Mass celebrated by the first disciples. The first historical account of Mass is in St Paul's letter to the Corinthians. The letter is written within a few years of Jesus' resurrection and shows that the Mass celebrated by the Catholic Church today follows the pattern set down by the first disciples.



At Home

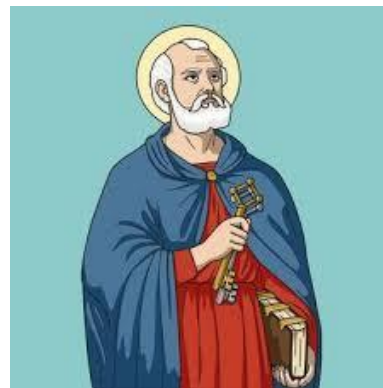
You could help your children by:

- talking to them about their experience of Mass.
- discussing who St. Paul is and why he is a significant figure in our faith.
- asking them about their knowledge of the events in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Vine and The Branches

Year 4– To the Ends of the Earth

In this branch, pupils will complete the narrative of St Peter as they look at the Resurrection from St John's gospel and make links with St Matthew's account of Peter's declaration of faith and subsequent betrayal. In St John's gospel, Jesus asks Peter if he loves him three times which links with the three times Peter denied knowing Jesus. Through the story of St Peter, they will look at the role of the Pope as St Peter's successor and begin to understand the structure of the Church and why it is called 'apostolic'. All members of the Church are of equal dignity, everyone is welcomed and valued, and everyone has the same mission to build the Kingdom of God.



At Home:

You could help your children by:

- reading the events of St. Peter's life together using a children's Bible.
- asking them about their learning about the Pope and the structure of the Church.
- reminding them of their dignity as 'children of God', called to love and to build the Kingdom of God.

Year 5– To the Ends of the Earth



In this branch, pupils will study the Sacrament of Confirmation, understanding its links with scripture from the words of the prophets through to the Acts. The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation of the Church. It recalls the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples at Pentecost. The word 'confirmation' comes from the Latin 'firmare', meaning to strengthen. In the Sacrament people are strengthened in faith; through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit are increased.

At Home

You could help your children by:

- talking to them about the Holy Spirit and finding out about what the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are.
 - discussing the ways in which the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthen the lives and hearts of the followers of Jesus.
 - asking the children to explain what happens during the Sacrament of Confirmation.
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Year 6– To the Ends of the Earth



Pupils will continue to journey with St John's gospel in this branch. Pupils started the year learning about the Fall and humanity's broken relationship with God. In this branch, they will look at how St John's account of the Resurrection alludes back to that narrative and shows that in Jesus the relationship with God is restored.

At Home

You could help your children by:

- discussing the narrative of the Creation and Fall in Genesis 2.
 - talk about their understanding of St. John's account of the Resurrection.
 - share ways in which Jesus' life, teaching and Resurrection restores humanity's relationship with God.
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