

# St Francis' Catholic Primary School



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Headteacher: Ms Caroline Hostein



*Ensuring for all an excellent child-centred education within a Christ-centred philosophy*

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Dear Parents

The solemn season of Lent began last Wednesday, a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The word “Lent” comes from the Old English “lengthen” which means the lengthening of the daylight hours in Spring after the darkness of Winter.

Lent prepares us for and points us towards Easter. It is the fast before the feast. It is a time when we think more about the Word of God and how we put this into action in our own lives. Traditionally we “give things up” for Lent. We increase our efforts to help others, particularly those worse off than ourselves, and we pray more.

This letter gives information about some activities that will be taking place during Lent to help the children prepare for Easter. Please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter for further details.

## **The Year of Mission Booklet**

As you may be aware, Bishop Declan has declared 2018 as a “Year of Mission”. The Bishop’s vision is that we be a people “who share in the mission of Christ, proclaim the kingdom and make disciples”. To help us with this, our school prayer team have prepared a “Year of Mission booklet” which is enclosed with this letter. During Lent please encourage your child to carry out the daily tasks and support them as they share with others the love they have received from God.

## **Wheelie Wednesday**

This is a sponsored event raising money for the Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer’s Society and will take place on **Wednesday 7 March**. Further details will be issued later this week together with a sponsor form. Please try and collect as many sponsors as you can and return sponsor money before Easter. Many thanks.

## **Lent Assemblies**

Parents are welcome to join us at 10am on the following dates for a Class-led Act of Worship. Themes are as follows:

Friday 23 February – Lent Charity Talks (Led by representatives from the Air Ambulance and the Alzheimer’s Society.

Friday 2 March – Lent – Led by Year 4

Friday 9 March – Mother’s Day – Led by Reception Class

Friday 16 March – Reconciliation Service – Led by Year 2

Friday 23 March – End of Term Mass – Led by Years 3 and 6

### **Prayer Bags**

We have updated our Prayer bags this year to include a Prayer Bear. Each child will be bringing home the Prayer Bear for one evening during Lent. Please use this resource to help pray with your child(ren). Instructions and further details will be issued with the bags or are available from class teachers. When your child brings the bag home, please ensure it is returned to school the next day. Thank you.

### **Stations of the Cross**

All classes will be visiting St Francis' Church to take part in the Stations of the Cross during the last week of term. Prayers and reflections will be led by class teachers at each station. Exact timings will be published in the weekly newsletter. If you are available to accompany the children as they walk to and from church please see your child's class teacher.

### **Key Stage 1 Holy Week Workshop for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**

This will take place in the school hall on **Monday 19 March from 1.30pm – 2.45pm**. The children will hear about the events that took place on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and will participate in craft work and other follow-up activities. **LOTS OF ADULT HELP WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN DURING THE PRACTICAL TASKS.** If you are available please complete the slip below (before **Friday 2 March**) and return it to your child's class teacher.

Many thanks for your ongoing support. May the season of Lent be a time for us to grow closer to Jesus.

With best Wishes

Miss A Parry (RE Lead)

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PLEASE RETURN TO MISS PARRY OR YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER  
**BY FRIDAY 2 MARCH**

I am available to help with the KS1 Holy Week workshop on **Monday 19 March at 1.30pm**

Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Child's class \_\_\_\_\_