

RE NEWSLETTER for PARENTS

God Matters

The RE Topic your child(ren) will be studying this term is LENT.

RECEPTION

The children will begin to recognise the season of Lent and the colours in the church that represent this season. They will begin to look at how they can prepare for Easter during the season.

Help at Home

- **Decide on something that the child can do to help other people during lent i.e. give up having something and putting the money in a pot to give to charity at the end of Lent.**
- **Make a daily calendar and get the children to plot the good deeds they have done each day during Lent i.e. tidying their room, going to bed without arguing.**
- **When visiting church during Lent look at the colours used in church and what is different.**
- **Draw a picture of a path leading with a tomb at the end and mark off 40 squares representing the 40 days of lent. Read a different story from the Bible each night and draw a symbol of the story in the square. (Can be from old or new testament)**

YEAR 1

The children will begin to have an understanding of the term Lent and its meaning. They will explore the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus.

Help at Home

- **Ask your child to draw a picture of Zacchaeus watching Jesus.**
- **Discuss with your child how we pay taxes today and what they go towards paying.**
- **Discuss with your child the things that they can change about themselves like Zacchaeus did.**

YEAR 2

This unit reinforces the understanding of Lent as being preparation for Easter, commencing with Ash Wednesday and being a time to pray more, to help others and to become better people. The children will also focus on the events of Holy Week and learn why the Stations of the Cross are important for Christians.

Help at Home

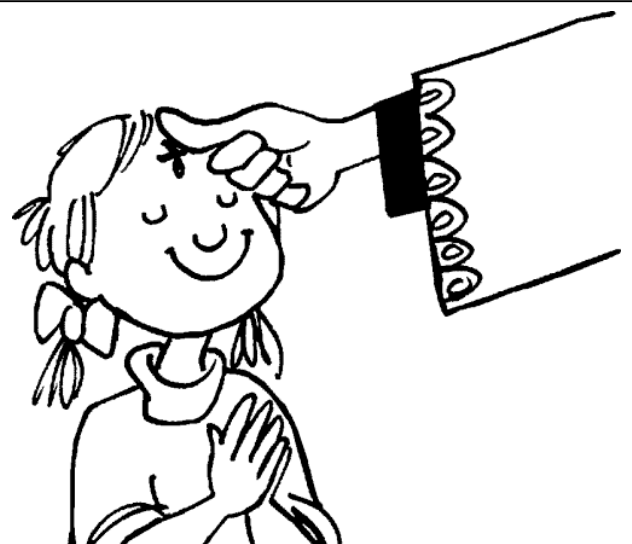
- **Revisit the story of Jesus in the desert and the link with the 40 days of Lent.**
- **Encourage your child to do a good turn for someone each day during Lent.**
- **Watch an animated version of the events of Holy Week (available on youtube).**

Year 3

During this unit the children will look at the traditions and symbols of Lent and will focus on the idea of forgiveness and reconciliation. They will make the link between the healing of the body physically through the miracles of healing performed by Jesus and the healing of the mind through forgiveness. They will learn the Act of Contrition and its meaning. They will hear Gospel stories about doing good deeds and make links between these stories and their own lives. The importance of prayer in the Jewish faith will also be looked at.

Help at Home

- **Say the Act of contrition on a daily basis during Lent.**
- **Ask the children to explain what Lent means and the symbols we use in the Catholic faith during this season.**
- **Watch some of the animated versions on Youtube of some of the miracles of healing Jesus performed i.e. the healing of the leper.**
- **Research the prayers of the Jewish faith.**



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Year 4

In this unit the previous understanding of forgiveness and penance is built upon, with a focus on the Temptation of Jesus. The children are invited to express what they learn from his example. The children will develop and explore how prayer and fasting help us prepare for Easter. The children will find out about the temptations Jesus met and what these represent, and make links with the temptations that they have experienced.

Help at Home

- Ask your child to jot down all the things they would find really difficult to give up. Discuss the word temptation and how people are tempted to do things.
- Re-read the Beatitudes with your child and ask them what they understand from them.
- Say a prayer of your child's choice each day together.

Year 6

The children recap on their understanding of the season of Lent, considering what Lent actually means to Christians and exploring the words spoken by the priest on Ash Wednesday. As the Stations of the Cross are revisited, the children will explore their relevance to our world today and how it might link to contemporary life, designing their own station in the process. Understanding of the Catechumenate will be developed and how it links to the journey we take during Lent. Finally, the connection between the Beatitudes and Lent/journeys will be explored with particular focus on how Christians can live out the Beatitudes in today's world.

Help at Home

- Research/visit different interpretations of the Stations of the Cross
- Research the Beatitudes and discuss which ones are most relevant to your home life
- Use the Beatitudes to create a list of good deeds that could be completed during the season of Lent

Year 5

The children will recap on their understanding of the season of Lent. They will explore in depth what Christians are called to do during the season of Lent and this will be linked to what the bible teaches about making changes in your life. They will use the concept of hunger cloths to explore how they changes they make in their own lives affect others. During Holy Week, they will focus upon the story of Jesus driving the traders from the temple. They will link the Christian concept of repentance to the Jewish festival of Yom Kippur.

Help at Home

- Read the biblical events of Jesus' time in the desert
- Research some examples of Jesus' teaching that show Him challenging people to change - Zacchaeus is a good starting point
- Research the meaning of Lent for Christians
- Look at the stations of the cross in your local church

