St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

RE Newsletter Spring 1

Be the light to those around you!

Dear Parents, 5th Jan – 13th Feb 2026

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 11th January. On 2nd 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 each 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.

6th January	**The Epiphany of the Lord**	28th January	St. Thomas Aquinas
11th January	**The Baptism of the Lord**	31st January	St. John Bosco
12th January	St. Aelred of Rievaulx	2nd February	**Presentation of the Lord**
17th January	St. Anthony (desert Father)	3rd February	St. Blaise
21st January	St. Agnus	5th February	St Agatha
25th January	St Francis de Sales	6th February	Ss Paul Miki and Companions
26th January	Ss Timothy and Titus	11th February	Our Lady of Lourdes

During the winter of the Church's season of Ordinary Time, i.e. up to Lent that begins on 18th February, we are asked to pray for these intentions: **Peace on Earth**; **Christian Unity**; **The Sick and Those Who Care for Them**; **Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it**; **The Unemployed**.

In the Early Years and Key Stage 1, religious education (RE) this half term will be taught using the new Catholic RE programme called '*Lighting the Path*' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese of Leeds. All Key Stage Two classes will follow *Lighting the Path* from September 2026. *Lighting the Path* uses a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.

Lighting the Path

'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path'

Psalm 119:105

Nursery & Reception – Galilee to Jerusalem

Children in the Early Years will begin their religious education this term learning about the visit of the wise men to Jesus that we celebrate on 6th January. They will then consider what life was like for Jesus as he grew up in first century Galilee as well as hearing stories about his presentation in the Temple and his teaching in the Temple at the age of 12. Children will learn that God's love for all is shown through the words and actions of Jesus as he goes about 'doing good' in his public ministry. Notable bible stories this half term include the call of the first followers, Jesus and the children, the feeding of 5000 and the parable of the Good Samaritan.

<u>At home</u>

You could help your children by:

- talking to your child about the gifts they have that help you and others
- spending time reading some of these stories with your child

Year One – Galilee to Jerusalem
Pupils will begin their religious education this term by exploring the life of Jesus through the stories that are found in Luke's gospel. Learning will focus on how Jesus is revealed as the 'light of the world' at his presentation in the Temple and how Jesus brings the light of God's love to all who encounter him as he goes about his public ministry. Pupils will explore how Jesus inspires awe and wonder in his first followers at a miraculous catch of fish, how he brings God's forgiveness in the story of Zacchaeus and how he shows that God welcomes all in his encounter with the children. Jesus is God's Good News!

At home
You could help your children by:
• talking about good news and sharing good news together
• play some games that Jesus would have played as a child: hide and seek, spinning tops, picking straws

Year 2 – Galilee to Jerusalem
In this branch, pupils will hear the story of Jesus' baptism by John at the start of his public ministry and how his message of the good news of God's love is encountered in parables and miracles which reveal something of the nature of God and hint at the identity of Jesus. Jesus is someone who offers people hope of a second chance through forgiveness and healing. Pupils will also encounter stories where Jesus actions and teaching did not delight everyone laying the ground for pupils to begin to understand why Jesus becomes a stumbling block for many as he journeys toward Jerusalem and Good Friday.

At home
You could help your children by:
• talking about the importance of water as a sign of new life
• read stories about Jesus offering a second chance, e.g. Zacchaeus
• talk about the importance of saying 'thank you' and 'sorry'.

Key Stage Two
During this academic year (2025-26) children in Key Stage Two will continue their RE using *The Way, the Truth and the Life* programme which is published by the Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education.

Year 3 – Jesus the Teacher
The children will learn that Jesus was born into a Jewish family. They will learn that Jesus attended synagogue as a child and as an adult read the Torah. They will learn that Jesus travelled about teaching people.

The children will learn that Jesus came to show us the way to live, understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know and understand some of the parables Jesus told. The children will have a chance to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today.

At home:
You could help your children by:
• read some well-known parables, e.g. 'The Sower' and talk about what they mean for us

Year 4 – Celebrating the Mass

Year 4 will know why Sunday is special for Christians and will know that we come to Mass to hear the teaching of Jesus and pray to him. They will learn that in the Mass we offer thanks to God the Father for the gift of his Son and learn that during Mass the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. They will learn that when we receive Holy Communion we receive Jesus and learn that Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. They will also learn some of the responses in the Mass and understand that Jesus died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

At Home
You could help your children by:
• talking to them about all the things we have to be thankful for
• talking to them about how Sunday is a special day for Christians

Year 5 – Inspirational People
The children will learn about the conditions for following Jesus and learn how Jesus described a true disciple. They will have a chance to reflect on their commitment to following Jesus or their own faith. They will learn the story of a person who had a special love for those rejected by society and about someone who was an inspiration for young people. They will identify people today who are an inspiration in their service of others.

At home:
You could help your children by
• encouraging them to research some information about inspirational people and saints

Year 6 – Jesus, the bread of life
The children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

They will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will learn that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus. The children will have a chance to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and reflect on the sacrifices they can make during Lent.

At home:
You could help your children by:
• challenging them during the week to describe what they have been learning during their RE lessons asking them to explain it to you.