

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

SPRING 2



To Know You More Clearly – Branch 4 Desert to Garden

Nursery	Lent is a time to care for others. Jesus died on a cross. It is a sad time. Jesus was given new life by God his Father. Jesus rose and everyone celebrates. Celebrate with signs and symbols – Hot Cross Buns, garden growth.
Reception	We will hear a simplified version of the key events of Holy Week, especially Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We will learn about the season of Lent and Easter. Easter celebrates new life. We will begin to recognise symbols in Easter and Lent.
Year 1	They will learn that Lent is a special time for praying, fasting, and helping others as Jesus taught us to do. Lent is when Christians prepare for Easter by thinking about how they could be closer to God by praying, giving up things that are not needed (fasting), and giving to those in need. Fasting, praying, and giving to others are ways of following Jesus' example. Jesus died and rose again. They will experience how Christian communities in another part of the world celebrate the last week of Jesus' life.
Year 2	They will Listen and talk about the season of Lent and Easter. Jesus died on Good Friday and rose again on Easter Sunday. Easter is a celebration that Jesus is with us still. Easter celebrates new life. Simple religious symbols in Lent and Easter. The Church uses purple and ashes as signs of Lent and being sorry. Representations of Holy Week and Easter: palms, the cross, Easter gardens and symbols of new life. Various cultures celebrate Lent and Easter in different ways, eg pancakes, hot cross buns, Easter eggs. Trying to help others by what we do in Lent – Raasa Parade (Kerala) and other Lent customs around the world.
Year 3	Children will hear will learn the ways in which Catholics are called to live Eucharist by following the example of Jesus and at the Last Supper Jesus showed his love by giving the gift of himself transformed into bread and wine. They will learn that at the Last Supper Jesus gave us an example to follow the Eucharist. Catholics gather to celebrate Mass where they listen to the words of holy scripture and meet Jesus in Holy Communion. The Eucharist is a sacrament in which Jesus offers his life for the salvation of the world.

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Year 4	Children will be able to retell, with increasing detail, the parable of the prodigal son, and make simple connections with Christian beliefs about God's mercy. They will correctly sequence the events of Holy Week, describing some of the different reactions to Jesus during the events of Holy Week and how they speak to Christians today. Retell the story of St Peter during Holy Week, considering why St Peter might have turned away from Jesus and how that made him feel making connections with when they have let people down or broken a promise.
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Come and See

Year 5	Sacrifice During this half term children learn that Lent is the season when Christians practise both giving and giving-up, to identify with the complete self-offering of Jesus which is remembered in the liturgy of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil). Children will be able to show how their own and others' decisions about giving and refusing to give are informed by beliefs and values and make links between the scripture stories of Holy Week and the Temptation in the desert and how Christians observe the season of Lent.
Year 6	Death and New Life The children will build on their knowledge of Lent as a time where Christian people prepare for the celebration of the sacrifice of Jesus. They will explore how loss and death bring change. They will also learn about the Church's seasons of Lent, Holy Week and Easter and the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus and how this led to new life. The children will be celebrating their new knowledge at the end of the unit through collective worship and sharing Easter greetings with each other and their families.

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Key Dates

Liturgical Events	
February	March - April
Shrove Tuesday 17 th February 2026	2 nd Sunday of Lent 1 st March 2026
Ash Wednesday 18 th February 2026	St. David's Day 2 nd March 2026
1 st Sunday of Lent 22 nd February 2026	3 rd Sunday of Lent 8 th March 2026
	4 th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) 15 th March 2026
	St. Patrick's Day 17 th March 2026
	5 th Sunday of Lent 22 nd March 2026
	The Annunciation 25 th March 2026
	Palm Sunday 29 th March 2026
	Holy Week – Maundy Thursday 2 nd April 2026, Good Friday 3 rd April 2026, Holy Saturday 4 th April 2026, Easter Sunday 5 th April 2026
Religious/Cultural	Religious/Cultural
Ramadan begins 17 th February 2026	Ramadan Ends (Islam) 18 th March 2026
	Eid al Fitr begins (Islam) 19 th March 2026
	Eid al Fitr ends (Islam) 20 th March 2026
Awareness and Events	Awareness and Events
World Day of Social Justice 20 th February 2026	World Book Day 2 nd March 2026
CAFOD Family Fast Day 27 th February 2026	International Women's Day 8 th March 2026
	Mothers Day 15 th March 2026
	World Water Day 22 nd March 2026