

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

This term your child(ren) will be studying **HOLY WEEK** in Religious Education:

RECEPTION



The children will hear and engage with the stories that make up Holy Week. They will begin to recognise the sequence of events. They will learn the links between the sign of the cross and Good Friday.

Help at Home

- Read the appropriate stories from Holy week on the appropriate day i.e. Jesus riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
- Get your child to draw a picture of each story.
- Find pictures of the stories of Holy week and get them to sequence them in the correct order of when they occurred and tell you what happened.
- Make happy and sad faces and ask the children to choose which face would people have at each of the stories and why.

YEAR ONE



The children focus upon the Last Supper – what happened at this meal and how it links with the Eucharist in mass?

They may also look at how Jesus carried his cross on his journey to Calvary.

Help at Home

- Look up and research the word Chalice and host and how these are connected to the bread and wine.
- Look at a picture showing the last supper and discuss who all the people there were. Get your child to act out the role of Jesus
- Discuss why it is called the Last Supper.
- If you go to mass ask the children to spot where the story the Last Supper is acted out. What clues did they use?
- Have a plain cross in a quiet area and say a prayer

YEAR 3



During this unit the children will revisit their knowledge and understanding of the signs. Symbols and colours of Holy week. They identify the links between the Last Supper and Mass and the importance of mass in the life of us as Catholics.

Help at Home

Children can draw a picture of how many signs and symbols they remember are seen in Holy week.

Get your child to draw a picture of the last supper and also the mass side by side to show the links.

Discuss with your child how they feel about going to mass tell them how you really feel. Design a flag for Holy week that shows all the colours seen, i.e. red purple and white and some symbols.

YEAR 2



The children focus upon the events of Maundy Thursday when Jesus washed the feet of his Disciples. They also look at Good Friday through the eyes of Mary.

They begin to understand the Stations of the Cross and how they can be used as prayers.

The multi-faith link is with the Jewish festival of Passover.

Help at Home

- Go for a visit to your own church and walk around the stations of the cross then visit Clifton Cathedral and walk around them there. Do the children notice any differences?
- Get your child to draw one of the Stations of the Cross and say a prayer by it each day.
- Talk to your child about how you feel when they get hurt and discuss how difficult it must have been for Mary.
- Get the children to write words to describe how she would have felt on Good Friday.
- Make a cross out of rough pieces of wood and place somewhere in the house.



YEAR 4

When studying this unit the children will focus specifically upon Palm Sunday and Good Friday- the two extremes of feelings.

They will also look at the different groups of people involved in Jesus' crucifixion i.e. the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Romans to gain an understanding of the times.

Help at Home

- Your child can draw a detailed face/mask showing the expression that it would have shown on Good Friday and then one for Palm Sunday. If they wear the mask they could take on the role of a person and say what they were thinking, watching and feeling.
- Undertake some research on the Romans and who Caesar was.
- Discuss why people may not have liked the Romans talk to your child about similar situations in countries to day where people rule with power etc.

YEAR 5



During this unit the children will look in depth at the recount of Jesus visiting the temple and encountering the traders. It will explore the links with Holy week and the death of Jesus.

Help at Home

- Read the account of the story together and talk about what it tells us about Jesus as a person.
- Get your child to draw a picture of the scene.
- Discuss with your child what your priest would feel if this happened in his church today- what would it say about the way people thought about the church if they did it?
- Talk about how people show respect for a church.
- Research how other faiths show respect for their place of worship i.e. the removal of shoes by Muslims,

YEAR 6

The children investigate and explore the events that occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane and Peter's denial. It focuses upon the fact that Jesus did what his father wanted and how the death of Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies,

Help at Home

- Ask the children to write down the thoughts that would have been going through Jesus's mind when he was in the garden knowing what was going to happen.
- Look up the Holy Land and where the garden is.
- Discuss what would have happened if Jesus had refused to do what his father wanted what would have been the impact on us?
- Talk about times that they and you deny things – why do you do this?
- Look up some of the prophets from the Old Testament.



KEY EVENTS

Palm Sunday

**Chrism Mass in the Cathedral on:
Maundy Thursday**

**Good Friday – (services in your
parish church times etc.)**

EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS