



## Religious Education 2023 Summer Second Half Term

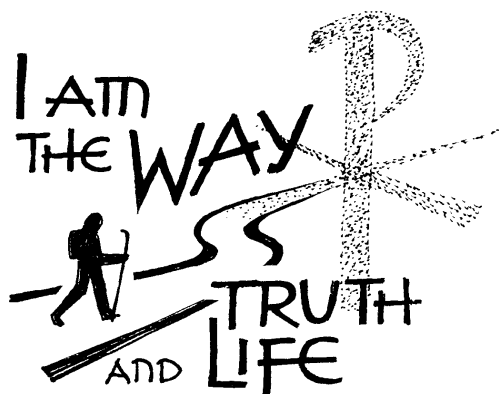
Dear Families,

We welcome you and your children back to school after the half term. There is much to celebrate in this last period of the summer term: we have celebrated Ascension Thursday - Jesus' ascension restores our human dignity and holds the promise that we too can be 'taken up' to live with God. We also celebrated the birthday of the Church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We begin the month of June which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds us of the never ending and merciful love that Jesus has for us.

The Church's prayer cycle for the summer includes the following:

- *A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews.*
- *Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights, especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 June)*
- *Europe, especially of the feasts of St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget of Sweden (23 July) who are Patrons of Europe*
- *Human Life, especially on Day for Life (3rd Sunday in June)*
- *Seafarers, especially on Sea Sunday (2nd Sunday in July)*

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we support your children in their Religious Education.



Dates from the Church's calendar:

- 28<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost Sunday
- 4<sup>th</sup> June The Most Holy Trinity
- 11<sup>th</sup> June The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord
- 13<sup>th</sup> June St. Anthony of Padua
- 16<sup>th</sup> June Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June Ss. John Fisher & Thomas More
- 24<sup>th</sup> June The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

- 29<sup>th</sup> June Ss. Peter & Paul, Apostles
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> July St. Mary Magdalene
  - 24<sup>th</sup> July 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
  - 25<sup>th</sup> July St. James, Apostle
  - 26<sup>th</sup> July Ss. Joachim & Anne, Mary's parents
  - 29<sup>th</sup> July Ss. Martha, Mary & Lazarus
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## Reception— The Church

"The Church is the family of God, the people that  
God gathers in the whole world"

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This half term, the children in the Reception class will be learning about the Church. The children will begin to understand that we call the Church the family of God. They will learn that a church building is a holy place where we can all pray and are welcome. The children will learn that Jesus is present in a special way in the Blessed Sacrament and he invites us to be with him. They will learn to be thankful that lots of people help to look after the church and know why Sunday is a special day.

At home you could help your children by:

- visiting church, either for Mass or another time, to talk about the church and reminding them what a special place a Church is and reasons why it is special.
  - talking to your child about Baptism, either their own or one they have attended, explaining how this is the day that people become part of God's family in a special way.
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## Year 1—Miracles

"The signs worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent him. They invite belief in him. To those who turn to him in faith, he grants what they ask. So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works; they bear witness that he is the Son of God."

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The children will hear some stories from the gospels which tell of Jesus using his God-given power to show his love and compassion. They will hear the story of the Calming of the Storm and know that we can ask Jesus to help us when we are afraid. They will learn that Jesus showed his love for sick people when he cured a man who was paralysed and know that Jesus has great love for people who are sick today. They will learn that Jesus responded to the faith of the blind man with compassion and think of ways that we can trust Jesus in situations of need.

At home

You could help your children by:

- reading the story of the Calming of the Storm or other miracle stories from the New Testament.
- talking to them about how we can ask Jesus, through our prayers, to help us.



## Year 2—The First Christians

"The Church is the family of God, the People that God gathers in the whole world. This Church is the communion of Christ's disciples brought together in Christ its Head by the Holy Spirit. It is the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Spirit. As the People of God, the Church is drawn into Christ's praise of the Father and Christ's mission in the world."  
*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

The children in Year 2 will learn that when the apostles received the Holy Spirit they spread the Good News. They will reflect on how they can spread the Good News. They will learn about the early Christian community and understand that the Christian community continues today to live by Baptism, the Eucharist and its mission to love God by loving our neighbour.



### At Home

You could help your children by:

- talking about the symbols of the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit helps us.
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## Year 3—Being a Christian

"The greatest commandment of all: "Listen Israel, the Lord your God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself."

*Mark 12: 29-30*

"The truth of our union with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is tested by whether or not we really love our fellow men and women."

*Pope John Paul II, 1979*



Year 3 will develop their understanding of what being a Christian involves. They will reflect on the joy and challenges involved in following Jesus and learn about these through the lives of Ss. Peter and Paul. The children will reflect on their gifts and talents and the gifts the Church calls Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. They will reflect on how to use the gifts God has given to us to be a Christian .

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- encouraging them to recognise and praise the gifts and talents of others.
  - talking about their experience of receiving Holy Communion or going to Mass and help them to make the link between receiving the gift of Jesus, hearing the Word of Jesus and becoming more like Jesus.
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## Year 4—The Church

"The Church is the family of God, the People that God gathers in the whole world. This Church is the communion of Christ's disciples brought together in Christ its Head by the Holy Spirit. It is the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Spirit. As the People of God, the Church is drawn into Christ's praise of the Father and Christ's mission in the world."

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Year 4 will learn that we all belong to a community. They will learn about different types of community and know what it means to belong to a community. They will develop their understanding of what it means to belong to community of the Church and know that people become a member of the Church through Baptism. The children will be introduced to the Creed - a statement of the Catholic faith and learn about the structure of the Church's liturgical year.



### At Home:

You could help your children by:

- encouraging them to visit church and meet people with you after Mass.
- talking to your children about occasions when you have attended church for a special occasion.

## Year 5—Other Faiths

"The Church therefore urges her sons and daughters to enter with prudence and charity into discussion and collaboration with members of other religions. Let Christians, while witnessing to their own faith and way of life, acknowledge, preserve and encourage the spiritual and moral truths found among non-Christians, also their social life and culture."

*Nostrae Aetate*

Year 5 will learn that we live in a country where people have different beliefs and different cultures. They will learn that Christianity comes from Judaism and learn something about Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. The children will learn what Christianity shares in common with other faiths and learn some of the differences between the faiths. The children will have also explored Saints, holiness and sainthood.

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- finding out about different places of worship.
- discussing what is important to them in their faith.
- finding out about the 'Golden Rule' of each of the World religions.
- finding out about saints who are special to your family.



## Year 6—Called to Serve

"The gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to share the mission of the Church."

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The children will learn about Jesus' teaching and example of service of others. They will develop their ability to recognise that God has given us all gifts and talents to use in the service of him and his people. They will learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understand that we can receive these gifts in a special way through the Sacrament of Confirmation. The children will have an opportunity to reflect on a life of service through the role of the priest, religious and married life.

### At Home

You could help your children by:

- discussing the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- discussing the many ways in which we can be called to serve God and our neighbour.
- chatting about their gifts and talents, both obvious ones and hidden ones.

