

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

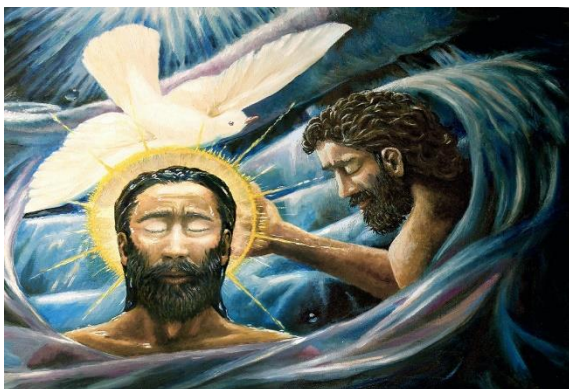
RE Newsletter

Spring Term 2023



Welcome to the first RE newsletter of 2023 in which we share with you information about what the children have been learning about in school assemblies and liturgies, along with prayers for you to say at home and information about the seasons and feasts of the Church's year. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and sharing it with your children.

Gospel Assemblies



In the Gospel assemblies throughout January and February the children listened to the Gospels which focussed on revealing Jesus as the Son of God:

The Epiphany, The Baptism of Jesus and The Wedding at Cana.

The Epiphany

‘We saw His star as it rose. We can come to do the new king homage’

Matthew 2:1-12

Through the Epiphany the children heard how a star led the three Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born. We reflected on the significance of the gifts that the three kings gave Jesus-gold. Frankincense and Myrrh. This Gospel account shows us that Jesus is the true “king of kings” and that He came to be a saviour to all people.

The Baptism of Jesus

‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’ Luke 3: 15 – 16, 21 – 22

In this Gospel account we heard God say that Jesus was His Son. This Gospel described the Baptism of Jesus as a momentous occasion where we meet the family of God: the Holy Trinity. We explored the Holy Trinity and helped pupils learn and understand that God invites us into His family and be called His children. We should accept the invitation and show we are part of God’s family by how we behave and act.

The Wedding at Cana.

‘Do whatever He tells you.’ John 2: 1 – 11

This Gospel account was led by groups of Pupil Chaplains in each class during class prayers. Jesus’ first public miracle was at a family wedding. When the wine ran out, Mary’s faith-filled response helped others to believe in Jesus. Through a dramatization of the Gospel performed by the Pupil Chaplains, the children witnessed the water turning into wine. Then the children were invited to reflect and respond individually to what they saw and heard.

Children reflected on how the significance of Jesus’ first miracle in an age appropriate way.

Living out the Gospel Values

Through these three Gospels Jesus is revealed as the Son of God.

The children were asked to reflect on how they could become even more like Jesus

Jesus came to earth to show us the way to God the Father, and through Him, His followers were brought closer to God: it was the beginning of their new life with God.

Jesus wants us to follow Him so He can bring us closer to God. He wants to make us new!

These assemblies and liturgies finished with a reflection where children were invited to make a renewed commitment to trust in Jesus, listen to Him and follow Him.

The children made a resolution to be even more like Jesus.

With your child, why don't you...

- Talk about how to be a good follower of Jesus at home/school/work.
- Share about times when trusting in and listening to Jesus has helped you.



Prayer

As we are still in the beginning of 2023, why not pray the following with your child:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you care about all my hopes and dreams for this year.

Help me to pray and listen to you.

Help me to trust you.

Help me to follow you.

Show me the way to God the Father and new life with you.

Amen

Mass celebrating The Epiphany



All the children in Key Stage 2 participated in Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church to celebrate 'The Epiphany'.

The Mass was organised and led by Y5. Thank you to Ms Burr all of Y5 who took part in the celebration of Mass.

It was particularly lovely to hear bidding prayers read by children in their home language.

We would like to thank Mrs Fitzgerald and Scola for the enrichment that the music and singing provided.

We would also like to thank Mgr Bill, from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Sheen, for leading the celebration of Mass and to Nadia for her support.

Epiphany Celebrations



Children and staff from St. Elizabeth's community shared how the feast of the Epiphany is celebrated in their country in a special assembly.

- In many Latin American countries, it is the three wise men and not Santa Claus who bring gifts for children. Children write letters to the wise men telling them how good they were and what gifts they want.
- In France Le Jour des Rois (the Day of Kings), is celebrated with parties for children and adults. The galette des rois, or “cake of kings”, highlights these celebrations.
- Children in Spain fill their shoes with straw or grain for the three kings' horses to eat and place them on balconies or by the front door on Epiphany Eve. The next day they find cookies, sweets or gifts in their place. The “three kings” make an entry in many cities in Spain on Epiphany Eve, accompanied by military bands and drummers in medieval dress.
- In Italy, La Befana brings presents to good children. According to tradition, she's an old lady who brings presents to children across Italy, leaving gifts in their stockings. She is usually shabby in appearance, and travels by broom, bringing gifts on the night of 5 January, long after the little ones are tucked up in bed, of course!

Religious Education from Reception to Y6

All classes have been learning about the theme 'Community'

- Rec** **CELEBRATING** - People celebrate in Church
- Year 1** **SPECIAL PEOPLE** - People in the parish family
- Year 2** **BOOKS** - The books used in Church
- Year 3** **JOURNEYS** - Christian family's journey with Christ
- Year 4** **COMMUNITY** - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
- Year 5** **MISSION** - Continuing Jesus' mission in the diocese (ecumenism)
- Year 6** **SOURCES** - The Bible, the special book for the Church

Please look at the R.E. Knowledge Organisers on the St. Elizabeth's website to obtain more detail about what your child is learning about in R.E.

Pope Francis' monthly special intention

The Pope asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. We are



invited to answer the Pope's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

Pope Francis' special intention for January was that he "wants to broaden the reach of education, so it will not be centred only on content."

Pope Francis wants us to be 'builders of community.'

Through January's intention we were reminded that every person has an active role to play in the community. It is important to follow up our words with actions and to help those in need.

Discuss as a family: How can we help those in need?

Parents' Prayer Club



It has been lovely to see parents attending the prayer club on Fridays in school. This is a valuable opportunity for parents to pray together and share their faith. All parents are welcome.

Prayer clubs starts at 2:45pm in the Phonics Room

Thank you for your support of the Catholic Life of St Elizabeth's,

Kerry Diver

RE and Catholic Life Lead and Deputy Headteacher