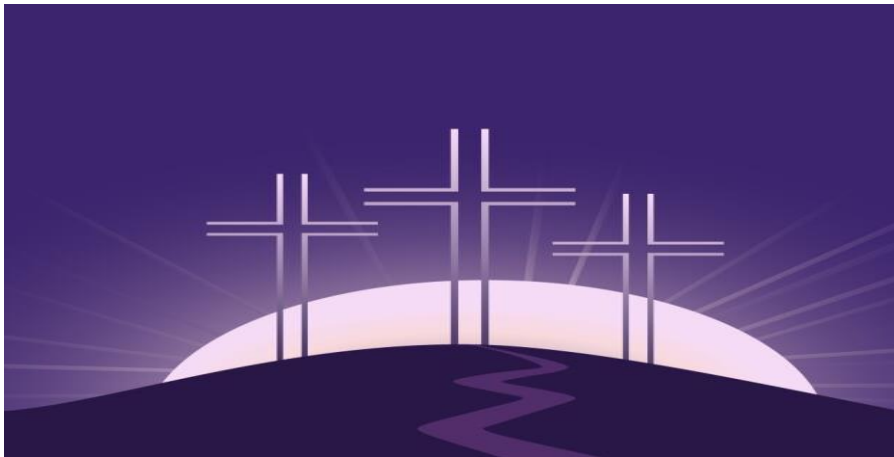




**St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School**  
*"Love one another as I have loved you"*

## RE Newsletter

### Spring Term – Second Half 2023



Lent is a really important time for Christians.

Lent is represented by the colour purple which is worn by priests and seen on the altar at Mass. Purple, like the season of Lent, symbolises a time of prayer, penance and preparation for Jesus' death on the cross and His Resurrection at Easter. It offers a chance for us to reflect on our relationship with God and make a fresh start as the Church focuses on the three pillars of Lent, almsgiving, fasting and prayer – or as children in school will know them, GIVE, GROW, PRAY.

On the fourth Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday, we were invited to celebrate! 'Laetare' is the Latin word for 'rejoice' and on this day, the purple of Lent was swapped for rose pink, symbolising hope and a reminder of what is to come on Easter Sunday.

This coming Sunday, 'Palm Sunday' will see the purple of Lent being swapped to that of red. The colour red symbolizes the passion of Christ and the blood He shed upon the cross. During Holy Week, the colour red is also used on Good Friday.

Pupil Chaplains launched the Lenten theme of 'Pray, Grow and Give' to encourage children and their families to grow closer to God through their thoughts, words and actions during the season of Lent.

#### **Pray**

Children were encouraged to make their prayer life richer and more focussed by praying more frequently.

**Grow**

Children were encouraged to help others with acts of kindness and service at home, school and in the community.

**Give**

Through a fundraiser organised by Pupil Chaplains and the sports committee, children from each class were asked to get sponsored to jog every day for five minutes.

The money raised from the sponsorship will be donated to DEC to support our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria who have been affected by earthquakes.

**Gospel Assemblies**

In the Gospel assemblies throughout Lent the children listened to the Gospels which focussed on the Lent theme of 'Pray Grow and Give'.

In addition, children were encouraged to link our school values to the Gospel message.

**'Jesus, Be My Path'**

Matthew 4:1-11:

The Gospel assembly in the week of 27<sup>th</sup> February shows Jesus in the wilderness, resisting temptation and putting God's way above all things. Through a range of scenarios involving resisting temptation and making good choices, this assembly helped children learn that it is important to make the right choice and sometimes making the right choice can be really difficult. We should trust in Jesus to be our path and the Holy Spirit to be our guide, leading us to God the Father.

During the assembly we discussed how Jesus resisted temptation. We discovered and shared that Jesus trusted God to give Him what He needed, and to look after Him.

We then related this question to our own lives What should we do when we are tempted to do things we know are wrong?

Again, we discovered and shared that Like Jesus, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices.

The liturgies and Mass towards the end of term prepared us for what happened to Jesus in His final week on earth.

We linked these events to the celebration of Mass today.

In addition, we discussed that countries have different ways of remembering and celebrating the events of Holy Week.

There will be a special assembly when we return to school after Easter where children can share in assembly how Holy Week and Easter is celebrated in their country.

## Prayer



A prayer that you might like to use in family prayer times during Lent is below. It includes the Lenten practices **GIVE, GROW, and PRAY** and encourages us to remember to place Jesus at the centre of all we say and do:

Jesus,

Be the centre.

As I continue my journey through Lent,

I welcome you into my heart.

Be my guide as I GIVE to others.

Be my strength as I GROW by making good choices.

Be my friend as I PRAY and get to know you more.

Amen



*"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,'*

[John 11:25](#)

## Holy Week

Through Holy Week we learn of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice- Jesus died for us so that we can have a new life following His example.

Holy Week starts with **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus is welcomed triumphantly into His own holy city of Jerusalem. But while this is a triumphal entry, it is Jesus' first step toward His death when Jesus began His journey towards the cross.

Later in the week, **Maundy Thursday** marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum (the three holy days) and when the disciples shared the Last Supper. That night we remember Jesus in agony in the garden and we try and spend some prayer time keeping Him company.

Then follows His betrayal, arrest and cruel trials which continue into **Good Friday**: Jesus' final passion and death on the Cross. **Holy Saturday** is the quiet day of the three holy days.

Then there is the climax of joy, as the Church celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday!

Jesus' resurrection shows us that He is truly the Son of God.

Maybe in the midst of our busy lives, the real meaning of Easter may get missed.

As a family can you go to church during Holy week and pray together more regularly?



Let us pray

**Bless you, Lord, for shining your light upon me, and for sending your son to us.**

**Here I stand, at the start of this Holy Week, this week in which we remember Jesus' passion and death. Sometimes I am distracted by many things. Help me to recognise what is important.**

**Help and guide me to open my eyes that I may see him coming, and may praise him with a pure heart**

**Amen**



### **Mass: Anticipating Easter**

Children participated in our Mass 'Anticipating Easter' in school on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

The Mass was organised and led by Y6A. Thank you to Mr Askin and all of Y6 who took part in the celebration of Mass.

During this Mass we focussed on Maundy Thursday and what happened at 'The Last Supper'. The Gospel of 'The Washing of the feet' was dramatized and discussed.

The important message of service was delivered through the Gospel.

We would like to thank Fr. Peter for leading the celebration of Mass



## **St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School**

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### ***Pupil Chaplains***

Our Pupil Chaplaincy continues to be at the centre of the Catholic life of our school.

This was particularly evident in March. Pupil Chaplains continued to encourage the whole of St. Elizabeth's Community, both adults and children, to live their faith in their daily living.

Pupil Chaplains assemblies in March launched the St. Elizabeth's Lenten Challenge 'Pray Act and Give'

Please read the Pupil Chaplains' half termly newsletter for more information.

### **Religious Education from Reception to Y6**

All classes have been learning about the theme 'Giving'

**Rec** GROWING - Looking forward to Easter

**Year 1-** CHANGE - Lent: a time for change

**Year 2 -** OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew

**Year 3-** GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving

**Year 4-** SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life

**Year 5-** SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus

**Year 6-** DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection

### **Suggestions for activities at home:**

As a family talk about how you are going to practise self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent and beyond into the new term. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity. If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school has been focusing on Lent and self-giving.

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.





### **Celebration of the Feast Days of Saints**

Earlier in the month we had liturgies celebrating the feast day of St. David, the patron saint of Wales and the feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

The children learned that both saints sought guidance from God through prayer and that both men served God and helped others.

Children reflected on how they could serve others in their daily life.

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### **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 March is that he wants us to pray for vulnerable people and people who have suffered both psychological and physical harm.

Discuss as a family.

How do we show respect to all?

Discuss how the way we speak and act contributes to showing respect

### **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 talk their faith. All parents are welcome.

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

## An End of term message from the staff of St. Elizabeth's



As we move through Lent towards the end of term, our eyes and hearts are fixed on the message of hope that Easter brings.

May we, at St. Elizabeth's, take this opportunity to wish you and your communities a Lent continued to be filled with grace and insight and an Eastertide filled with joy and celebration.

We look forward to seeing you all next term.