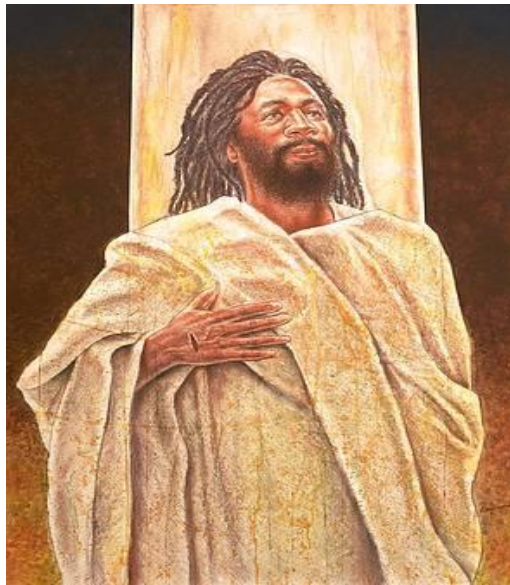


Summer First Half Term Religious Education Newsletter

ALLELUIA.
CHRIST IS RISEN.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Before the Easter holidays, children learned all about the events of Holy Week and Jesus' death on the cross. After the children's return to school they learned that Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday...but the story doesn't end there!



During the remainder of April and May we were still in the season of Eastertide – we reflected on the joy of the resurrection and looked forward with hope to the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Pentecost was celebrated during May half term break.

This was a change in the Church season from the penitence of Lent to our current season of celebration in Jesus' resurrection.

Eastertide is 50 days of rejoicing and celebration between Easter Sunday and Pentecost.

We said and sang lots of "Alleluias!" in assemblies and liturgies to celebrate that Jesus is risen! We rejoiced in the hope, joy, and peace that Jesus brings through His death and resurrection.

St John Paul II called all believers 'Easter people' because we live in the light of Jesus' resurrection.

Through the Gospel assemblies in April and May we heard that the disciples struggled to believe that Jesus had truly risen from the dead.

To help children explore the theme of belief and disbelief we shared the Gospel accounts of Jesus appearing to His disciples. We discussed what changed disbelief into belief! Children used these accounts to help them understand how sad the disciples must have been after the death of Jesus, and how they would desperately have wanted Jesus to be back with them once again – but it seemed impossible. So, when Jesus turned up in their midst, the apostles all reacted differently.

For the 40 days after Easter Sunday, Jesus taught and ministered to His disciples in what must have been an intensely powerful experience, preparing them for His Ascension into heaven.



On Easter Sunday Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalen. The children reflected on why Jesus was not recognised at this time and how Mary felt once she knew it was Jesus.



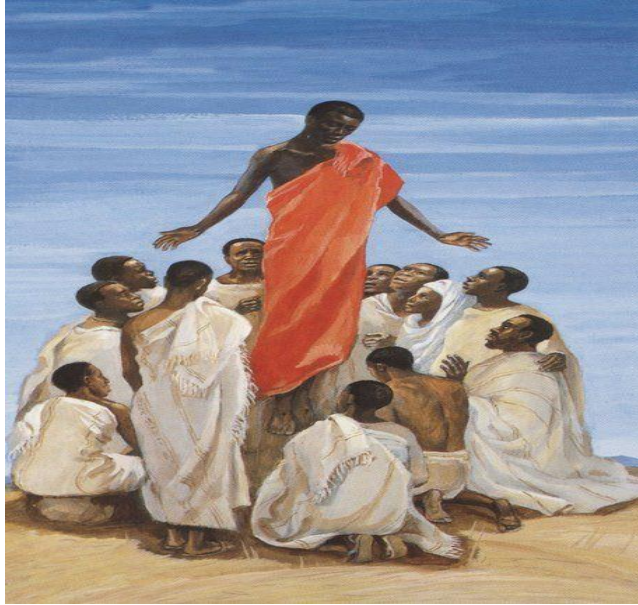
During the assembly of the week commencing 17th April the children heard that Jesus appeared to His disciples, at first without Thomas. Later, Thomas was himself able to experience, see and believe that Jesus was indeed alive with his own eyes. This

assembly invited children to experience what it is like to be baffled by something and then to understand, just like Thomas in the Gospel when he struggled to believe in Jesus' resurrection because he hadn't seen with his own eyes



During the assembly of the week commencing 24th April the Pupil Chaplains dramatized the Gospel 'The Road to Emmaus'. Jesus walked unrecognized by His disciples on a long journey to Emmaus. The disciples only recognised who Jesus was when He broke the bread at dinner. We discussed that 'The walk to Emmaus' shows how we too can see Jesus with new eyes, hearing Him in a new way, hearts that burn to know and love Him more each time we listen to His Word.

In addition, the children reflected that when they made the right choice Jesus was guiding them.



During the assembly of the week commencing 15th May, the children heard that Jesus returned to Heaven, and the children were invited to reflect how the disciples might have felt about losing Jesus again. Before Jesus left, He had reassuring news: Jesus said He would never leave them, and that He would send a helper. Jesus told the disciples to share the good news of his death and resurrection with everyone in the world.

In these Gospel passages, we can learn that Jesus showed Himself to the disciples a number of times after rising from the dead – to prove that He was alive and that He is the Son of God!

Jesus is still alive today and we can be friends with Him.

The Eucharist- meeting Jesus at Mass



When we say the Our Father, we ask God to ‘Give us today our daily bread’. That doesn’t mean just bread or food which we need to help us grow strong and healthy: it means all our day-to-day needs.

This prayer reminds us that God provides the daily bread that our bodies need, but also that in the Eucharist, He feeds our souls too! Just like the disciples, Jesus meets our needs and feeds us because He loves us!

When we go to Mass, Jesus does the same with us! He teaches us (the Liturgy of the Word) and He invites those who have made their Communion to eat the

Bread of Life (the Liturgy of the Eucharist). This is why celebrating Mass is such a special occasion. Jesus loves being with us. Children learned that church is a very special place, and that just like Jesus told the disciples to be witnesses, He also invites us to tell others that He has risen from the dead. The children were invited to continue the disciples' work by being witnesses and living out the Gospel values.

The children were challenged to think how they could be witnesses today.



Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving us!

Thank you for feeding us and meeting our needs. We trust you to provide for us.

Help us to share what we have with others.

We believe that you are alive and our friend forever!

We are an Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our song!

Amen



Religious Education from Reception to Y6

During the week commencing 22nd May all classes have been learning about Other Faiths- Islam- in their Religious Education lessons.

We would like to thank Mrs Saday for leading an assembly introducing the children to the Islam.

Each class learned about a specific aspect of the faith of Islam.

Each year group had a specific question to investigate and answer.

Big questions:

R-Recognise special objects- prayer mat and Qur'an

Y1- Who is Muhammad?

Y2- Why is prayer important to Muslim people?

Y3- Where do Muslim people worship and what would you see inside their place of worship?

Y4-Why is the Qur'an so important for Muslim people? How does it guide them?

Y5- Show an understanding of Muslim beliefs and festivals with a focus on Ramadan and pilgrimage

Y6-What are the 5 pillars of Islam? Why are these important for Muslim people?

Learning about Islam faith will continue for the first week after half term.

Please ask your child to share with you what they have learned.

More information about what your child has been learning about in Islam can be found in the link below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AX7Rcn5V3bTNJU50WBI8iN_2QCDPU6KCPVE6wxvUFvA/edit



Mass: Celebrating The Feast of the Ascension

All the children in Key Stage 2 participated in Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church to celebrate the ascension of our Lord Jesus into Heaven.

The Mass was organised and led by Y6T. Thank you to Miss Thomas and all of Y6T who took part in the celebration of Mass.

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

It was moving to hear the bidding prayers being read in different languages reflecting the diversity of the school family

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 Galindo-Slim for her assistance.



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

Pupil Chaplains

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

As a follow-up from the Gospel assemblies during April and May, the Pupil Chaplains created an interactive prayer table in the hall following on from Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Pupil Chaplains have planned and led a whole school assembly dramatizing the Gospel – 'The Road to Emmaus'

Pupil Chaplains have led Bible Club each week in Key Stage 1 based on 'The Road to Emmaus' Gospel account. During Bible club the Pupil Chaplains plan and deliver age appropriate liturgies to groups of children.

For more information about the role of Pupil Chaplains and the work they have been doing -please read the Pupil Chaplain half termly newsletter.

Pope Francis's prayer request for May:



Every month Pope Francis asks us to pray for a particular cause or focus. For the month of May Pope Francis has asked that we rediscover our mission and that we continue Jesus' work by being witness to His work and following the Gospel message.

Discuss with your child how

they can continue Jesus' mission.

What choices would they have to make?

Parent Prayer Club



It has been lovely to see some parents attending the prayer club on Fridays in school. We would welcome more parents to join.

This is a valuable opportunity for parents to pray together and talk their faith. All parents are welcome.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Kerry Diver

RE and Catholic Life lead