



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
RE Newsletter
Second half of Spring Term 2024



Lent is a really important time for Christians.

Lent, the solemn 40-day period before Easter, holds great significance in the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. Throughout Lent we deepen our connection with God, we deepen our awareness of Jesus' sacrificial love, and we prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Mystery—the journey of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

Lent is represented by the colour purple which is worn by priests and seen on the altar at Mass. Purple 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, **'Pray, Grow, Give'**

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.

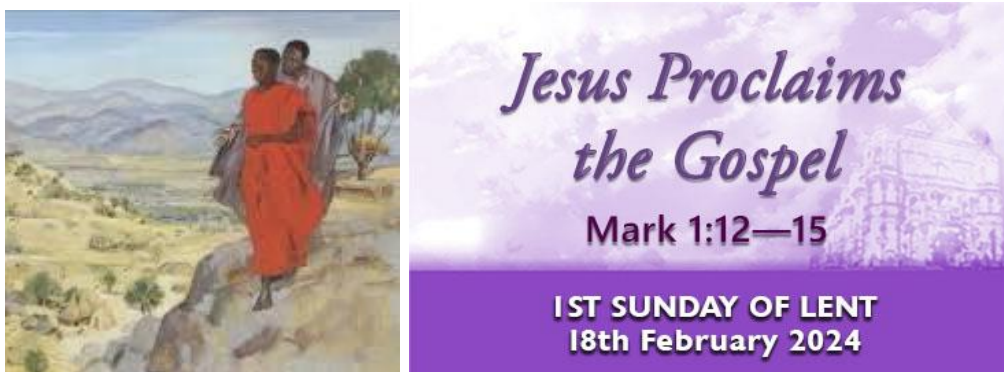
The last Sunday of Lent, 'Palm Sunday' saw the purple of Lent being swapped to that of red. The colour red symbolizes the passion of Christ and the blood He shed upon the cross. During Holy Week, the colour red is also used on Good Friday.

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.



'Say Sorry and Listen to the Gospel message'

Mark 1: 12-15

The Gospel assembly during w/c 19th 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.

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.

Prayer



A prayer that you might like to use in family prayer times during Lent is below. It includes the Lenten practices **'Pray, Grow, Give'** 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- Mass and assemblies in school

The assemblies and Mass during Holy week prepared us for what happened to Jesus in His final week on earth. These focussed on Palm Sunday, Maundy and Good Friday.

We linked these events to the celebration of Mass today

Through Holy Week we learn of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice- Jesus died for us so that we can have a new live 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 is it possible to go to church during Holy week and on Easter Sunday and pray together more regularly?

At home

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

- Bring some of the Holy Week Scripture passages below to life by making your own palm branches or washing each other's feet.
 - Palm Sunday - [John 12:12-13](#)
 - Jesus washes the disciples feet - [John 13:4-5, 12-15](#)

- Talk about what practical ways you can help and serve others. What actions can show care to the people around you?



Let us pray

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

Here I stand, during 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

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.



Mass: Anticipating Easter

Children participated in Mass 'Anticipating Easter' in school on 26th March.

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

During this Mass we focussed on Maundy Thursday and what happened at 'The Last Supper'.

The important message of forgiveness was delivered through the Gospel.

Canon John highlighted that Jesus told Peter that he would deny him before the cockerel crowed three times. Peter was vehement that he would never deny knowing his best friend. Sadly, Peter did deny Jesus. Jesus forgave Peter for denying him. We all make mistakes. We need to say sorry and seek forgiveness-just like Peter.

We would like to thank Canon John, for leading the celebration of Mass



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.

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.

Mission Together Lenten Calendar 2024



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

Each class displayed a Mission Together Lenten Calendar with tasks to help the children in each class to '**Pray Act Give**'

Each day children undertook tasks to help them grow closer to God.

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

Children were encouraged to give money to help our brothers and sisters in need. For example, on CAFOD snack free Friday, children brought in a money donation for CAFOD instead of having a snack

'Inspirational People' Prayer Packets



Pupil chaplains 'Inspirational People' prayer packets continued visiting families during the second half of the Spring Term

All families have now had the opportunity to receive the prayer packet.

Many children and their families wrote in the 'Response Book' their own personal responses to what they read. Some of these responses included prayers and changes they would make to try to be more like the inspirational person.

This was followed up in class during prayer and liturgies.

Lenten promises



For each of the six weeks during Lent, each class made a whole class Lenten Promise. Each Lenten Promise was created by the children in each class. The

children chose a promise they would help them grow closer to God. For example-‘playing with a new friend’, ‘completing homework independently’, ‘being responsible for their belongings’ etc.

This Lenten promise was placed on the cross by a Pupil Chaplain.



Each week the cross blossomed and grew with flowers and promises. This was also reflected through the children growing closer to God by following and living out the Lenten Promises.

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

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.



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 for those who risk their lives spreading the Gospel message.

Discuss as a family.

How do we live out and spread the Gospel message each day?

Are there times when this is tricky?

Parents' Prayer Club



Prayer Club is a valuable time for parents to gather and pray together and talk about their faith.

At present we are reviewing the day and time that the Parent's Prayer Club will take place to ensure we have as many parents attending as possible.

We will be sending out a questionnaire to all families to enable them to give feedback on which day and time would be most convenient for them to attend the Rosary Prayer Club.

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



As we finish the Spring 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 families a very Happy Easter.

We look forward to seeing you all next term.