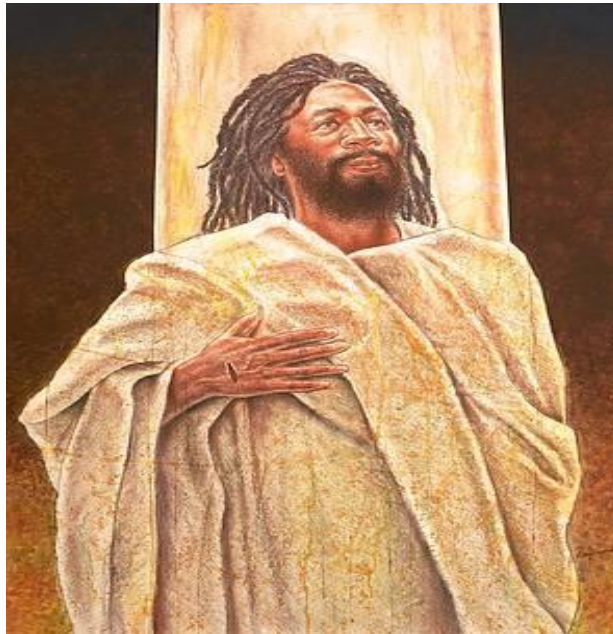


Summer First Half-Term
Religious Education Newsletter 2024

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 up until 20th May we were still in the season of Eastertide – we reflected on the joy of the resurrection.

This was a change in the Church season from the penitence of Lent to our 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 'Celebration of The Word' 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.

Gospel Assemblies during Eastertide



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.

Easter Sunday

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.

Jesus appears to His apostles

The children heard that Jesus appeared to His disciples, at first without Thomas and later Thomas was himself able to experience, see and believe that Jesus was indeed alive with his own eyes. This 'Celebration of The Word' 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.

The Road to Emmaus



During the week commencing 30th April the Pupil Chaplains led a 'Celebration of The Word' liturgy in each class from Reception to Year 5. In groups of two or three, the Pupil Chaplains planned, led and delivered the liturgy in an age appropriate way. The planned liturgies were enhanced by PowerPoints and dramatizations of the Gospel – 'The Road to Emmaus'

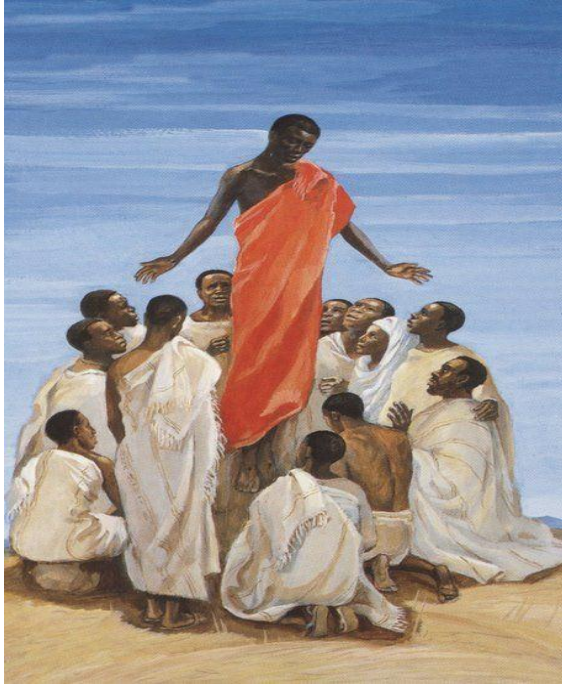
Jesus walked unrecognised by His disciples on a long journey to Emmaus. The disciples only recognised who Jesus was when He broke the bread at dinner. The Pupil Chaplains highlighted that 'The Road to Emmaus' shows how we too can see Jesus with new eyes and hearing Him in a new way by listening to and following the Gospel message each Sunday.

In addition, the Pupil Chaplains asked the children to pray more and to ask God for guidance in making the right choices.

The Ascension

During the assembly of the week commencing 6th 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.

Celebrating the Holy Spirit



In the 'Celebration of the Word' assembly for the week beginning 13th May we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Children learned that the Holy Spirit is the helper that Jesus promised His disciples and that the Holy Spirit helps us too. We discussed how the Holy Spirit changed the apostles and gave them the courage to continue Jesus' work and sharing God's message of love. With your child, you might like to...

- *Discuss with your child ways the Holy Spirit can help us today e.g. helping us to be peaceful, forgive others, say sorry.*

The Eucharist- meeting Jesus at Mass



Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a 'Year of Prayer' to prepare for the Jubilee in 2025. Pope Francis asks us to pray the 'Our Father'. Pope Francis wants us to revisit the basics of prayer, and for us to

become even more a people of prayer. Therefore, in school we have been saying the 'Our Father' in our 'Celebration of The Word' assemblies.

Children were invited to say the 'Our Father' prayer in their home language. 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!

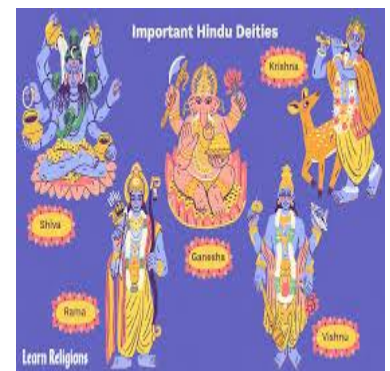
When we go to Mass, Jesus does the same with us! He teaches us (the Liturgy of the Word) and He invites those who have made their Communion to eat the Bread of Life (the Liturgy of the Eucharist). This is why celebrating Mass is such a special occasion. Jesus loves being with us. Children learned that 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.



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 learnt about Hinduism in their Religious Education lessons.

The study of other faiths is an integral part of our RE curriculum and so important in developing children's knowledge, understanding and respect. We would like to thank Mrs Singh for talking to the children in assembly about the Hindu faith.

Each class learned about a specific aspect of the Hindu faith and had a specific question to investigate and answer.

R- Recognise that Diwali is a Hindu celebration.

Y1- To recall and retell the stories of Ganesh and Krishna

Y2- Why is Puja/prayer important to Hindu people?

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

Y4- How do the Hindu holy books/sacred writings guide Hindus' lives?

Y5- Make links between Hindu beliefs and actions/pilgrimage

Y6- What are Karma and Dharma? How do Hindus use these as rules for life?

Y4 and Y5 will be continuing their study of Hinduism when they visit the Hindu Mandir in Neasden later this term.

Please ask your child to share their learning with you.



Mass: Celebrating the Feast of the Ascension

All the children participated in Mass at school to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus into Heaven.

The Mass was organised and led by Y6. Thank you to Mrs van den Dreissche and all of Y6 who took part in the celebration of Mass.

We would like to thank Mrs Fitzgerald and Schola 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 Fr Peter 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.

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 planned and led class 'Celebration of the Word' assemblies in each class in which they dramatized the Gospel, 'The Road to Emmaus'

Pupil Chaplains have led Bible Club each week in Key Stage 1 based on the resurrection Gospel accounts. 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 this half -term -please read the Pupil Chaplain half termly newsletter.

May- 'The Month of Our Lady'

May is also known as 'The Month of Our Lady', a time to remember that Mary is Jesus' mother and our mother too. The Pupil Chaplains helped in the planning and delivery of a special 'Celebration of the Word' liturgy. In this liturgy, Mary was celebrated as the mother of Jesus, the mother of us all and the mother of the church. We listened to the Luke's Gospel account of Mary's song of praise 'The Magnificat'.

Mary is a great role-model. Her perseverance, care, and joyfulness are some of the reasons we honour her in May. To honour Mary, the whole school walked in procession singing 'Hail Mary' and we crowned Mary with a floral crown. Children laid flowers in the 'Mary Garden' to show their love and respect for her.

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 pray for those training for the religious life and for the priesthood. May they grow to be credible witnesses of the Gospel message.

Discuss with your child how they can live out the Gospel message?

What choices would they have to make?

Parent 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.

Prayer club will resume in September.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains