



Sacred Heart

RE Newsletter

Spring half term January 6th - February 14th 2025

'Be the light to those around you!'



Dear Parents,

We begin this term full of the joy of the Christmas season which ends for us at the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus on 12th January. On the 2nd February we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) when Jesus is recognised as 'The Light of the World'. We must also remember that each one of us is called to be a 'light', an inspiration to those around us.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find what your child is learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.



Pope Francis has decided that **2025** will be a **year of Jubilee**, something which happens every 25 years.

The theme is "**Pilgrims of Hope**", and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

The Jubilee Year began in December 2024 with Pope Francis opening the "Holy Door" in St. Peter's Basilica, offering the world's Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. **The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.**

As His Holiness Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."

At Sacred Heart, we have begun preparations with a Spiritual Day on January 6th, beginning with Mass and then children having experiences of different forms of prayer, a 'pilgrimage' for Mary, artwork, Godly play and music.

Our official launch of the Jubilee Year will be on January 24th. We look forward to sharing many events with you throughout the upcoming year.

This Spring Term, Reception Class and Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to follow the new Religious Education Directory (RED). Year 1 will be piloting a new scheme, Lighting the Path, which adheres to the RED. Key Stage 2 will continue to follow the scheme, *The Way, The Truth, The Life*.

In addition to our lessons, the children will be focusing on two aspects of Catholic Social Teaching. The pupils will be using resources from CARITAS (Rooted in Love) to focus on:

- Solidarity *and* Peace
- Community *and* Participation.

Virtues

In Spring 1, through assemblies and circle times, children will focus on: Faith and Simplicity

Dates from the Church's Calendar:

5 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	28 th January	St. Thomas Aquinas
12 th January	The Baptism of the Lord	31 st January	St. John Bosco
12 th January	St. Aelred of Rievaulx	2 nd February	Presentation of the Lord
17 th January	St. Anthony (desert Father)	3 rd February	St. Blaise
24 th January	St Francis de Sales	8 th February	St Josephine Bakhita
25 th January	Conversion of St. Paul	11 th February	Our Lady of Lourdes

School Spiritual Dates

Monday 6th January - School Mass (Epiphany) and whole school Spirituality Day

Friday 24th January- Launch of the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year

School Worship: In addition to our Celebration assembly each Friday, each Monday the whole school gather for a Welcome to the Gospel Assembly, reflecting on the previous Sunday's gospel reading. The children will also be preparing their own regular class worship.

Mini Vinnies- Mr McIntyre will lead Mini Vinnies for Years 3 and 4

School Chaplaincy Team- The team will be preparing a liturgy to share with chaplaincy teams from the other TRUST schools, as well as Key Stage Assemblies and organising prayer sessions for groups of children this term.

Reception

Children in Reception will be following the new Religious Education Curriculum.

This term, the children will be focusing on Branch 3, Galilee to Jerusalem.

Hear	Believe	Celebrate	Live
<p>The visit of the Magi (Matt 2:1-12).</p> <p>Jesus blesses the little children (Mk 10:13-16).</p> <p>Feeding of 5000 (Jn 6:1-14).</p> <p>Jesus was born for everyone.</p>	<p>The Magi visited Jesus with gifts. Jesus is God's Son and came for everyone.</p> <p>Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas.</p> <p>Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone.</p> <p>Jesus takes care of everyone.</p>	<p>The Glory Be is a special prayer. That the Church prays the 'Glory Be' as a response to the coming of Jesus</p>	<p>Show love to everyone like Jesus. We welcome and show love to everyone in our words and actions as Jesus does.</p> <p>We are called to help the poor and hungry.</p> <p>CST You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor, and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth. But many people do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra care of these people.</p>

At home

You could help your children by:

- saying or sharing prayers together
- talk about people who help us e.g. nurses, doctors
- talk about how we can help others
- giving them jobs which help at home



Year 1- Galilee to Jerusalem

Hear	Believe	Celebrate	Live
<p>The Presentation (Lk 2:22-38)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding in the temple and the hidden life (Lk 2:41-52) • Jesus announces his mission (Lk 4:16-22) • The call of the disciples (Lk 5:1-11) • Little children (Lk 18:15-17) • Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1-9) 	<p>pupils will know that the Church teaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus grows up and reveals the love of the Father to us. • Some people that encounter Jesus recognise that he is the Son of God who has come to save all. • Jesus is the 'light to all nations'. 	<p>pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus is celebrated by Christians around the world and is known as Candlemas in Britain. 	<p>pupils will know that the Church teaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Christians are called to follow Jesus and share the Good News with others. • Christians are called to take care of each other, especially those most in need, such as the poor.

At home

Retell some of the stories from the Gospel of Luke

Year 2 Galilee to Jerusalem

Hear	Believe	Celebrate	Live
<p>The preaching of John the Baptist (Lk 3:2-6, 10-17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is baptised (Lk 3:21-22) • The Temptation in the wilderness & Jesus begins to preach (Lk 4: 1-15) • Cure of a paralytic (Lk 5:17-26) • The choice of the twelve (Lk 6:12-16) • The calming of the storm (Lk 8:22-25) • Parable of the lost sheep (Lk 15:4-7) <p>For the Feast of the Epiphany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 2:1-12: The visit of the Magi 	<p>pupils will know that the Church teaches:</p> <p>John the Baptist is a prophet who calls people back to God by encouraging them to say sorry. Baptism is a sign of forgiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That when people make bad choices (sin), they turn away from God. Jesus teaches that God loves and forgives and that being sorry helps us to change and become better people. • Jesus' miracles are signs that show he is the promised one (Messiah). • Jesus' parables are simple comparisons that invite people to know more about God. • Jesus brings healing in different ways 	<p>pupils will know:</p> <p>How water is used as a symbol of a new start in the Sacrament of Baptism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Catholics say sorry to God in prayers: • Act of Sorrow (Contrition) • Asking for forgiveness in the 'Our Father' 	<p>pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of saying sorry to God and to others. • The importance of showing you are sorry, for example, through practical Acts of Penance.¹⁴⁸

At home

You could help your children by:

Talking about saying sorry

Read the miracles of Jesus



Year 3 – Sacrament of Reconciliation

“During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community ... from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will develop their understanding that Jesus called people to change, to turn away from sin and receive the love of God. They will learn that it is not always easy to change and find out about some individuals who changed through the help of Jesus.

They will learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's love and forgiveness and begin to learn an Act of Sorrow. They will learn that Lent is a time to change in order to prepare for Easter.

At home

You could help your children by:

- thinking about how Jesus changes our lives
- reading the story of Zacchaeus
- going online to www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm and complete the interactive activities.



Year 4 – Jesus the Teacher

The children will learn that Jesus was born into a Jewish family and find out about the story of the presentation in the Temple.

They will learn that Jesus attended synagogue as a child and as an adult read the Torah. They will learn that Jesus travelled about teaching people.

The children will learn that Jesus came to show us the way to live, understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know and understand some of the parables Jesus told. The children will have a chance to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today and recognise that Lent gives us an opportunity to live as Jesus wants us to.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- read some well-known parables, e.g. 'The Sower' and talk about what they mean for us
- go online to www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm and complete the interactive activities.

Year 5 – Inspirational People

"Love of neighbour ... involves working for a just society... It includes love for the poor. Love of neighbour is also an expression of our search for God."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children will learn about the conditions for following Jesus and learn how Jesus described a true disciple. They will have a chance to reflect on their commitment to following Jesus.

They will learn the story of a person who had a special love for those rejected by society and about someone who was an inspiration for young people. They will identify people today who are an inspiration in their service of others.

At home:

You could help your children by

- encouraging them to research some information about inspirational people and saints
- visit www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm and complete activities.

Year 6 – Exploring the Mass

“At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that become in reality Christ’s Body and Blood. Catholic faith adores this enduring presence of Christ not only within the celebration of the Mass but also outside it.”
Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They will begin to understand that in the Mass we participate in Jesus’ sacrifice to God the Father and learn what happened at the Last Supper.

They will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will learn that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus.

The Penitential Act and the Liturgy of the Word will be reflected upon

At home:

You could help your children by:

- brining their attention to the Eucharistic prayer during Mass
- Discuss responses said at Mass