

# ST JOSEPH'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## SPRING TERM 2026

### The new Religious Education Directory

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, this academic year, we are using the new RED (Religious Education Directory) to teach our Religious Education. It is a new curriculum. Each half term we explore one of the six branches in class. Each branch focuses on a core theme, helping children to grow in their understanding of key aspects of the Catholic faith – including Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ and life in the Church. This approach helps pupils learn about their faith in a deeper, more meaningful way and also invites them to reflect on what it means for their own lives. It helps them to see, judge, and act with greater understanding and compassion. In addition to this new curriculum, each half term we will also be talking, learning and thinking about one of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching in detail. This term the two principles we will be talking about are: 1. Solidarity and Peace and 2. Community and Participation.

Thank-you, as always, for your continued support.

#### Spring: 1<sup>st</sup> half term

##### Galilee to Jerusalem: Branch 3



'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known' (Jn 1:18).

In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God. They will reflect on the message of Epiphany in the visit of the Magi.

They will explore what the Kingdom of God is and what it is not.

They will learn from Jesus' words: his teachings, his parables, his New Commandment and from his actions: his miracles and his example. They will learn about how Jesus' life is a revelation of the Kingdom of God and how we can grow the Kingdom of God in our own hearts. Jesus revealed his power, his majesty but also his humility and compassion in what he did and what he said.

The children will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus. They will explore the stories of Jesus revealing his holiness to his friends and their growing faith in him.

The children will learn about inspirational people who followed Jesus' example and help to make God's kingdom on Earth. Catholic Social Teaching encourages Catholics to follow Jesus' example and serve others, e.g. through charitable acts or choosing a career that helps others. Children will learn that we encounter God through the seven sacraments and grow ever closer to him.

#### Spring: 2<sup>nd</sup> half term

##### From Desert to Garden: Branch 4



We will explore Lent's themes of forgiveness and reconciliation and the idea that devotion to God leads a person to do good works. Children will learn about the events of Holy Week, their importance and significance.

By the end of this topic, pupils will understand and articulate key concepts related to forgiveness, reconciliation, and symbols of faith.

The children will learn what Jesus said about forgiveness, including his words on the cross and connect this to the belief that God always forgives us when we are sorry. Pupils will also appreciate that Lent is a special time for reconciliation and forgiveness. They will use age-appropriate religious vocabulary to describe the Sacraments e.g. of Reconciliation and will discuss the symbols of light and water in the Easter Mass. Through creative and critical thinking, they will deepen their thinking by examining works of art to recall Holy Week. They will reflect on the symbolism of light and water, New Life at Easter. In response to their learning, pupils will think about the meaning of forgiveness in their own lives, the impact of bad choices on themselves and others, and the importance of saying sorry. They will reflect on Jesus' teachings about forgiveness, fostering a personal and meaningful connection to these values.

#### Suggestions for home activities

As a family, talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to charity. If you have an older child, you might pop into the church and take part in Stations of the Cross. Ask your child what their Lenten promise might be. Perhaps they will decide to pray every evening before bedtime, thanking God for something. Perhaps they will decide to be more helpful without being asked around the home. Lent is the season of self-giving, not just of material things, but giving of ourselves, giving our time and our spirit.

# **IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

1 January

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

7 January

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

8 January

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

2 February

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

5 March

**ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

19 March

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

13 April

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

17 April

**GOOD FRIDAY**

18 April

**EASTER SUNDAY**

20 April