

St. Thomas of Canterbury RE & Catholic Life Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the Spring Term 2021 RE Newsletter. We look forward to welcoming all children back into school on 8th March and congratulate everyone for their perseverance since the beginning of the Spring Term. The work in RE has been excellent and it has been wonderful to see children still taking part in creative and thoughtful RE lessons from home.

This term we have studied the themes of Local Church (Community) and Eucharist (Belonging) and are now beginning our Lent/Easter (Giving) units.

Lent

During Lent, Christians are called to focus on prayer, fasting and charity. As a school, we are approaching them like this:

PRAYER

Each class will record a child-led collective worship to share with our community. They will be made available over the course of the season to share in class and at home.

Each class will also have the opportunity to take part in Stations of the Cross and we will mark Holy Week by sharing virtual liturgies with families as we did last year.

We continue to share God's word together in class assemblies which are taking place weekly in the hall, in classrooms or virtually.

At the end of each RE unit, you will receive a 'Respond' booklet, inviting you to reflect as a family on the learning of your child/ren and share time in collective worship together.

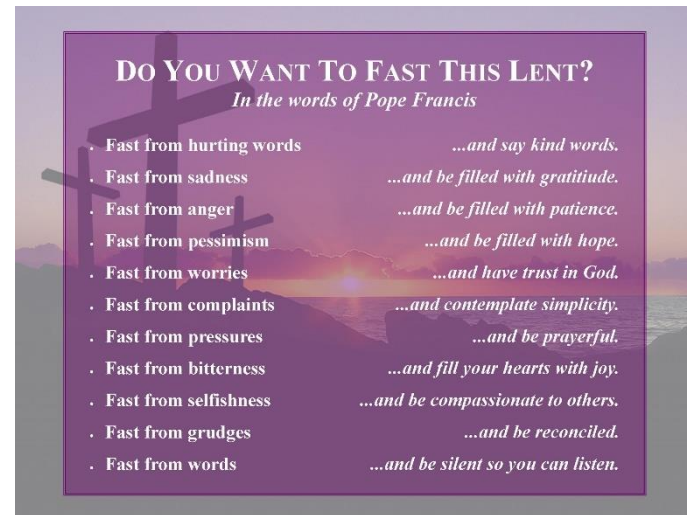
FASTING

Friday 26th February was CAFOD Family Fast Day and we encouraged children and adults to eat a simple meal or go without something that they do not need, and donate any money saved through ParentPay.

Pope Francis says, "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style

of the Good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

In a time when many have struggled, consider fasting in a different way this Lent:



CHARITY

Our global efforts will be for CAFOD and money raised will go to teaching people to read: [CAFOD World Gifts Website](#). You can contribute with any money saved through fasting over Lent on ParentPay.

We will focus our local efforts on the Good Shepherd appeal which supports Caritas, the various caring services across the Diocese (e.g. St Wilfrid's Centre). Their funding has been badly hit by the pandemic as noted by Bishop Ralph in his heartfelt letter on the next page.

To raise money, every class will be off timetable for one day in this term. Half the day will be a virtual field trip, with related activities. and we would ask parents to donate what they would normally have spent on a school trip.

The other half of the day will be an activity that we would not normally get a chance to do. Linked to this, please see the message below:

A plea – if anyone in our school or extended community would be willing to volunteer their time and lead a virtual workshop which offers a new or different experience for our children, please get in touch via the school office.



Rt Rev Ralph Heskett CSsR

Bishop's House

75 Norfolk Road

Sheffield

S2 2SZ

Tel; 0114 2787988

email:bishop@hallam-diocese.com

January 2021

Dear Friends,

I write to you at a time when I know your schools and communities are under enormous pressure; I would not do so unless the issue I want to discuss is equally grave.

Lent is the traditional time for the Good Shepherd Appeal, and I want to ask you in this most difficult of times to try and help me with this important fundraising event this year. This is not a decision I have made easily. I have been inspired to act when I heard some parents are asking for opportunities to undertake fundraising as a way of giving children a positive opportunity to do something. I am also mindful of the needs of our community, the poverty, the hopelessness, the despair which is sadly becoming an everyday part of life here in Hallam. The Good Shepherd Appeal is very specific, it raises money for vulnerable children and families. This is at the heart of the work we do helping families coping with furlough, redundancy and, sadly, suicide. Working with these families not just today and tomorrow but for as long as it takes to get them back on their feet.

In one project, every child who sought our help had some form of illness relating to the current crisis: anxiety, sleep disorders, depression, fear of going out, fears for their family; young people in our community being robbed of their childhood. One child in Y8 said "there is no joy any-more".

And there is worse; referrals for domestic abuse have increased and families have been torn apart by alcohol abuse, financial worries, violence and, yes, sexual abuse.

At the start of the current crisis, I was gratified to know that we had committed to provide free counselling to anyone suffering from the impact of the COVID pandemic. I know we all want this vital work of the Diocese to continue and be able to respond to increasing number requests, and so I ask you to urge young people in your school to use their creativity and energy to respond with enthusiasm and generosity.

A short video which illustrates some of the work which is supported by the money you raise can be found here. <https://hallam-diocese.com/caritas/#more-about-caritas>

Your sincerely in Christ the Redeemer

+ Ralph Heskett CSsR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SPRING TERM 2021

COME AND SEE AT HOME

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Local Church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

(January)

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop. Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

EUCCHARIST - RELATING

(February)

Early Years	GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1	MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal
Year 2	THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3	LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us
Year 4	GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion
Year 5	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives. Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

(March)

Early Year	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

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practice self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity. If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1 January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10 January

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February

ASH WEDNESDAY

17 February

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

19 March

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

25 March

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

28 March

MAUNDY THURSDAY

1 April

GOOD FRIDAY

2 April

EASTER SUNDAY

4 April