

St. Thomas of Canterbury RE & Catholic Life Newsletter



Spring Term 2019

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday with the distribution of ashes. Our wonderful Liturgy Leaders planned and led the service and helped make it a special occasion. In our reading, the prophet Joel taught us to open our hearts to God, and show this through our actions. We were reminded of the story of Rabiul, whose community in Bangladesh has been hit by drought, leaving a river with no fish. We stand in solidarity with those living in poverty and encourage the whole school community to take part in CAFOD's Give it Up campaign, where we make a promise to go without something which we don't need so that others can have something that they cannot live without. With that in mind, we encourage everyone to take part in CAFOD Family Fast Day on 15th March. The money generated by our fasting and good works will go to help those living in poverty across the world.

During Lent, our school houses will learn about the Stations of the Cross. Every Friday, we will focus on three Stations, so that over the course of the season, we have travelled with Jesus on his journey to Calvary and better understand the sacrifice that He made for us.

Jesus is sentenced to death

When we feel that we can't make a difference

help us to keep going.

When we see someone lonely in the playground

help us to be their friend.

Teach us to share your love.



Key dates for your diaries

CAFOD Fast Day 15th March



Charity Support Spring Term 2019

Lent is also a time when we raise money for the diocesan Good Shepherd fund. Each class will choose a fundraising activity and all money raised will go to the diocese's good works. The classes have already begun to think of creative fundraising ideas and we look forward to their special events



Good Shepherd Appeal
Hallam Schools
Helping Hallam Children & Families

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SPRING TERM 2019 COME AND SEE AT HOME

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

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 and	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)

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

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	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in

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

Early Years	GROWING - Looking forward to Easter
Year 1	CHANGE - Lent: a time for change
Year 2 anew	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5 sacrifice	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the made by Jesus
Year 6 death and	DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' 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

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1 January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

13 January

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February

ASH WEDNESDAY

6 March

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

14 April

MAUNDY THURSDAY

18 April

GOOD FRIDAY

19 April

EASTER SUNDAY

21 April



NO ONE SHOULD CALL THIS 'DINNER'

Have a simple meal
and give to save lives

Family Fast Day:
Friday 15 March 2019

Donate online at:

cafod.org.uk/lent

**no one
beyond reach**