



# St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

*Aiming For Excellence - Being The Best We Can Be*

## Religious Education and Catholic Life Newsletter – Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the Spring Term, I am delighted to share some of the inspiring learning that has taken place across the school in Religious Education. This term, pupils have explored Branches 3 and 4 of the Religious Education Directory curriculum 'Galilee to Jerusalem' and 'Desert to Garden', tracing the journey from Jesus' ministry in Galilee through the events of Holy Week and culminating in the joy of the Resurrection.

Below is a snapshot of what each year group has been learning as well some of the other ways in which we have been celebrating the Catholic life of our school.

### EYFS



Our youngest learners have explored stories from the life of Jesus and begun to understand that Jesus is special and brings Good News to everyone. Through storytelling, role-play, prayer and creative activities, children listened to stories about Jesus helping others and showing love and kindness.

During Lent, the children learned that this is a time when Christians try to be more loving and thoughtful. They listened to the story of Holy Week and celebrated the joy of Easter, learning that Jesus' resurrection is a sign of hope and new life. Reception then visited the parish church to look at the different symbols in the Church linked to Lent, with a tour from Father Stewart.



Nursery also explored festivals from varying traditions including Lunar New Year!

### Year 1

In Spring 1, pupils explored key stories from the life of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, including His presentation in the temple, calling His disciples, welcoming children and meeting Zacchaeus. Through these texts, they have learned that Jesus grew up to reveal God's love and that many people came to recognise Him as the Son of God. Pupils have also discovered how Christians celebrate the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) and what it means to follow Jesus today.



In Spring 2, pupils explored important events from the final days of Jesus' life, including Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the joyful news of his resurrection. They also learned about Jesus' time in the desert and how this links to the season of Lent. Pupils developed their understanding that Lent is a special time for Christians to pray, fast and help others.

Year 1 also performed their Palm Sunday Liturgy to begin the journey of Holy Week.

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## Year 2

In Spring 1, pupils explored key moments from the early ministry of Jesus, including His baptism, miracles and parables such as the lost sheep, as well as the work of John the Baptist and the visit of the Magi. They learned that God loves and forgives, that baptism is a sign of a new beginning and that Jesus' teachings and miracles reveal Him as the promised Messiah. Pupils also reflected on the importance of saying sorry, making good choices and showing forgiveness to others.



In Spring 2, pupils revisited key events of Holy Week and Easter. They learned that Lent is a time to prepare for Easter through forgiveness and reconciliation and that Jesus gave the Sacrament of Reconciliation to restore our relationship with God.

Year 2 also then performed their Last Supper Liturgy to share with us the next part of Holy Week.

## Year 3

In Spring 1, pupils explored Jesus' miracles and parables, as well as the visit of the Magi. They learned that Jesus' miracles show His love for all people and that His teachings help us understand the Kingdom of God. Pupils also reflected on how they can help build God's kingdom through prayer and their actions.



In Spring 2, pupils explored the miracle of the loaves and the Last Supper, learning about the gift of the Eucharist. They learned that at Mass, Catholics listen to God's word and receive Jesus in Holy Communion and that the Eucharist is a special sacrament where Jesus is present. Pupils also explored prayers and celebrations linked to Mass and First Holy Communion. They reflected on how they can follow Jesus' example by living out love and service in their daily lives.

## Year 4

In Spring 1, pupils explored miracles and teachings of Jesus, including healing, walking on water with Peter and Peter's profession of faith. They also learned about the historical and cultural context of the Gospels. They learned that Jesus is the Messiah, fully God and fully human and that He showed compassion and healing for all. Pupils also discovered how His ministry continues today through the Church and sacraments such as Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

In Spring 2, pupils explored key parables such as the Lost Son and the Judgement of the Nations, as well as the events of Holy Week. They learned that God loves everyone and wants to forgive and that Lent is a time to make a new start by loving God and helping others through faith, hope and love. Pupils discovered how the works of mercy guide Christians in caring for others and reflected on how people and organisations, past and present, live out these teachings for those in need.



Year 4 then performed the next part of the Holy Week journey with their Way of the Cross Liturgy.

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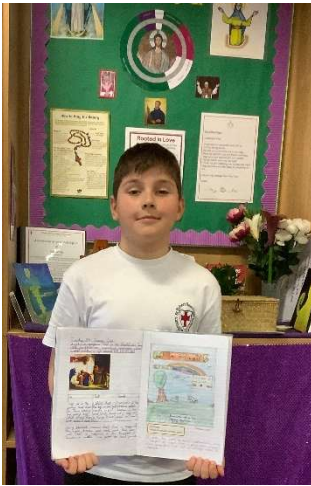


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## Year 5

In Spring 1, pupils explored the Beatitudes, the Great Commandment, the parable of the Good Samaritan and the Transfiguration. They learned that the Beatitudes show the loving face of Christ and guide Christians in how to live and that the Our Father is the perfect prayer given by Jesus. Pupils also discovered how the virtues of faith, hope and love help Christians follow Jesus' teaching. They reflected on how the Beatitudes can guide their actions and explored how artists have imagined the Transfiguration.

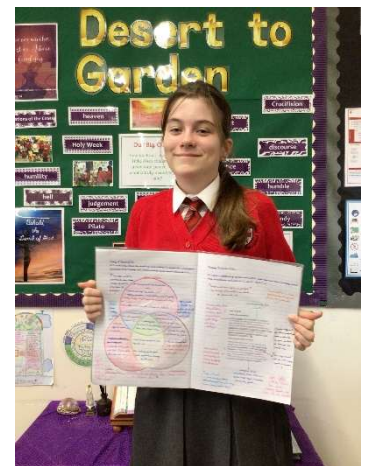


In Spring 2, pupils explored Ash Wednesday readings, Jesus' time in the wilderness, and Paul's teaching on the resurrection. They learned that Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, a time to reflect on sin, conscience and turning back to God through prayer. Pupils also explored the Last Things, including death, judgement and heaven. They discovered the meaning of ashes, prayer postures and simple prayers such as the examen and act of contrition and reflected on how prayer helps share their hearts with God.

## Year 6

In Spring 1, pupils explored miracles from the Gospel of John, including the Wedding at Cana, healing miracles, the feeding of the 5000 and the raising of Lazarus, as well as Jesus' "I am" teachings. They learned that Scripture is inspired by God and that the Church's seven sacraments help people grow closer to God and become more like Jesus. Pupils discovered how sacraments bring people into the Church community, and they reflected on how these are celebrated locally and passed on by parish communities.

In Spring 2, pupils explored key events of Holy Week from the Gospel of John, including the anointing at Bethany, Jesus washing the disciples' feet, his arrest, trial and crucifixion. They learned that Jesus showed his love through service and by dying on the cross to bring the world back to God and that Mary is the mother of all Christians. Pupils discovered how Holy Thursday Mass and the Stations of the Cross help Christians remember these events and explored artistic and musical representations of Holy Week from around the world.



## Whole-school Mass

As a school, we celebrated the Feast Day of St Sebastian on the 20th January 2026 through a whole-school Mass celebration at the parish church. All children from Nursery to Year 6 attended! It was a special day that demonstrated our shared faith and sense of community. Our singing was led by our choirmaster and supported by our pupil choir.



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## Stations of the Cross

All classes took part in a Stations of the Cross devotion, remembering Jesus' journey to the cross and reflecting on his love, sacrifice and the hope of new life at Easter.

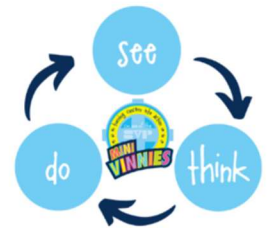


## Reconciliation

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 also had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Stewart.

## Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnie group was established in January. Mini Vinnies are a group of primary school students who want to make a difference in their school, parish and local community. It is part of the St Vincent de Paul Society (often called the SVP), a Catholic lay organisation dedicated to helping people in need. Mini Vinnies gives young people the chance to live out their faith through action, friendship and service following their mission 'See-Think-Do'. The Mini Vinnies have been busy this term: selling raffle tickets; performing and dancing to raise money; setting up a prayer initiative; sorting food bank donations and being role models around the school!



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## Looking Ahead

This term has been a powerful journey through some of the most important events in the life of Jesus. As we move into the Summer Term, pupils will explore how the message of Easter spread through the early Church and continues to inspire Christians around the world.

In Summer 2, all year groups will learn about different world faiths with a focus on Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. If you are part of one of these communities and would be willing to come in and talk to the children about your faith, please do get in contact.

Thank you for your continued support in nurturing the faith and spiritual development of our children.

Have a happy, safe and Holy Easter Break.

Miss Lay

Assistant Headteacher for RE and Catholic Life of the School

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