



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming For Excellence - Being The Best We Can Be

Religious Education and Catholic Life Newsletter – Summer 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some of the inspiring learning that has taken place across the school in Religious Education this half term. Pupils have explored branch 5 of the Religious Education Directory 'To the Ends of the Earth' where pupils studied the events that flowed from the Resurrection and Ascension in the coming of the Holy Spirit and the work of the apostles and early Church.

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

In the nursery, the children learned about Jesus returning to His Father and sending the Holy Spirit to be our special friend who looks after us. They also explored how the parish church is a special place where we gather with friends to sing, pray and celebrate together especially on Sundays.

Reception children learned about the story of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. They explored how the early Christian community shared the Good News of Jesus by caring for one another and praying together.

The children also learned that Sunday and the parish church are special for celebrating as God's family. Through Catholic Social Teaching, they reflected on how we are called to live as a family and community, helping one another and showing solidarity as part of God's worldwide family.



Year 1

Year 1 pupils explored the Road to Emmaus, the Ascension and Pentecost, completing the story of Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. They learned about the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in the apostles and the early Church. The children also began to understand



the mystery of the Holy Trinity through creative representations such as fire, wind and shadow. Through prayers, hymns and learning about Pentecost celebrations around the world, pupils developed their spiritual vocabulary and deepened their understanding of the Holy Spirit's role in Christian life. In this picture, Year 1 enjoyed some outdoor learning, acting out the story of Pentecost.

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Year 2

Year 2 pupils deepened their understanding of the events after the Resurrection, including the Ascension and Pentecost. They explored how the Holy Spirit transformed the apostles and learned about the symbols of the Holy Spirit through art and music. The children also heard the story of Saul's conversion and discovered how the Holy Spirit can change people's hearts. Through St Paul's teaching about the fruits of the Spirit, pupils reflected on virtues such as kindness, peace and love in everyday life.



Year 3

Year 3 pupils explored the life and mission of the early Church through The Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St Paul. They learned how the Mass today follows the same pattern as the first Christian communities, linking this to the Emmaus story and St Paul's teaching about the Eucharist. The children also deepened their understanding of the Trinity and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, especially through the celebration of Pentecost. They reflected on Mary's role in prayer and her importance within the life of the Church.

Year 4

Year 4 pupils explored the final part of St Peter's story through the Resurrection accounts and learned about his role as a leader of the Church. They discovered the Pope as Peter's successor and explored why the Church is described as apostolic. The children deepened their understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ and explored the Apostles' Creed as a statement of faith linked to Baptism. They also reflected on Marian devotion during the month of May and considered the shared mission of Christians to help build the Kingdom of God.



Year 5

Year 5 pupils explored the Sacrament of Confirmation and its importance as one of the sacraments of initiation. They learned about the scriptural foundations of Confirmation, from

the prophets to Pentecost and discovered how the Holy Spirit strengthens and guides Christians. The children explored the symbols and meaning of anointing with chrism and learned why bishops, as successors to the apostles, usually celebrate the sacrament. As part of their learning,



Year 5 took part in an activity called 'Claim' where they had to give their opinion on a statement and give their reasoning!

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Year 6

Year 6 pupils explored St John's account of the Resurrection and learned how Jesus restored humanity's relationship with God. They made links between Genesis and the Resurrection, exploring symbols such as the garden, light and darkness and Jesus' encounter with Mary Magdalene. The children also deepened their understanding of faith through the story of Thomas and Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit. Pupils considered what it means to bear witness to the Resurrection today and learned about Christian witness through the example of St Stephen, the first martyr. In this photo, Year 6 were debating about believing without seeing linked to Thomas.



Home Learning

Pupils created some wonderful pieces of homework this half term, including learning about St Francis of Assisi and the Catholic Social Teaching theme of the Dignity of Workers. Year 4 also completed a creative task based on their learning about Jesus' words to Peter as the rock (Matt 16:18), creating their own model churches!



Month of Mary



During the month of May, which is especially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, pupils reflected on Mary's virtues and importance in the life of the Church. A whole school community act of Worship session took place during two of our Friday assemblies, where staff, pupils and parents were invited to bring rosary beads and pray a decade of the Rosary together. Each class also led a procession, placing beautiful plants and flowers in Our Lady's Prayer Garden.

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Feast of the Ascension

On Thursday 14th May, Father Stewart led a Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. Year 4 confidently led the readings and prayers of the faithful, while our choirmaster, Mr Jeyaventhan, led the wonderful choir. The choir also performed several solos, proudly showcasing their learning and talents and adding to the spiritual atmosphere of the Mass.



Feast of Pentecost

Year 3 led a wonderful Pentecost Assembly on Friday 22nd May. As part of our Pentecost celebrations, children were invited to wear clothes in special colours to represent the different symbols of the Holy Spirit. As a school we also had a special Pentecost lunch with a specially made Holy Spirit cake!



Mini Vinnies

The Mini Vinnies have been learning about ways they can support people in need around the world. They contacted Mary's Meals, a wonderful charity that provides life-changing school meals to children in some of the world's poorest countries.



As a school, we have been supporting a Mary's Meals initiative by collecting foreign coins that may have been left unused after holidays or trips abroad. These coins can be exchanged to raise funds that help feed children around the world. To support this fundraising effort and raise awareness of the cause, the Mini Vinnies created posters to encourage donations from the school community.

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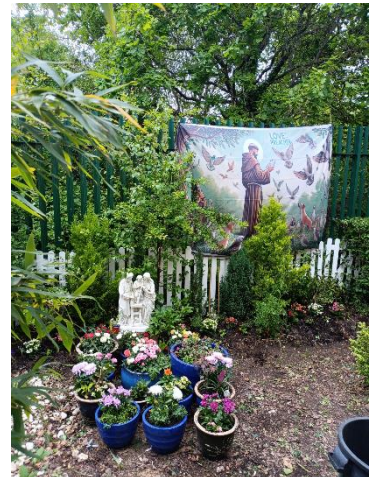
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Prayer Areas

We were blessed to receive so many beautiful plants and flowers from our families for Our Lady's Garden. With such abundance, we were also able to plant some in our prayer garden dedicated St Francis. Our classes have been spending time in our prayer gardens surrounded by all the beautiful nature for some of their collective worship sessions.

Looking Ahead

This half term has been a special time, journeying through important moments of the Eastertide season, from the Resurrection and Ascension to Pentecost and the work of the apostles and the early Church. As we move into the second half of the Summer Term, pupils 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.

Miss Lay

Assistant Headteacher for RE and Catholic Life of the School

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