



# ST. JOACHIM'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SPRING TERM 2015 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 6 JANUARY - 30 JANUARY

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

Early Years	<b>GATHERING</b> - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1	<b>MEALS</b> - Mass, Jesus' special meal
Year 2	<b>THANKSGIVING</b> - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3	<b>LISTENING &amp; SHARING</b> - Jesus gives himself to us
Year 4	<b>GIVING &amp; RECEIVING</b> - Living in communion
Year 5	<b>MEMORIAL SACRIFICE</b> - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	<b>UNITY</b> - 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 9 MARCH - END OF TERM

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

### Class and School Masses

This term, pupils will be given at least one opportunity to attend Mass as a class. Each class will be expected to prepare for the Mass by practicing the readings and selecting the hymns. Parents and relatives are warmly welcome to attend these Masses.

We will also be having whole school services in preparation for Easter. These will include Ash Wednesday Service and Reconciliation services.

### School & Class Masses

#### 1<sup>st</sup> half Spring Term

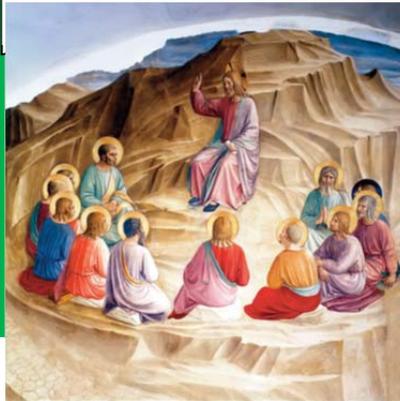
08.01.15-	Whole School Mass ~ <b>New School Year</b>
15.01.15-	<b>Year 6 &amp; 2</b> (Bl Louis Variara)
22.01.15-	<b>Year 5 &amp; 1</b> (St. Vincent)
29.01.15-	<b>Year 4 &amp; 3</b>
05.02.15-	<b>Year 5 &amp; 2</b> (St. Agatha)
12.02.15-	<b>Year 4 &amp; 1</b>

#### Half Term

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Spring Term

26.02.15-	<b>Year 6 &amp; 2</b>
05.03.15-	<b>Year 5 &amp; 1</b>
12.03.15-	<b>Year 4 &amp; R</b>
19.03.15-	<b>Year 3 &amp; 2</b> (St Joseph)
26.03.15-	<b>Year 5 &amp; 1</b>
01.04.15-	<b>Whole School Lenten Mass</b> (Wednesday)

*In his goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of his will by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature. (Dei Verbum 2)*



### IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

#### MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1<sup>st</sup>

#### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4<sup>th</sup>

#### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 11<sup>th</sup>

#### St. John Bosco

31<sup>st</sup> January

#### THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### ST DAVID

March 1<sup>st</sup>

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18<sup>th</sup>

#### St. Patrick ~ Patron of Ireland & Nigeria

March 17<sup>th</sup>

#### ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED

#### VIRGIN MARY

March 19<sup>th</sup>

#### The Annunciation of the Lord

March 25<sup>th</sup>

#### PASSION SUNDAY

March 29<sup>th</sup>

#### HOLY THURSDAY

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### GOOD FRIDAY

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### EASTER SUNDAY

April 5<sup>th</sup>

### The aims of Religious Education

1. To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
2. To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
3. To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
4. To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
5. To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
6. To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
7. To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;
8. To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

*From the Religious Education Directory for Catholic Schools 2012*



**The Sunday Gospel through School on Wednesday**

**Important** – The **Wednesday Word** is bought and given to every child in St. Joachim's every week. This should be used for all our children as their Religious Education Homework. Ideally it should be done with an adult as it often requires a short discussion between parent and child about the Gospel and the meaning of it. There are also fun activities for the children to do on the sheet too.

Playing and Praying,  
Loving and Learning,  
We achieve through God.

