

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

RE Newsletter Spring 2017

Be the light to those around you!

Dear Parents,

We begin this term full of the joy of the Christmas season. On the 2nd February we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) when we remember and celebrate that Jesus is the 'light of the world'. We must also remember that each one of us is called to be a 'light', an inspiration to those around us.



In this issue of the newsletter you will find what your child is learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education. We also embrace the Year of Mercy together.

Mary Ainger RE Subject Leader

Dates from the Church's calendar:

6 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord
10 th January	The Baptism of Jesus
2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord
1 st March	Ash Wednesday

Please look on the school website for dates of prayer services and class masses. Please put the dates in your diary and join us.

THE YEAR OF MERCY

St Catherine's Year of Mercy: This was Amazing!

Prior to the start of the Year of Mercy I, as RE Subject Leader, attended a working party for teachers to help launch 'The Year of Mercy' in our schools. Talking to staff at St Catherine's I became aware of a real desire from some of our teachers to make a difference in some way to the people who were in Calais having left their homes and families.

Three of our teachers (Amy, Chris and Charlotte) decided to involve the whole school in this project 'Called to Serve' by asking our families to contribute boxes of food, toiletries and letters to be taken out to Calais during the half term period. We were overwhelmed by the responses of our families. Here are they are stored in Amy's house before departing to Calais.



Miss D'Arcy led a prayer service to the whole of KS2 and our parents. The children spoke about the difficulties these people faced- leaving their homes, jobs, friends and the dangers ahead. They spoke about Pope Francis and 'The Year of Mercy' and how he has asked us to focus on God's Mercy and we can be merciful to others. Like Pope Francis we wanted to draw attention to the terrible situation faced by refugees and by those who remain in war torn countries. We remembered the message from the bible-

"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

Our teachers and family members and friends travelled to Calais to give our offerings. It was very moving to see the refugees open the parcels and read the letters inside. Many of them went to translators to help them read the content of the letters and they were keen to share the contents of their letters with others. We received a reply from one of the refugees which was extremely moving.

"Dear Student... I really appreciate your message am proud of you, maybe one day I will be there.....I advise you, you must be strong in your learning.

We take your contributions just by smiling really, really thank you so much."

This was an excerpt in our weekly newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for participating in the World Food Day: Collection for Calais before half term. We received a fantastic amount of donations as well as some heart-warming letters and images, which the children were inspired by at school to create additional notes. These were included in parcels that were painstakingly assembled and transported to Calais.

Whilst we were there we visited the Jungle camp and distributed the donations there. The conditions are very poor. Although some more comfortable constructed shelters were being assembled from wood many people still live crowded in cold tents on unstable ground. Sanitary conditions are also bad with people being forced to wash themselves with what little running water there is in full view of others. They must also use unkempt port-a-loos.

There are many talented people living in the Jungle and they have found ingenious solutions to surviving in sure dire circumstances. Much beautiful artwork adorns tents

Everyone has a right to life.



Mary Ainger

Nursery and Reception – Getting to know Jesus

This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes will be getting to know Jesus. Throughout the topic, the children will be given opportunities to become aware that Jesus has a great love for each one of us and will think of ways in which we can show our love for Jesus. They will hear that Jesus cured people who were sick and think of ways we can show our love for sick people.



At home

You could help your children by:

- saying or sharing prayers together
- talk about people who help us e.g. nurses, doctors
- talk about how we can help others
- giving them jobs which help at home

Year 1 – Families and Celebrations

“The Christian family ... can and should be called a domestic church. It is a community of faith, hope and charity”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn about what it means to be a member of a family and to be a member of the school community. They will learn what it means to belong to the Church family.



They will hear how Jesus’ family took him to the Temple and think about why this was a special occasion. They will learn about some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions.

At home

You could help your children by:

- discussing the importance of celebrations in our lives
- encourage children to think about Church celebrations e.g. Christmas, Easter etc

Year 2 – The Good News

“Jesus is sent to preach good news to the poor. Jesus identifies himself with the poor of every kind and makes active love toward them the condition for entering his kingdom.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn that Jesus brought the good news of God’s love and that this changed people’s lives. They will learn that Jesus used his power to help others and reflect on the importance of these events.

They will reflect on how they can bring good news to their family and friends.

At home

You could help your children by:

- highlighting opportunities when they can give thanks to God
- read stories about Jesus helping people, e.g. The feeding of the 5000
- visit www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS1link.htm and complete activities.

Year 3 – Called to Change

“During his public life Jesus not only forgave sins, but also made plain the effect of this forgiveness: he reintegrated forgiven sinners into the community ... from which sin had alienated or even excluded them. A remarkable sign of this is the fact that Jesus receives sinners at his table.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will develop their understanding that Jesus called people to change, to turn away from sin and receive the love of God. They will learn that it is not always easy to change and find out about some individuals who changed through the help of Jesus.

They will learn that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God’s love and forgiveness and begin to learn an Act of Sorrow. They will learn that Lent is a time to change in order to prepare for Easter.

At home

You could help your children by:

- thinking about how Jesus changes our lives
- reading the story of Zacchaeus
- going online to www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm and complete the interactive activities.

Year 4 – Jesus the Teacher

The children will learn that Jesus was born into a Jewish family and find out about the story of the presentation in the Temple.

They will learn that Jesus attended synagogue as a child and as an adult read the Torah. They will learn that Jesus travelled about teaching people.

The children will learn that Jesus came to show us the way to live, understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know and understand some of the parables Jesus told. The children will have a chance to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today and recognise that Lent gives us an opportunity to live as Jesus wants us to.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- read some well known parables, e.g. ‘The Sower’ and talk about what they mean for us
- go online to www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm and complete the interactive activities.

Year 5 – Inspirational People

Love of neighbour ... involves working for a just society... It includes love for the poor. Love of neighbour is also an expression of our search for God.”

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children will learn about the conditions for following Jesus and learn how Jesus described a true disciple. They will have a chance to reflect on their commitment to following Jesus.

They will learn the story of a person who had a special love for those rejected by society and about someone who was an inspiration for young people. They will identify people today who are an inspiration in their service of others.

At home:

You could help your children by

- encouraging them to research some information about inspirational people and saints
 - visit www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm and complete activities.
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Year 6 – Jesus, the bread of life

“At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that become in reality Christ’s Body and Blood. Catholic faith adores this enduring presence of Christ not only within the celebration of the Mass but also outside it.”

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children will learn that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They will begin to understand that in the Mass we participate in Jesus’ sacrifice to God the Father and learn what happened at the Last Supper.

They will learn the different parts of the Mass and become familiar with most of the responses. The children will learn that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus.

The children will have a chance to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus and reflect on the sacrifices they can make during Lent.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- bringing their attention to the Eucharistic prayer during Mass
 - ask them during the week to explain what they have been learning during their RE lessons
 - visit www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link.htm
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Jesus - you are Lord of every part of our lives. Our friends and family need your deep love, grace and forgiveness. We pray that we will be effective instruments for you and that the good news of Jesus will be revealed to tens of thousands of people across every age group and background.

