

# St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter Spring Term 2024

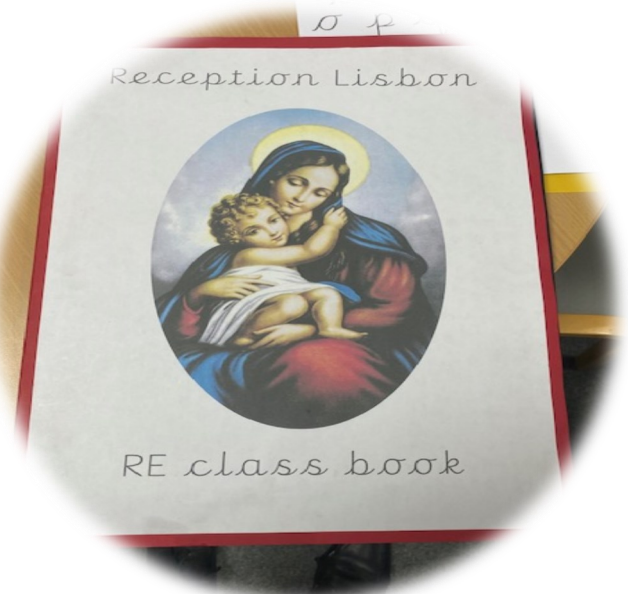


Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the spring term and we want to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

The purpose of our newsletter is to let you know about the Catholic Life of St. Anthony's School through its Religious Education lessons, Prayer Life and its Catholic Social Teaching.

2024 is St. Anthony's Golden Jubilee year. We have lots of events to look forward to as we prepare for the anniversary day on June 13th 2024.



Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a Year of Prayer with special focus on The Our Father.



Our Spring RE Newsletter contains:

Proposed masses and liturgies for the spring term. Dates to be confirmed.

Feast Days for the months of the spring term.

Prayers at St. Anthony's including our monthly dedications.

An outline of the Religious Education curriculum for the spring term for Years 1 to 6.

An introduction to our new curriculum in Early Years.

Chaplain's Corner. A contribution from Fr. Tim.

News from the RE Club.

Rooted in Love: How St. Anthony's Community demonstrated Preferential Option for the Poor.

Rooted in Love: Our Catholic Social Teaching displays.

# Prayer Life



**Pope Francis says: "Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity."**

**February 2nd at 9.15am**

**Years 3 and 4 Mass**

**For Candlemas**



**In the School Hall**

**Parents Welcome**

**February 14th Midday Mass**

**Year 5**

**For Ash Wednesday**



**At Holy Rood Church**

**Parents Welcome**

**March 1st at 9.15am**

**Years 1 and 6**

**Mass for St. David's Day**



**In the School Hall**

**Parents Welcome**

**We aim for all our children to attend Mass or a special liturgy celebrated by Fr. Tim at least once this term.**

**March 20th Midday Mass**

**Year 2**



**At Holy Rood Church**

**Families Welcome**

**March 8th and March 15th**

**Lenten Confessions for children  
from Years 4 to 6**



**In the School Chapel**

**Early Years**

**Lenten Liturgy**



**Date to be Confirmed**

# Feast Days

## January

- *Mary, Mother of God (1st)*
- *Most Holy Name of Jesus (3rd)*
- *Epiphany (6th)*
- *Baptism of Our Lord*
- *St Anthony (17th)*
- *St Agnes (21st)*
- *St Francis de Sales; Our Lady of Peace (24th)*
- *Conversion of St Paul, Apostle (25th)*
- *Ss Timothy and Titus (26th)*
- *St Thomas Aquinas (28th)*
- *St John Bosco (31st)*

### Liturgical Colour

*Green for Ordinary Time*

*White for Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord*

## February

- *St Brigid (1st)*
- *Presentation of Our Lord (2nd)*
- *St Blaise (3rd)*
- *St Agatha (5th)*
- *Paul Miki and Companions (6th)*
- *St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhita (8th)*
- *Our Lady of Lourdes (11th)*
- *Ss Cyril and Methodius (14th)*
- *Chair of St Peter (22nd)*

### Liturgical Colour

*Green for Ordinary Time*

*White*

*Purple for Ash Wednesday and Lent*

## March

- *St David (1st)*
- *St Casimir (4th)*
- *Ss Perpetua and Felicity (7th)*
- *St John of God (8th)*
- *St Frances of Rome (9th)*
- *St Patrick (17th)*
- *St Cyril of Jerusalem (18th)*
- *St Joseph (19th)*
- *Annunciation (25th)*

### Liturgical Colour

*Purple for Lent*

*Rose Pink for the 4th Sunday of Lent*

*White for Easter*

## April

- *St Francis of Paolo (2nd)*
- *St Isidore (4th)*
- *St Vincent Ferrer (5th)*
- *St Stanislaus (11th)*
- *St George (23rd)*
- *St Mark, Evangelist (25th)*
- *St Catherine of Siena (29th)*

### Liturgical Colour

*White for Easter*

# Prayers at St. Anthony's

We continue to pray together three times a day throughout the school.

We begin with morning prayer by placing Christ at the centre of our learning and interactions with others.

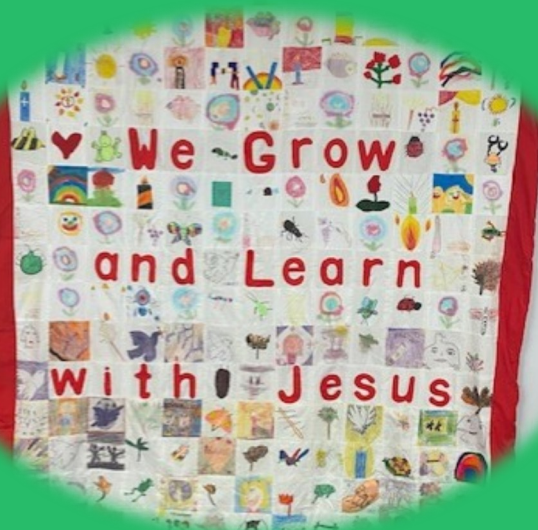
We pause at lunchtime for a special monthly intention (see below).

We end the day in prayer when we might offer thanks or pray for the needs of our school, local community, parish, country or for those around the world.

Along with Assembly and Collective Worship, Prayer offers us those moments in the day which are still, calm and reflective.

## Monthly Prayer Intentions for the Spring Term

- January We will say the Our Father each day as we begin this Year of Prayer.
- February We will say our special February Prayer for the intentions of our school, our parish and Pope Francis.
- Lent Lent begins on February 14th and throughout this season, we will be saying special prayers which help us to think about making sacrifices, doing good for others and forgiving those who may have been hurtful.



Our chapel is used by the children every day.

Children and staff can visit for a time of quiet reflection and prayer.

Our classes also use the chapel for Collective Worship.

# Religious Education Curriculum for the Spring Term

The first table below outlines the topics the children will be covering throughout the spring term. In the spring term, the children will cover 3 topics relating to Local Church, Eucharist and Lent / Easter.

Please see dates below for when each topic should start:

Monday 8th January: Local Church

Monday 5th February: Eucharist

Monday 4th March: One week studying Islam (See Table 2 below)

Monday 11th March: Lent / Easter

Please note our Early Years children are now following the new RE Curriculum and you can find out more about this on the next page.

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
<b>Domestic church family</b>	<b>Myself</b> God knows and loves each one	<b>Families</b> God's love and care for every family	<b>Beginnings</b> God at every beginning	<b>Homes</b> God's dream for every family	<b>People</b> The family of God in Scripture	<b>Ourselves</b> Created in the image & likeness of God	<b>Loving</b> God who never stops loving
<b>Baptism/confirmation belonging</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Baptism; a welcome to God's family	<b>Belonging</b> Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	<b>Signs &amp; symbols</b> Signs & symbols in Baptism	<b>Promises</b> Promises made at Baptism	<b>Called</b> Confirmation: a call to witness	<b>Life choices</b> Marriage commitment and service	<b>Vocation &amp; commitment</b> The vocation of priesthood and religious life
<b>Advent/Christmas loving</b>	<b>Birthday</b> Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	<b>Waiting</b> Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	<b>Preparations</b> Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	<b>Visitors</b> Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	<b>Gift</b> God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	<b>Hope</b> Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	<b>Expectations</b> Jesus born to show God to the world
<b>Local church community</b>	<b>Celebrating</b> People celebrate in Church	<b>Special people</b> People in the parish family	<b>Books</b> The books used in Church	<b>Journeys</b> Christian family's journey with Jesus	<b>Community</b> Life in the local Christian community: ministries in the parish	<b>Mission</b> Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese [ecumenism]	<b>Sources</b> The Bible, the special book for the Church
<b>Eucharist relating</b>	<b>Gathering</b> The parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist	<b>Meals</b> Mass; Jesus' special meal	<b>Thanksgiving</b> Mass a special time for saying thank you to God for everything, especially Jesus	<b>Listening &amp; sharing</b> Jesus gives himself to us in a special way	<b>Giving &amp; receiving</b> Living in communion	<b>Memorial sacrifice</b> The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice	<b>Unity</b> Eucharist enables people to live in communion.
<b>Lent/Easter giving</b>	<b>Growing</b> Looking forward to Easter	<b>Change</b> Lent a time for change	<b>Opportunities</b> Lent; an opportunity to start anew in order to celebrate Jesus' new life	<b>Giving all</b> Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving	<b>Self discipline</b> Celebrating growth to new life	<b>Sacrifice</b> Lent a time of aligning with the sacrifice already made by Jesus	<b>Death &amp; new life</b> Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection
<b>Pentecost serving</b>	<b>Good News</b> Passing on the Good news of Jesus	<b>Holidays &amp; holydays</b> Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit	<b>Spread the word</b> Pentecost a time to spread the Good News	<b>Energy</b> Gifts of the Holy Spirit	<b>New life</b> To hear & live the Easter message	<b>Transformation</b> Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power	<b>Witnesses</b> The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses
<b>Reconciliation inter-relating</b>	<b>Friends</b> Friends of Jesus	<b>Being sorry</b> God helps us to choose well Sacrament of Reconciliation	<b>Rules</b> Reasons for rules in the Christian family Sacrament of Reconciliation	<b>Choices</b> The importance of examination of conscience Sacrament of Reconciliation	<b>Building bridges</b> Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other Sacrament of Reconciliation	<b>Freedom &amp; responsibility</b> Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible	<b>Healing</b> Sacrament of the Sick
<b>Universal Church world</b>	<b>Our world</b> God's wonderful world	<b>Neighbours</b> Neighbours share God's world	<b>Treasures</b> God's treasure; the world	<b>Special places</b> Holy places for Jesus & the Christian	<b>God's people</b> Different saints show people what God is like	<b>Stewardship</b> The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation	<b>Common good</b> Work of the worldwide Christian family

AGE GROUP	THEME	TOPIC	LOOK	LEARNING OUTCOMES	
				DISCOVER	RESPECT
Early years N/R	Special days/ritual objects	Prayer mats	Special objects	Prayer mats and the Qur'an	What is special for Muslims
Year 1 FS 1	Stories	Muhammad	Special stories	Muhammad	Muhammad is important for Muslim people
Year 2 FS 2	Prayer/home	Prayer at home	Quiet times	Prayer five times a day	Prayer is important for Muslims
Year 3	Places for worship	The mosque	Special buildings	Friday is a day of special prayer. Call to prayer.	How Muslim people worship
Year 4	Holy Books	The Qur'an	Important books	The Qur'an. 99 beautiful names of God	The importance of the Qur'an for Muslims
Year 5	Beliefs and festivals	Ramadan and Pilgrimage	Special times	Shahadah Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha, Hajj	Respect for the special occasions for Muslims
Year 6	Belonging and values	Guidance for Muslims	Guidance in life	The 5 pillars Zakat	What is important for Muslims

# Early Years Religious Education

Our Early Years children are now working on the new RE Curriculum which the rest of the school will implement within the next couple of years.

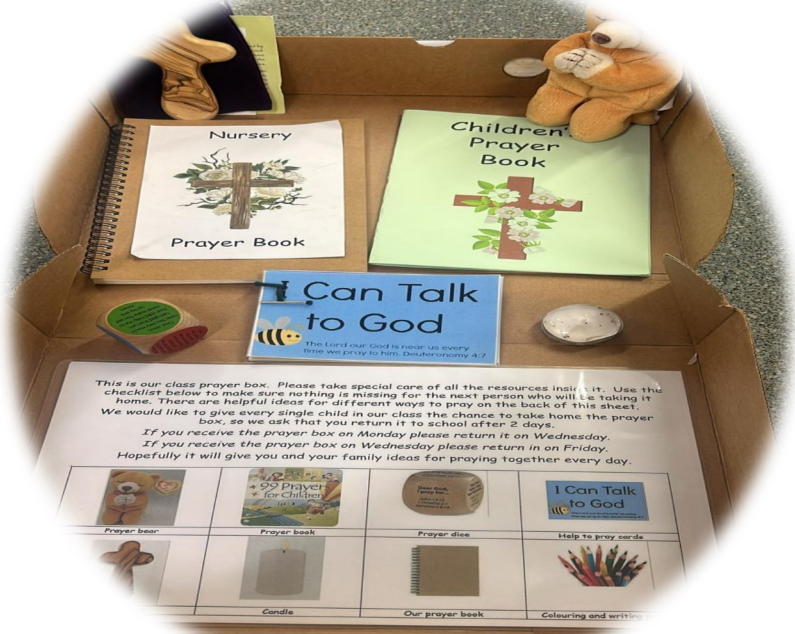
The topic for the spring term 2024 is called *From Galilee to Jerusalem*.

The children will first learn about the Epiphany and then then they will look at Jesus life as an adult. They will look at Gospel stories such as the Feeding of the 5,000, The Lost Coin and The Good Samaritan.

The children will also be celebrating Candlemas.



**Our Prayer Box**  
Inside our Prayer Box is a bear, a candle, some prayer suggestions and a book families can write a prayer in.



We have invited Fr. Tim, our school chaplain, to make a regular contribution to our RE Newsletters. Fr. Tim, like Fr. Alex before him, has been a huge source of support to St. Anthony's community. He visits the school on a weekly basis, meeting with staff and children either for mass, prayer groups, assemblies or visiting classes during lesson times.

With this being the start of the calendar year, we thought it would be useful to hear from Fr. Tim about the meaning of the liturgical colours.

## The Meaning of Liturgical Colours

The Church uses colours to symbolize particular liturgical seasons. The four main colours are green, purple, red, and white, but priests also wear rose on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent and black for funeral Masses.

We are now in Ordinary Time, so priests wear green vestments. For much of the year, this is the case. It represents hope and perseverance, which we ought to practise all year round.

During the holy seasons of Advent and Lent, purple is worn which symbolises penance and preparation.

At Christmas and Easter, priests wear white, evoking joy and purity. White also represents the Resurrection.

The colour red is worn on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. It has two meanings; for blood and the Holy Spirit. Hence why it is used to commemorate martyrs of the faith; those men, women and children who gave their lives for Christ. As well as, on Pentecost and the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation.

Interestingly, on the Third Sunday of Advent and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, priests wear a shade of pink called rose, representing joy and hope, as we anticipate the Solemnities of Christmas and Easter.

For funerals, the priest has a choice of purple or black vestments representing death and mourning and to remind the congregation to pray for the soul of the person who has died.

Each liturgical colour has meaning and helps to set our minds on the season we are currently in. During this Ordinary Time, we should follow the theme of this season and listen for the messages of hope and perseverance in the daily readings at Mass.



# RE CLUB



Our RE Club meets every Thursday at 12.30.  
The RE Club is made up of our Mini Vinnies  
and the Chaplaincy Team.

There are now over 60 members of our  
RE Club!

On Friday 8th December, a Mini Vinnie choir went to Holy Rood Church for Mass, carols and lunch with the parishioners to celebrate Advent and the end of the year. We look forward to working with everyone at Holy Rood Church again in 2024.

We are keeping in touch with our friends from St. Anthony's School in Preston. We wrote about our Mission Statement, We Grow and Learn with Jesus and told them why this is important to our school.

The Mini Vinnie Lego Appeal has meant groups of children are now able to work together on special projects as part of team building experiences.  
Thank you for helping us.

Our Chaplaincy Team will continue to meet on a weekly basis to help support the Catholic life of St. Anthony's School by carrying out practical tasks such as organising assemblies and masses and leading Collective Worships in other classes.

# Rooted In Love

In the second half of the autumn term, the children studied Preferential Option for the Poor. They looked at the importance of providing people with a preferential option, a choice or opportunity that they would be happy to receive themselves.

Last term, the whole school community came together to live out the spirit of preferential option for the poor by teaming up with South West Herts Partnership to provide gifts for those families who, at this time, may not be able to afford them.

The response from our school community was astounding. Our two week campaign meant so many families could benefit from the generous spirit shown by St. Anthony's families.

Thank you!

## Preferential Option for the Poor in Action



Our campaign letter



On November 22nd some of our pupil chaplaincy team members stood with the first number of gifts you donated.



On December 6th Ella and Carly from South West Herts Partnership arrived to collect the gifts you donated.



# Rooted In Love

In the first half of the spring term, we shall be looking at *Solidarity and Peace*.

In the second half of the term, we shall be looking at *Community and Participation*.

Our Catholic Social Teaching themes are displayed around the school. They are ongoing displays meaning the children are able to add their ideas and pictures as they work through the year. This allows us to think about where we might find evidence of the key principles on a daily basis.



Racial Justice  
Sunday  
28th January



Seeing one another in the  
life of the Church.

Children will be doing activities connected to Racial Justice Sunday which will take place on 28th January. Class updates will provide more information nearer the time.