



*Growing, Loving & Learning in the Arms of Mary*

## **IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

### **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

1 January

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God begins a new year. This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also Mother of the Church because she is our spiritual mother.

### **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

7 January

The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 7<sup>th</sup> this year, although usually January 6<sup>th</sup>) and the weeks following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

8 January

This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Jordan symbolically marks the beginning of His ministry.

### **THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

2 February

This commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple forty days after his birth, by Mary and Joseph.



## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

14 February

This is the beginning of our Lenten season of growth and change. We receive ashes on this day as we are reminded to turn away from wrong choices. The ashes come from the burned palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

## **ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

19 March

We honour Joseph and remember the importance of his faith.

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

24 March

We remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem where he was met by crowds of people waving palm leaves and shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

28 March

We remember the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. Jesus sits down with his friends and washes the disciples' feet. Today is the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

29 March

A solemn and sacred day in the liturgical year marking the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

31 March

Alleluia! We rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SPRING TERM 2024 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

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

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

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.