



"Jesus said: I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live,"
John 11:25

Dear Parents /Carers

We begin this month, by celebrating our school's feast day and reflecting on our role model—St Chad. In school we celebrated with a special Liturgy lead by Year 4.

The focus this month will be on Lent, with the children being given the opportunity to grow closer to God, during this important season. This year at St Chad's, there is a special focus on prayer and its importance in helping us to know God better and to be better Christians to the people around us and in our world. There will be many opportunities for the children to prepare their hearts for the coming celebration of Easter.

Mrs Mitchener

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

(Insert dates)

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

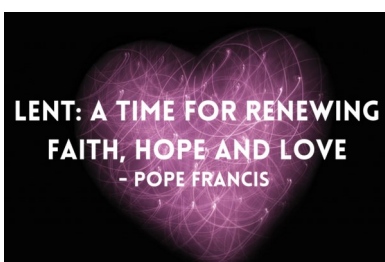
SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

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.

Pope Francis' Prayer Request for March

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.



Lenten Prayer Pots

Throughout Lent, the children have been thinking about how they can prepare for Easter and how they can use the time to grow spiritually. The Lenten Prayer Pots have remained in each Year group, as a focus for prayer and awareness of the needs of others. Each class has had a specific prayer focus, which helps them consider more carefully the message of Catholic Social Justice, particularly solidarity with all peoples, especially the most vulnerable and care for God's creation.



St Chad's Feast Day



Year 4 celebrated St Chad's feast day by leading the school in a Liturgy to think about how we can be like St Chad and follow in his ways by showing Gospel values.



The whole school, went to Mass by joining virtually, with the parishioners at St Chad's Church.

Fr Ambrose gave us a lovely welcome to the Mass on our special Feast day.

Mrs Gallagher



St Patrick's Feast Day



St Andrew's class, in Year 5, led the St Patrick's day celebrations, with a lovely Liturgy.

During the Liturgy they focused on St Patrick's total trust in God and his explanation of the Trinity, using the shamrock.

All the children in the school then, completed work, using a shamrock, to explain their understanding of God the Father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit.

Mrs Gant

Mother's Day Liturgy

On Friday 12th March Reception led a Mother's Day liturgy for the whole school. We were very excited about leading our first liturgy and we worked very hard to learn our parts. We talked about why we love our mummies. Here is the special song we sang to our mummies:

"My mum is so great, so kind and delightful, There's nothing that she cannot do!
I love her, She loves me, We're a happy family.
My mum is so great, so kind and delightful, There's nothing that she cannot do!"

Then we thought about Our Mother Mary and how we can always pray to her when we are worried.

We hope you had a wonderful Mother's Day!

Miss Roberts



St Joseph's Feast Day

St Elizabeth class, in Year 1, led the school in celebrating the Feast day of St Joseph, the foster-father and guardian of Jesus.

They shared with us that scripture describes him:

As a just man; who was innocent and pure.

As a gentle and tender man, one worthy to be named the father of Jesus;

And above all, as a faithful and obedient man, quick to do God's work.



The Pope has declared that this Year is the Year of St Joseph, a time to be like St Joseph, a quiet and humble, yet vital servant of God.



Our Special Community

During March, every child at St Chad's school has designed and made one piece of a patchwork display, based on the theme of 'The Community of St Chad's School'. The children were then given the opportunity to 'sew' their square to the display, as a symbolic act of knitting our special community back together, after the long lockdown absence from school.

It has been wonderful looking at each Year groups display and identifying the shared values we have and the importance of our faith at St Chad's.



We are unique
pieces that make
up the
St Chad's family



Easter Packs

A big thank you and well done to Mrs Mooney, Mrs Mitchener and Mrs Davern, who have worked really hard to provide an extra treat for many families this Easter Season. Mrs Mooney was successful in obtaining support from Croydon Council, to put together 83 Easter bags, which included food, Easter craft, a reading book and sporting equipment.

We are very fortunate to have such caring staff at St Chad's, who are always working to support those around them.



TOGETHER
we are
BETTER

Special Times This Month March

- 1st St David's Feast day
- 2nd St Chad's Feast day
- 14th Mothering Sunday
- 17th St Patrick's Feast day
- 19th St Joseph's Feast day
- 25th The Annunciation
- 28th Palm Sunday

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Assembly

On a beautiful sunny day, Year 2 led the school in our Palm Sunday celebration. Every child in the school made palms to wave, as Year 2 told us about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as our king and saviour.

It was magnificent to see the whole school back together for the first time, participating in this special reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him.



The Way of the Cross

On Thursday, Year 5 led the school in reflecting on the journey Jesus took to Calvary. Through prayers and readings, they shared the importance of this solemn feast and the wonderful message of how Jesus made this journey, to die for each of us with unspeakable love.

Mrs Gant



Parish News



Masses at St Chad's:

From now on it will be necessary to book a place for Sunday Masses.

The booking system will begin for masses this coming weekend

27/28th March . After this weekend, it will be possible to book for the Holy Week services ie:

- Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm 1st April

- Liturgy of the Passion 3pm on Good Friday

-Easter Vigil mass 7:30 pm on 3rd April

And all the usual Sunday masses on Easter Sunday .

Please visit St Chad's parish website, where there will be a link to the booking system.

This new booking system will continue for all weekend masses after Easter, until further notice.

Children's Stations of the Cross:

This will take place at 10:30 am on Good Friday 2nd April. Booking for this is not necessary.

Fr Bartholomew leaving gift from the children of the parish:

From this weekend, pouches with instructions on how to create a picture memory for Fr Bartholomew will be available at the church. All instructions will be inside the pouch and pictures and pouches should be returned to the church porch ASAP and placed in the box labelled :Returned pictures for Fr Bartholomew.

If you are mainly watching mass online at the moment, you will still need to go to the church to collect a pouch and return it. The church is open a lot, especially during Holy Week. Please help your children to create something beautiful for Father.

His leaving celebration has now been moved to August 15th because of Covid restrictions.



The Passion of Christ

Pictures, words and activities for families to reflect on and do together during Holy Week.

Look at each picture together and read the meditation.

Have a time of silence, then talk about the question.

Finish by doing the prayer activity together. You could look at one picture each day in Holy Week, or choose one or two to use as a focus on Good Friday.

Artist Nebiyu Assefa's paintings feature in Joanna Brown's book *Jesus* (jazzartpress.com). These resources were written by Pauline Godfrey.

1 Foot washing based on John 13.1-15



A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus washes his disciples' dusty feet. He wants to show them that no one is more important than anyone else. 'Do as I have done', he says.

Talk together

- Who is God challenging you to serve today?

Prayer activity

Take a piece of string and quietly think of three people whom you could treat more kindly. Tie three knots in your string, one for each person, and take it away as a reminder to care for them.

2 The Last Supper based on Luke 22.14-20



A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus has supper with his friends for the last time.

He takes bread and a cup of wine and holds them up.

'This is my body – given for you.

This cup is my blood – poured out for you.'

Talk together

- Why do we remember Jesus with bread and wine?

Prayer activity

Break off and eat a piece of bread and drink a small cup of grape juice. Remember Jesus, as you eat and drink them.

3 The Garden of Gethsemane based on Luke 22.39-46



A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus asks his disciples to stay awake while he goes to pray in the garden.

Jesus is upset. He feels alone. He knows he will die.

In the darkness, Jesus prays to his Father to save him, saying, 'but please, not what I want, but what you want be done.'

Jesus comes back to find the disciples sleeping. He challenges them to 'Get up and pray.'

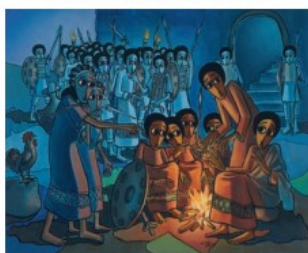
Talk together

- What might Jesus want us to pray for?

Prayer activity

Listen to the song 'Keep watch with me' by Margaret Rizza, or the Taizé chant, 'Stay here and keep watch with me'.

4 Peter denies Jesus based on Luke 22.54-62



A meditation

Look at the picture.

What do you see? Which person is Peter? Where is Jesus?

Peter decides to follow Jesus and those who have arrested him into the high priest's house. How is he feeling?

Peter is recognised – he's a disciple.

Why does he lie?

The cock crows.

How does he feel now?

Talk together

- What do you need forgiveness for?

Prayer activity

Take a small piece of play dough. Roll it into a ball and lay it on your hand. God has created us and we are perfect. Now put your thumb into it. Look at the messed up ball. We make mistakes and spoil what God has created. We need to say sorry. Think of things you need forgiveness for. Now make the ball into a heart, as a symbol of God's forgiveness and the love he pours into us.

5 Jesus carries his cross based on Luke 23.26-27



A meditation

Look at the picture.

Imagine that you are one of the people in the crowd. You watch as Jesus carries his cross. Then Simon is forced to carry it for him. Jesus is hurt from the whippings he's had. The cross is heavy. This is your Lord they are taking away. This is the one you thought would save the world. He is going to die.

Talk together

- Who might feel hopeless today?

Prayer activity

Light a tealight and place it on a wooden cross. Think about Jesus knowing he was going to die.

6 Jesus is dead based on Luke 23.44-56



A meditation

Look at the picture.

See Joseph of Arimathea ready to wrap Jesus' body in a linen cloth.

See Mary and John in the background, crying. See the wounds on Jesus' feet and hands and side.

'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit,' Jesus had said.

He has cried his last. He has died.

Darkness has come on all the land. Darkness in our hearts and in our minds.

Jesus is dead.

We do not understand.

A linen cloth will wrap his body.

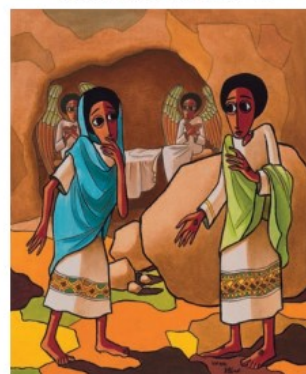
Talk together

- How can we be like Jesus in the world?

Prayer activity

Make a pipe cleaner figure and wrap it in a strip of material.

7 The empty tomb based on John 20.11-18



A meditation

Look at the picture.

Mary is outside the tomb crying. She sees two angels.

'Why are you weeping?' they say.

'They have taken my Lord.'

Mary sees the gardener.

'Why are you weeping?' he asks.

'Tell me where he is' she says.

Jesus calls her by her name: 'Mary.'

Mary recognises that it is Jesus,

'Teacher!'

Mary runs to tell the others,

'I have seen the Lord!'

Talk together

- How can we share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others?

Prayer activity

Respond to God's call by making a flag with a sticky label and a cocktail stick. Write your name on it and place your flag in a sand tray.