



## St Patrick's RC Primary Parents' Religious Education Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! From this September Religious Education (RE) in EYFS and KS1 has been taught using a new Catholic RE programme called 'Lighting the Path' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese. The implementation of the new programme will be phased in over the next two academic years. Children in Early Years and Year One and Year Two will be taught RE using Lighting the Path this year, followed by all Key Stage Two classes from September 2026. Lighting the Path follows a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.

These are dates from the Catholic Church's calendar that mark or celebrate significant days or feast days during this half term:

6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>St. Aelred of Rievaulx</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>St. Anthony (desert Father)</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>St. Agnus</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>St Francis de Sales</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Ss Timothy and Titus</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>St. John Bosco</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Presentation of the Lord</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>St. Blaise</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>St Agatha</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Ss Paul Miki and Companions</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Our Lady of Lourdes</b>



*'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path' Psalm 119:105*

### **Nursery & Reception – Galilee to Jerusalem**

Children in the Early Years will begin this term learning about the visit of the wise men to Jesus that we celebrate on 6<sup>th</sup> January. They will then consider what life was like for Jesus as he grew up in first century Galilee as well as hearing stories about his presentation in the Temple and his teaching in the Temple at the age of 12. Children will learn that God's love for all is shown through the words and actions of Jesus as he goes about 'doing good' in his public ministry. Notable bible stories this half term include the call of the first followers, Jesus and the children, the feeding of 5000 and the parable of the Good Samaritan.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- talking to your child about the gifts they have that help you and others
- spending time reading some of these stories with your child

### **Year One – Galilee to Jerusalem**

Pupils will begin this term by exploring the life of Jesus through the stories that are found in Luke's gospel. Learning will focus on how Jesus is revealed as the 'light of the world' at his presentation in the Temple and how Jesus brings the light of God's love to all who encounter him as he goes about his public ministry. Pupils will explore how Jesus inspires awe and wonder in his first followers at a miraculous catch of fish, how he brings God's forgiveness in the story of Zacchaeus and how he shows that God welcomes all in his encounter with the children. Jesus is God's Good News!

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- talking about good news and sharing good news together
- play some games that Jesus would have played as a child: hide and seek, spinning tops, picking straws

### **Year 2 – Galilee to Jerusalem**

In this branch, pupils will hear the story of Jesus' baptism by John at the start of his public ministry and how his message of the good news of God's love is encountered in parables and miracles which reveal something of the nature of God and hint at the identity of Jesus. Jesus is someone who offers people hope of a second chance through forgiveness and healing. Pupils will also encounter stories where Jesus actions and teaching did not delight everyone laying the ground for pupils to begin to understand why Jesus becomes a stumbling block for many as he journeys toward Jerusalem and Good Friday.

#### At home

You could help your children by:

- talking about the importance of water as a sign of new life
- read stories about Jesus offering a second chance, e.g. Zacchaeus