



March 2019

The Season of Lent

Dear Parents,

The word Lent comes from the Old English word *lencten* meaning "spring time" which lends itself to the Modern English word 'lengthen'. This reference to the turning of Winter into Spring (when the days lengthen and the cycle of life is being renewed once more) is very welcome to us all. There are so many things around us in our homes, parishes and school during this season to be thankful for. The increasing sunlight, birdsong through the traffic, spring bulbs nudging their way through the earth and trees slowly beginning to show signs of coming to life are all signs.

These glimpses of new life are echoed in the season of Lent, through which the Church calls each one of us to reawaken our spiritual sensibilities and refocus on tending towards the Lord, who calls us 'Come back to me, with all your heart'. Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, brings to mind the importance of being thankful for everything, including life itself which is a pure gift. The journey of Lent is a journey towards the new way of living that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, promised to us through the power of our most celebrated season and greatest feast - Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. The boys are busy planning their Lenten promises and are keen 'to do' things as well as give things up in preparation and we are helping them to think of interesting ways to keep Jesus in mind, as the term progresses.

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we support your sons in their Religious Education.

Special intentions for our prayers from the Church's prayer cycle for Lent:

Candidates for the sacraments

Women's World Day of Prayer (1st March)

The needy and the hungry of the world

Penitents and Wanderers

Dates from the Church's calendar:

1 st March	St. David , Patron of Wales	25 th March	The Annunciation
	Women's World Day of Prayer	31 st March	Fourth Sunday of Lent
6 th March	Ash Wednesday	7 th April	Fifth Sunday of Lent
10 th March	First Sunday of Lent	14 th April	Palm Sunday
17 th March	Second Sunday of Lent	18 th April	Holy Thursday
19 th March	St. Joseph	19 th April	Good Friday
24 th March	Third Sunday of Lent	21 st April	Easter Sunday

J1 - Celebrating the Mass

"In the Eucharist we participate in the Lord's sacrifice. We are joined to the eternal praise and thanksgiving he offers as Son of the Father, and to his sacrifice on the cross. We receive him as our life and food, a promise of the eternal banquet of heaven. 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."

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J1 will learn that the Last Supper was the First Mass. They will learn that Jesus handed over His life for each one of us and made a New Covenant with us. They will also study the different parts of the Mass and think about their own parish church and the school chapel as very important places in their lives.

At home:

You could help your son by:

- **Helping him to pray the words of the Mass with you on Sundays**
- **Helping him to focus at the key moment of the Mass: The Consecration**

J2 - Jesus the Saviour

Jesus "is truly God and, as a man, truly human. His life, death and resurrection are the central event of all human history and at the heart of faith. His cross is the sign of his unique offering of himself for each and every human being."

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J2 will learn that Jesus is truly God and, as man truly human and learn that Jesus came to share our life so that we can share his life. They will learn that when Jesus died on the cross he took away our sins, learn what happened in Holy week and learn what happened on Easter Sunday.

At Home:

You could help your children by:

- **reading the stories of Jesus' last week with them**
- **visiting church during Holy Week for the Easter Triduum**

J3 - Reconciliation

"There is no limit to God's grace, nor to God's mercy and forgiveness when we fail. Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing. Reconciliation makes present Jesus' call to conversion, involves contrition for our sins, confession of them to a priest, and absolution spoken by the priest in the name of Jesus Christ. In the celebration of the sacrament we acknowledge (confess) God's holiness and mercy and are reconciled to God and the community of the Church."

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J3 will learn that sin is a failure of love and learn that when we sin we hurt ourselves and others and damage our relationship with God. They will begin to understand that God loves and forgives us if we are truly sorry and learn that God heals our friendship with him and others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will learn how we can prepare ourselves to receive this Sacrament more fully and review what happens during the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

At Home

You could help your son by:

- **Making sure he attends the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you to prepare for Easter**
- **talking to him about what strengthens his friendships**
- **reading the stories of Jesus' last week with him**

J4 - Jesus, the Messiah

Jesus' life, death and resurrection are the central event of all human history and at the heart of faith. His cross is the sign of his unique offering of himself for each and every human being. As truly God, Jesus reveals the truth and love of God; as truly human, Jesus reveals the perfect response to God and intimate communion with his Father - 'Abba'."

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J4 will learn that Jesus healed many people, brought others back to life and that His miracles led many to believe that he was the Son of God. They will learn that Jesus' enemies plotted to have him arrested, and learn about the arrest and the trial before the high priest. They will learn about Jesus' trial before Pilate and learn that Jesus was condemned to death and crucified. They will also learn what Jesus said before he died and about His glorious resurrection. The boys will have the chance to reflect on the miracles of Jesus. They will also reflect on the meaning of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus for us today.

At Home

You could help your son by:

- **discuss what they have found out in class and how it will affect their life.**
- **look at the Stations of the Cross in your parish church with them and talk about their relevance for us today**

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

In each classroom the prayer intentions of Pope Francis for the relevant month are displayed for the boys to use in daily prayer time, in language appropriate to their age. I include them here for your information should you wish to use them at home in your family:

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Evangelisation: Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities:

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.



'Legging It for Lent' (or Swimming it!)

Our fundraising activity this term will be on Monday 8th April when the boys will do a sponsored run (or swim) to raise money for the Catholic Children's Society, Westminster, which does such marvellous work in supporting families in need in our diocese. This event has always been very generously supported in the past and the boys are looking forward to encouraging you to 'dig deep' in support of them, and of course children and their families in Westminster.



ROSARY CLUB



In Rosary Club on Thursday mornings many boys have now completed making their first rosaries and have asked to make more! One of the nicest aspects of the Rosary Club is how the different year groups mix with and help each other out, forging new friendships in doing so.

The Rosary Club Prefects deserve special mention and will receive a Commendation each for their kindness, helpfulness and leadership of the Club, for which I am very grateful. They are real examples of Christian service to others, which happens in so many little ways around Junior House. So very well done to Alexis, Freddie, Jasper, Jonathan, Joseph, Lorenzo and Robert. Recently, we have been learning about the Joyful Mysteries, which celebrate events in the life of Our Lady and, of course, Jesus' early life.

Assuring you all of our daily prayers for you and your families, Veni Sancte Spiritus, Veni per Mariam.

Respice Finem!
Ms S O'Shea
RE department