



# ST MONICA'S RE NEWSLETTER

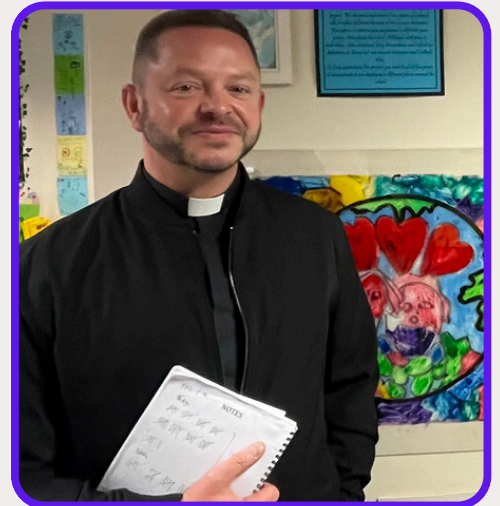
## A LOOK BACK AT SPRING 2026

Currently in school, we are journeying through the special season of Lent. This is an important time in the Church's liturgical calendar, when we are called to prepare our hearts for Easter through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness.

Throughout this term, all classes have been reflecting deeply on the meaning of Lent. The children have explored how they can grow closer to God by making good choices, helping others, and showing love in their daily lives. Through a range of engaging activities, including role play, poetry, artwork, and Bible readings, they have also been exploring the Easter scriptures and developing a deeper understanding of Jesus' journey towards the cross.

As part of this time of reflection, our Spring Term will conclude with a special occasion for our Year 3 pupils, who will retell the Passion of Christ in church next Friday as part of our Easter Pageant. I hope you enjoy this Newsletter, which outlines what your children have been learning and how you can celebrate this at home or in church.

Miss McGiveron



### A Message from Father Ged:

Dear families,

Lent is a special time in our faith and in St Monica's. It is the time when we get ready for Easter. During Lent, we try to grow a little closer to God each day. I want us all to consider three special ways our children can celebrate Lent:

- We can pray – Maybe you can say a short prayer in the morning before school, or thank God at night for something good in your day.
- We can fast – This might mean giving up a treat, spending less time on screens, or trying not to complain. Fasting helps us remember that God is the most important thing in our lives.
- We can give – You could share your toys, help at home without being asked, include someone who feels left out, or give to those in need. Small acts of kindness make a big difference.

Remember, Lent is about making space in our hearts for Jesus. God is always ready to help us. Let us continue to walk these forty days together with faithful hearts, helping one another and looking forward to the holiness of Easter.

God bless you all, Father Ged



# Branches 3 and 4 Galilee to Jerusalem and Desert to Garden: February to March 2026



## Home Activities

Jesus wants us to take extra care of people who do not have food, water or homes. How can we do this? Discuss how our children can help others in our parish and help make the world a better place.



## Early Years

This term, the children have listened to these key Bible stories: The Wise Men, Jesus Welcoming the Little Children, Jesus Blessing the Children and The Feeding of the 5000. Our children also learned that Jesus is God's son and came for everyone and we follow his example to help the poor and hungry. The children learned the 'Glory Be' prayer.

The children also learned that Lent is a time to care for others, Jesus died on a cross and it is a sad time, Jesus was given new life by God his Father, Jesus rose and everyone celebrated. Pupils were introduced to the simple signs of Easter, such as an Easter garden, and learnt about different cultures and traditions during Lent and Easter.



## Home Activities

Jesus is the light to all nations. Think about how you can spread the light of Jesus in your family. As part of the unit the children listened to the Story of the Widow's Mite. Why not discuss what they have learnt from this?



## Year 1

Our Year 1 children heard Bible stories from Luke's Gospel, including: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, The Finding of Jesus in the Temple, and Zacchaeus. They learned that Jesus is the Light of all Nations and that the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus, known in Britain as Candlemas, is celebrated by Christians around the world. In living out the faith, children learned that all Christians are called to follow Jesus, share the Good News, and care for one another.

Children also focused on Ash Wednesday as the beginning of Lent, a special time for prayer, fasting, and helping others, as Jesus taught us. They heard Bible stories including Jesus being tempted in the desert for 40 days. Some key stories from Holy Week were also introduced: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, The Last Supper, and The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.



## Home Activities

A saint is an ordinary person who does extraordinary things.

Do you have a saint name in your name or family. Research a saint that is special to you. Make a sorry card for someone you may need to apologise to or write a sorry prayer card to God.



### Year 2

The children heard Bible stories including Jesus' baptism, the preaching of John the Baptist, and the choice of the twelve. They were also introduced to miracles and parables. They learned about the Church's teaching that when people make bad choices, or sin, they turn away from God. They learned that Jesus taught that God loves and forgives and that being sorry helps us to change and become better.

The children knew that the Church teaches that Lent is a time of preparing our hearts and minds for Easter through reconciliation and forgiveness. They learned the importance of saying sorry to God and others for their sins. They heard that the Church teaches that the Easter Vigil Mass is the high point of the year and is rich in symbols of light and darkness.



## Home Activities

When his friends asked Jesus how to pray he taught them the Lord's Prayer. Pray the Our Father together as a family. Find out about some different cultural practices associated with Holy Week..



### Year 3

Children explored the story of the Epiphany (the Three Wise Men). They listened to and learned about some of Jesus' miracles and parables. They also learned that praying the Our Father helps Christians to continue building the Kingdom with Jesus. The children learned about the lives of saints who worked to build the Kingdom of God.

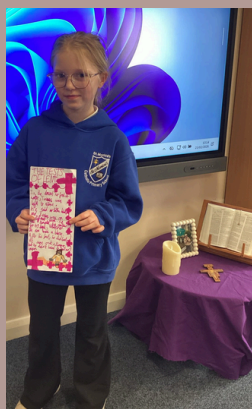
They focused on the Miracle of the Loaves and The Last Supper. The children learned how Jesus showed his love by giving the gift of himself, transformed into bread and wine. They learned that he made his apostles priests of his promise when he told them to "Do this in remembrance of me."



## Home Activities

Think about what you would like to pray to God for and how you can forgive others.

Think about how Lent is a time to live out the works of mercy (e.g. by praying for someone who is sad, being patient, fasting, giving time or money to those in need).



### Year 4

Children explored why Catholics say the the Creed at Mass, how Catholics experience God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and how the Anointing of the Sick brings God's strength to those who are ill.

The children explored Lent's themes of forgiveness and reconciliation, and the idea that devotion to God leads a person to do good works. They also looked at Holy Week in St Matthew's Gospel, seeing how St Matthew presents Jesus as the servant-Messiah. The children are starting preparation for their First Holy Communion.



## Home Activities

As a family, choose a kind action to do for someone else during the week. Talk together about special times when your family remembers something important (a celebration, anniversary, or special person). Discuss why remembering matters.

## Year 5

In the Mission topic, children learned what it means to continue Jesus' mission in their daily lives. They explored how people from different Christian traditions work together in unity, known as ecumenism, and how everyone is called to show love, kindness, and service to others, as Jesus taught. Through stories, discussion, and activities, the children reflected on how they could make a positive difference in their homes, school, and wider community.

In the Memorial and Sacrifice topic, children developed their understanding of the Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice. They learned why the Mass is such a central and sacred celebration for Catholics, what happens during the liturgy, and how it helps believers remember and give thanks for Jesus' love. The lessons encouraged thoughtful reflection and deepened the children's appreciation of remembrance, gratitude, and faith.



## Home Activities

Choose a short Bible verse to learn as a family and display it somewhere at home. Talk about ways your family shows love and unity each day.

## Year 6

In the Sources topic, children learned about the Bible as the special book of the Church. They explored why the Bible is central to Christian life, how it is used in worship and daily practice, and how its stories and teachings guide believers in their faith. Through discussion, storytelling, and a range of activities, the children deepened their understanding of how the Bible reveals

God's love and supports people in living out Christian values. In the Unity topic, children explored how the Eucharist enables people to live in communion with one another and with God. They learned how sharing in the Eucharist brings Christians together as one family and strengthens their sense of belonging to the Church community. The lessons encouraged thoughtful reflection on friendship, togetherness, and care for others, helping children recognise how faith can inspire unity in everyday life.





# Key Dates in Spring Term

## **Ash Wednesday (18<sup>th</sup> February)**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a special season in the Church's year when we prepare for Easter. It is a time for thinking about how we can grow closer to God through prayer, kindness, and making good choices.

## **Palm Sunday (29<sup>th</sup> March)**

Palm Sunday is a special day in the Church's year that marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter. On Palm Sunday, we remember when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was welcomed by crowds of people who waved palm branches and shouted with joy. They believed Jesus was someone very special, sent by God.

## **Maundy Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

Maundy Thursday is an important day during Holy Week. It remembers the Last Supper, when Jesus shared a special meal with His disciples before He died.

## **Good Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> April)**

Good Friday is a very important and solemn day during Holy Week. On this day, we remember when Jesus died on the cross. It is called "Good" Friday because we believe that through His death, Jesus showed the greatest act of love. He gave His life so that people could be forgiven and brought closer to God.

## **Easter Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> April)**

Easter Sunday is the most joyful and important celebration in the Catholic calendar. On this day, we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, showing that love is stronger than death and that God brings new life and hope to the world.

## Friday 20th March - Headteacher's Hot Chocolate Winners

Nursery	Roman Carragher - For your cheerful attitude and for being a wonderful member of our class. You bring positivity, kindness, and a smile to all around you, Roman!	3R	Noah S - for an excellent attitude in school and in Church as we rehearse for our Easter Pageant. He is going to be a wonderful disciple! What a superstar - a superb pupil. Well done, Noah!
RA	Johnny Devine - for showing a brilliant attitude to his learning in RE, remembering key scripture. Johnny has also shown kindness and care to all his peers this week, amazing work!	3G	Leighton - for fantastic resilience when improving his handwriting. Well done and keep working hard on this! A lovely young man with a smile and heart that makes everybody else happy.
RH	Leo McCarthy - For having a fantastic day on our trip to the farm. Leo showed determination and tried new experiences with a big smile. Well done, Leo. We are so proud of you!	4W	Millie Hulse - for her caring and helpful attitude. Millie is always willing to lend a hand and take on class jobs with a smile. Your kindness, responsibility, and eagerness to help make our classroom a better place every day! Thank you Millie.
1H	Ruben Kelly for his super writing and showing a real increase in confidence when asking questions. Well done, Ruben!	4T	Kyle Lewis - for great progress on TT Rockstars. He has been working hard on his times tables and has reached the 25 club for this week! Well done Kyle!
1T	Well done, Arthur, for making a conscientious effort in everything you do. We are so proud of how hard you are trying every day. Keep up the fantastic work!	5GB	Jack Quayle- For super sewing this week and finding a talent for something that he didn't know he had! Well done Jack!
2M	Shea Small - For showing determination with his handwriting and his finger spaces. He feels super proud of himself and so he should! Go SUPER SHEA!	5M	Jacob Davison - For his aspiration he shows in all lessons. He listens carefully to instructions and shows respect to others when they are speaking. A true role model!
2C	Thomas Rose- For his creativity and imagination in writing, and for the dedication and effort he has shown in improving his handwriting. What a lovely pupil!	6M	Florence Mccaldron - she is always a loyal, caring and supportive friend to others and always brings a positive attitude into school each and everyday.
Mr Gouldbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leila Hoang - for exceptional History work - showcasing superb investigation skills and knowledge - your book is outstanding, what a role model!</li> <li>Nora Knibbs - for dancing in our St Patrick's Day assembly. Such talent and confidence! You will go far, Nora.</li> </ul>	6L	Rosie Norman - For having a positive and warm attitude towards school. She is a bright pupil and a helpful member of the class who will go far. Well done, Rosie,
Mrs Hough	Sophia Wherry - for completing 100 junior parkruns. She shows resilience and aspiration each week. Well done Sophia.	6Q	Louie McKibbin - For working consistently hard in both his English and his maths. He is a delight to teach and always shows a lovely, kind attitude in school.