

1st May 2020



Value of the month – Peace

Religious Education Weekly Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new weekly newsletter where we hope to share some ideas to support RE learning while we are all apart.

May is the Month of Mary

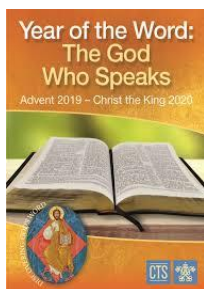
In his Gospel, Luke tells us that Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her (Luke 1:38).

In May, we remember Mary. All Gabriel needed was Mary’s answer. Knowing that God had chosen her, because of her faith she knew that she would be able to do what He asked of her. We look up to Mary because through all our questions and doubts, we are reminded to have faith and to rest assured that God will always look after us.

This period at home might be the perfect time to come together and to pray the **rosary**, or part of it (perhaps a decade) each week. www.teachingcatholickids.com explains clearly what the mysteries are for each decade, and also explains the order of the prayers used when praying the rosary.



Lectio Divina and “Year of the Word”



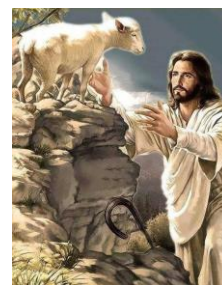
Lectio Divina is a time of quiet listening and prayer, when we allow ourselves to listen to God speaking to us. Both pupils and staff have enjoyed taking part in this over the last few years.

We sit in a group, light a candle and one person reads a short text for the first time. People may wish to share the word or phrase that has come to them. The text can be read aloud once more, before people reflect upon it, and they may want to share their thoughts and perhaps apply it to their own lives to understand God’s message to them. The session ends with a prayer and the Sign of the Cross.

We have been asked to focus on the Gospel of Matthew this year, and it is perfect for *Lectio Divina*. I do hope you will try it with your family; it is a very peaceful 20 minutes, or so. Every week, I shall suggest a piece of scripture you could focus on, but do feel free to use ANY verses you may wish; I have chosen **Matthew 5:13-16**.

The Gospel Reading for Sunday 3rd May 2020

This Sunday is “Good Shepherd Sunday” and the Gospel reading is from **John 10:1-10**. Please feel free to use the following link to access an assembly based on this Sunday’s Gospel reading <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/living-your-best-life>. This resource is from Ten:Ten, a service which aims to enrich the Catholic ethos and identity of schools through quality resources.



“Big Questions”

As the current RE topic on **Pentecost** draws to an end, several “big” questions could be focused upon to show a deeper understanding of what’s been learnt. These could be used as a discussion point as they do encourage us to think about why we are learning this topic:

Reception: What is good news?	Year 1: Do we need holidays and hollydays?
Year 2: Why should we spread Good News?	Year 3: What’s the use of energy?
Year 4: What’s so important about new life?	Year 5: How can energy transform?
Year 6: What do I want to witness to in my life?	

VE Day 8th May 2020

Next Friday, 8th May 2020, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of **VE Day**(Victory in Europe Day).

Do spend some time with your family discussing this incredibly important occasion. The following link

<https://teacheasy.org.uk/offers.html> has two short films produced by the Wrexham Diocese which may be used with KS2 children, especially year 5 and year 6: the first one celebrates D-Day, and the second one focuses on VE Day. The authors have tried to make events such as war and the Jewish Holocaust appropriate for children, but perhaps **check the videos first to ensure you are happy for your children to see them.**



Finally, we have received some messages from our families, staff and friends who have very sadly been affected by this awful virus. If you would like a prayer request for family members affected by the virus, please do let us know. Several sites are listed on our website that may help with explanations for children and adults on the issues of the virus and on dealing with bereavement at this time.

I hope that you have found this newsletter helpful. On behalf of Mrs Wheeler and all the staff, I pray that we all keep well and stay safe, and that we will be together again in the not too distant future.

Nanda Fawcett