**April 2023**

**For most schools, the last few days of Lent fall during the Easter holidays and as we begin the new Summer term there are only two weeks left of April. Eastertide celebration is in the air, along with maybe the remains of chocolate Easter eggs…well deserved after all the hard work and effort of Lenten preparations!**

Easter Sunday brought the **joy** that Christ is risen, and as we rejoice with renewed **hope**, Jesus brings us the gifts of **peace** and **love** to share with others. As Fr Paschal Uche said in his final Lenten message for children, we don’t just stop all our Lenten practices at the end of Lent: with Jesus at our centre, we find our reason to be. Eastertide brings a renewed vision, and the risen Christ is ready to greet us just where we are.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout April and suggests ways to support your family prayer times. We wish you abundant Easter blessings of joy, hope, peace and love for you and your family.

**The Eastertide Series**

The Eastertide assemblies, focused on Jesus’ gifts of joy, hope, peace and love, take us all the way to Pentecost. Through these, we explore the Sunday Gospels as Jesus prepares His disciples to take over His mission.

To gain an idea of the Eastertide series, we have provided some more information about each assembly, a link to where you can read the Gospel and some prompt questions which you might like to explore further with your child/ren:

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| **Those Who Have Not Seen**w/c 17th AprilThomas struggled to believe in Jesus’ Resurrection until he saw for himself. As ‘those who have not seen’, this first Eastertide assembly invites children to experience moving from bafflement to understanding, learning along the way that Jesus has room for all our questions and gives us His peace. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A19-31&version=NRSVACE> |
| * Jesus said to His disciples, ***“You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.”*** Thomas found it hard to believe before he could see with his own eyes. We cannot see Jesus with our eyes, so who helps us to believe in Jesus? *(We find out about Jesus through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, and by listening to and asking questions of parents/teachers/priests etc.)*
* What questions do you have about Jesus? *(Encourage your child/ren to ask questions, answering honestly where you are able. You might want to explain that some questions may be difficult to answer and/or that you might need help from someone else to answer them)*
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| **From Sad To Glad**w/c 24th AprilIn the Gospel, Jesus opened the eyes of two disciples as He broke bread with them. Through seeing different perspectives in illusion images, children learn that sometimes we need help seeing things as they are. Jesus gives us new eyes to see the joy, hope, peace and love of Easter. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A13-35&version=NRSVACE> |
| * Why do you think the disciples didn’t recognise Jesus as they walked together? *(The Bible does not explain why. Perhaps Jesus’ appearance was different, or the disciples were so sad that they couldn’t see clearly.)*
* Jesus helped His disciples to understand by spending time with them on the road to Emmaus, talking and listening to them. How could you give your time to help others? *(Discuss ideas, for example, spending quality time with others, listening carefully to what they are saying, sharing ideas etc.)*
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**Prayer**

*‘Jesus came among them and said, “Peace be with you.”’*

***John 20:26***

The first words Jesus said to His disciples after His resurrection were “Peace be with you”. The daily classroom prayers for the week commencing 17th April focus on Jesus’ gift of peace.

Children learn that the peace Jesus brings helps us to be calm and comforted at times of uncertainty, as well as helping us to be patient and kind to others.

Here is one of the prayers that you might want to use as part of your home prayer time:

**Jesus, thank you for being with me.**

**Jesus, bring me your gift of peace.**

**Help me to keep peace in my heart.**

**Amen**

**Christ is Risen,**

**He is Risen Indeed!**

Throughout Eastertide, we’ll be finishing all our assemblies by joyfully singing our Eastertide song. Perhaps you’d like to make this part of your prayer time too – you can enjoy the video as you pray or sing along with your child/ren!

[*https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/*](https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/)