

# January R.E. Newsletter



## A message from Fr. Etienne

Happy New Year!

We have nearly reached the end of the Sacrament of Reconciliation preparation and it is exciting to know that so many children will be making this important step on their journey of faith.



Please try your best to attend Sunday mass with your as they are all really enthusiastic and excited to be taking part in the life of the Parish and learning all about the life of the church. Coming to mass is a vital part of your children being ready to receive the Sacraments and know what they are all about.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Sacramental programmes or anything else your child might be asking about the Catholic faith, which you may not be sure about.

Finally, we are delighted to celebrate at the end of the month on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, the enrolment mass for our Year 6 children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*God Bless,*

*Fr. Etienne*

## January – The Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord

We started the year with a celebration mass of the Epiphany during school time on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January, followed by a Year 6 mass for the Epiphany on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you to all those of you who accompanied your child and shared in the mass; it was lovely to have your support. Well done to all our fantastic Year 6 readers and servers – you were super!

## La Posada

Last month, we talked to the children about the significance of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus. We had to be really patient and remind ourselves that Christmas doesn't begin until the birth of Our Saviour. During Advent, we were delighted to give children the opportunity of taking Mary and Joseph home for the evening to offer them a bed for the night on their long and tiring journey to Bethlehem. We called this the 'Travelling Posada'. Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn', and is also the title for a Mexican Advent

celebration in which two young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house in their village to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus and request that the newborn baby be given a room. On Christmas Eve they would re-enact a community play and bring figures of Mary and Joseph to be placed in a crib at church. We were delighted to be able to share this celebration by having our own version of this at St John Vianney and it was wonderful to listen to all the experiences that children shared when engaging in family worship at home. Thank you to all those who gave Mary and Joseph a home for the night – if you didn't get the chance this year then you will have the opportunity for Advent 2018!



## Advent Fundraising

A HUGE thank you for supporting all of our fundraising events throughout last half term. It was overwhelming to see how involved the children were with engaging in a variety of sponsored events and sales etc. As a school, we raised a whopping £1512, which is a fantastic achievement. This is where all your kind donations will be gratefully received;

- Mrs Allen will be giving £600 to the school in Nepal that she visits, which will help to provide resources in the classrooms. She will next be visiting the school during the February half-term and will be taking lots of photos to share with you so you can see how valuable your donations are.

The remaining funds have been used for CAFOD World Gifts;

- £750 is going to be spent on a community Water Supply.
- Foundation Stage have bought 4 'Brilliant Birds' at £10 each.
- KS1 have bought 4 'Teach Someone to Read' packs at £10 each.
- LKS2 have bought 4 vegetable gardens at £10 each.
- UKS2 have bought 4 'Fabulous Football' gifts at £10 each.



For more information on the gifts that you have bought, please visit:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage/group-fundraising>

### **Sacramental Programmes Update**

The Reconciliation Programme is well under way and children have completed their first and second sessions during December. These sessions will continue during January and finish at the end of the month. Please remember to have your attendance record cards and bring your booklet to each session. Next on the Agenda is the Confirmation Programme for Year 6, which commences with a Welcoming Mass on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January – we hope to see as many of you all there! The sessions for the Sacrament of the Eucharist for Years 3 & 4 begins on 25<sup>th</sup> February. There will be three dates on which children can make their First Holy Communion that you will be able to select your preference for during the Parent Session after Sunday mass this month. This will be on a first come, first served basis, with a maximum allocation of 30 children for any one Sunday – details below.



### **Holy Communion Sundays:**

1. Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April
2. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May
3. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May



### **Class Masses and Gospel Readings**

The weekly class masses have been a great success – the children have all been actively involved, singing beautifully and remembering the mass responses. For the Spring Term, we will send you dates of masses for your child's year group and you will be invited to share the celebration with us. Details to follow!

### **Dates for your Diary!**

- **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January** - Years 4 & 5 Reconciliation Session 3 - **Parents will have the opportunity to sign up to their chosen Holy Communion Sunday at this session.**
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 3 Reconciliation Session 3
- **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January** - Year 3 Reconciliation Session 4 – **Parents will have the opportunity to sign up to their chosen Holy Communion Sunday at this session.**
- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** - Years 4 & 5 Reconciliation Session 4
- **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January** – Welcome Mass for Year 6 Confirmation children
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January pm** (during school time) Year 4 & 5 children make their Sacrament of Reconciliation
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February pm** (during school time) Year 3 children make their Sacrament of Reconciliation