



SPRING TERM 2026



Welcome back from the Headteacher

I hope that you and your families had a joyful and restful Christmas, and that the season brought you peace, happiness, and special times together.

As we begin this new term, I would like to warmly welcome everyone back to school and wish you a happy and healthy New Year. The Christmas season reminds us of hope, kindness, and God's love, and we look forward to carrying these values with us as we continue our learning together this term.

The staff are excited to welcome the children back and to support them as they grow academically, spiritually, and socially. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership with the school—it is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to a positive and successful term ahead, working together in the spirit of our Catholic faith.

With best wishes and God's blessings,

Mrs Roney

PRAYER & LITURGY DATES



Class	Date
Year 3	14.01.2026
Year 6	28.01.2026
Class Masses take place at OLA Church	
All parents/carers welcome to attend.	

Catholic Life

The Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on **6 January** and is an important day in the Church's calendar. The word *Epiphany* means "to reveal" or "to show." On this feast day, we celebrate how Jesus was revealed to the world, not only to His own people but to everyone.

The Gospel tells us about the **Wise Men (also called the Magi)** who followed a star to find the baby Jesus. When they arrived, they brought gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh**, showing that they recognised Jesus as a king, as God, and as one who would one day suffer for us.

For children, the Epiphany helps them understand that:

- ❖ Jesus came for **all people**, everywhere
- ❖ God guides us, just as the star guided the Wise Men
- ❖ We are called to seek Jesus and offer our own gifts, such as kindness, love, and generosity

In school, we mark the Feast of the Epiphany through prayer, learning, and reflection, helping the children to think about how they can follow Jesus' example in their daily lives.

Let us pray to God for our needs and the needs of others; our family, neighbourhood, and the world.

Please join us in prayer

Lord of hope, bless your people so that, faithful to the Gospel, we may hasten to proclaim your Word and witness to our faith. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Religious Education Spring Term 1

The information below gives an overview of the third 'branch' from the new Religious Education Directory being taught during Spring 1 – 'Galilee to Jerusalem'.

You may wish to talk to your child about their understanding and of the topics covered and share the 'Learning at Home' activities with them.

EYFS

In EYFS, children will know that God is Love. They will learn about the Magi visiting Jesus with gifts and Jesus is God's son who came for everyone. They will know that Jesus' birth is celebrated at Christmas. Children will understand Christians believe that Jesus grew up in a loving family and Jesus, Joseph and Mary were known as the Holy Family. They will know that Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone.

Year 1 and Year 2

In Year 1 children will learn that the Wise Men visit Jesus and that Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone. Jesus takes care of everyone. In this branch, children will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God. They will learn about Jesus's life and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles, and teachings. They will also learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus.

In Year 2 children will deepen their knowledge about who Jesus is and understand how he teaches about the nature of God through parables and miracles. Children will know that the Sacrament of Baptism welcomes people into a relationship with God in the Christian family. Children will learn about the Baptism of Jesus and think about how Christians use prayer as a way of turning back to God alongside the symbolism of water as a sign of cleansing and new birth.

Learning at home – How can you support your child at home?

- ❖ Read one of the following Gospel stories together and talk about it. **Parable of the Lost Sheep** – talks about God's care for everyone. **Jesus Calls His Disciples** – discuss what it means to follow Jesus and be kind and caring. **Miracles like feeding the 5,000** – ask what they teach us about Jesus' compassion and God's care.
- ❖ **Questions** – What happened in the story? How did Jesus help people? How can we show kindness like Jesus?
- ❖ Create a poster titled "**Jesus' Teachings for Today**" with short sentences and pictures.

Religious Education Spring Term 1

Year 3 and Year 4

In Year 3 children will learn about the Gospel of St Matthew and how it is divided into seven books. The first contains the birth and infancy narratives, the last describes Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, and the five books in between give an account of the life and ministry of Jesus. The scripture that the children will read will give them the knowledge that Jesus shows God's love through his actions (miracles), Jesus teaches us how to live (parables) and God's kingdom is about love, forgiveness, trust and care for everyone.

Children will know that Epiphany means to reveal. In everyday speech we sometimes refer to 'epiphany moments' in our own lives when we suddenly realise something or understand something we didn't know before. Following the Christmas season, the Sunday gospels cover a series of epiphanies in the account of his baptism and the wedding feast at Cana.

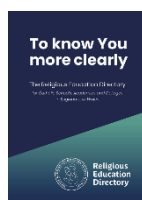
In Year 4 children will consider Jesus' question to Peter, 'Who do you say I am?' They will also reflect on Jesus as the servant Messiah and how he announces the Kingdom of Heaven to those at the edge of society. Alongside learning from Scripture, children will gain the knowledge and understand the historical and cultural context in which Jesus' healings occurred.

Year 5 and Year 6

Year 5 and Year 6 will continue to use the Come and See scheme of work. They will be studying the two themes of Local Church (Community) and Eucharist (Relating). Each class will approach the themes through different topics.

In Year 5 children will learn about MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism). They will understand MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice.

In Year 6 children will learn about SOURCES – the Bible being the special book of the Church. They will understand the meaning of UNITY - the Eucharist enabling people to live in communion.



Come
and
See

Learning at home – How can you support your child at home?

- ❖ Draw a picture of your favourite moment from Jesus' ministry — with Jesus and the people He met.

Ask your child:

- ❖ How can you **show kindness** to others today?
- ❖ Can you think of a time when you had to **forgive someone** like Jesus teaches?
- ❖ Encourage them to **act out small ways of kindness** (sharing, helping at home, saying sorry).

You can use simple prayers such as:

- ❖ "Thank You, Jesus, for loving everyone."
- ❖ "Help me to be kind like You."

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives. Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop. Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

Key Dates Spring Term 1

6th January – Epiphany

11th January – Baptism of our Lord

18th -25th January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

24th January – World Day of Education

25th January – World Leprosy Day

27th January – World Holocaust Remembrance Memorial Day

31st – 8th February – National Storytelling Week

2nd February – Presentation of the Lord

8th February – St Josephine Bakhita

9th – 15th February Children's Mental Health Week

11th February – Our Lady of Lourdes

17th February – Shrove Tuesday

17th February – Ramadan Begins

17th February – Chinese New Year

17th February – Random Act of Kindness Day

18th February – Ash Wednesday

22nd February – First Sunday in Lent

22nd February – Feast of St Peter the Apostle