

LENT

WHAT DOES THE CURRICULUM SAY ABOUT LENT AND EASTER? LEVEL 4

Teacher's notes



These statements are from the new Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland and are taken from the Strand; Liturgy and Prayer. Individual class teachers can decide which of the knowledge and concepts to explore in greater detail with their class group/s during the Lenten and Easter Seasons. The resources offered this year will respond to some of the knowledge and concepts outlined by the curriculum at each level. Relevant knowledge and concepts from the other Strands will be used and indicated where appropriate.

- Lent is a time of repentance and reconciliation which reminds Christians of Jesus' call to 'repent and believe in the gospel' (SC 109; CCC 540).
- By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.
- The Church celebrates Lent as a season of renewing our commitment to the mission of Jesus/the Reign of God.
- Lent is a time to recall or prepare for Baptism (SC 109).
- Lent is a time for Christians to review how they live.
- Lent is a time when we participate in gestures of reconciliation including concern for the poor.
- The crucifix is a symbol of Jesus' love for all people.
- Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are known as the Easter Triduum, which means three days.
- The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with the Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday.
- Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus' death and Resurrection, his glorification and the sending of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1163).
- Easter celebrates Jesus' Resurrection: the victory of life over death, good over evil.
- The Paschal candle reminds us that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and has triumphed over sin and death.
- At the Easter vigil the Church awaits the Resurrection and then celebrates it in the Sacraments.
- Easter liturgy of light. Concepts of light and darkness, Easter candle, relate Easter to Baptism – receiving and living the light of Jesus. Jesus is the light of the world.
- Four parts of the Easter Vigil: the service of light, the liturgy of the word, the liturgy of Baptism, and liturgy of the Eucharist.



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*The Ash Wednesday Prayer Service, available on www.kandle.ie offers an opportunity to reflect on the opportunity offered to us in the season of Lent to turn back to God and live as friends of Jesus or **'to repent and believe in the gospel.'** It also suggests that the children are given a template to use for writing down their Lenten Promise. This template can be found on **page 6** and completed at home or in school after a discussion based on the text on **pages 4 and 5.***

Talk to the children about how they might 'look up their hearts and minds to God by spending time in prayer this Lent, how they might give up or start up something that will help them to think about the way they live as followers of Jesus, how they might 'hand up' something to help others who are in need. This discussion will help the children to understand the nature of the Lenten season and Jesus' call to each one of us to change and grow through their faith in him.

CHRISTIAN FAITH STRAND LEVEL 4

- **The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his Baptism by John was the sign that he was the Messiah, the Son of God. (Matthew 3:1-17)**

*Use the information and activities on **pages 7-10** to explore this with the children*

LITURGY & PRAYER STRAND: LEVEL 4

- **By the solemn forty days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert**

WORD OF GOD STRAND LEVEL 4

- **Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted and he returned full of the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4: 1-15; Matthew 4:1-11)**

*Read the story of the time that Jesus spent in the desert on **page 11***

*This year Matthew's version of this gospel is read on the First Sunday of Lent. Talk about why you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. Focus on how Jesus responded to each of the temptations that Satan put in front of him. Ask them where they think all the responses Jesus made are written. Talk about how they think the time he spent in the desert helped him when he began his ministry in Galilee. Use the activity on **pages 12-13** to consolidate their learning.*



Lent is a time when we participate in gestures of reconciliation including concern for the poor.

Catholics work together with people of other faiths to promote human rights, social justice, good morals, peace and freedom (NA 3; DP 44).

Check out the excellent range of educational resources on

<http://www.trocaire.org/education/lent2017/primary> where this year the focus is on Trócaire's work with the people of Honduras.

LITURGY AND PRAYER STRAND: LEVEL 4:

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

- We use many terms to describe the sacrament of Christ's loving forgiveness. Three are: Confession, Penance, Reconciliation
- There are many forms of penance in the Christian life that bring about reconciliation with God and others. These include prayer, fasting and almsgiving
- (CCC 1434; RP 26).
- Sin is choosing to disobey God (CCC 386-87, 1850; RP 14, 17).
- Sin is forgetfulness and indifference toward God (RP 14, 18).
- We prepare for Reconciliation by examining our conscience (CCC 1484; RP 31).

There is a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation based on the Temptation of Jesus on pages 14 and 15. Lent gives us an opportunity to revisit this sacrament with the children and to explore some of the concepts outlined above. Help the children prepare by revising the Confiteor and Act of Sorrow prayers.

RESOURCE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus heals the man born blind

page 16

LITURGY AND PRAYER STRAND: LEVEL 4:

THE CHURCH YEAR

- Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are known as the Easter Triduum, which means three days.
- The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with the Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday.

Use the information and activities on pages 17-20 to explore this with the children

Use the Power Point; The Stations of the Cross on www.kandle.ie to revise or teach the Stations of the Cross to the children. If you would like to bring the children to the church during Lent to pray the Stations of the Cross there is a resource called Praying the Stations of the Cross on www.kandle.ie

LENT: FACTS AND FIGURES

ASH WEDNESDAY: A FAST DAY

The fasting rule applies to people between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine. Fasting means that we eat only one full meal and two small meals during the day. We eat nothing between meals. Fasting also means that we don't eat meat. Everyone over fourteen is asked to fast from meat.

FORTY DAYS

The season of Lent lasts for forty days. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the day before Palm Sunday. During these forty days we are given an opportunity to grow and change through prayer, fasting and almsgiving so that we can prepare for Easter.

ASHES

The ashes used to mark our foreheads with the Sign of the Cross on Ash Wednesday are made from burning the palms that were used in churches on Palm Sunday last year. The ashes are then mixed with Holy Water. We wear the ashes to show that we believe in Jesus and want to be more like him.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

LENT is a time when people of the Christian community prepare to celebrate the most important feast in the Church year, Easter. It is a time for prayer and fasting from some of our favourite food or activity. It is also a time to give alms which means to give or do something for those who are in need of our help. When we do this we are trying to be like Jesus, who spent forty days and nights in the desert and who always helped those who were in need.

LENTEN Commitment 2017

It can be hard to decide what commitment to make for Lent and when we do decide whatever we promise to do can be hard to keep! Remember that God loves us always. He loves that we try to keep our Lenten Commitment and if we fail we can always start again.

THREE PILLARS OF LENT



Try to focus your Lenten Commitment on at least one of the three pillars of Lent

Think about how you could:

PRAY: spend a little more time with God

LIFT UP

FAST: from something that keeps you from spending time with others or being as active or healthy as you can be

GIVE UP

You could also decide to start doing something that will help you to be more like Jesus

START UP

GIVE ALMS: Adding to your Trócaire box, helping someone who does not have as much as you have, sharing with those you care about

HAND UP

Choosing the right Commitment to make for Lent can be challenging. Talk about the different options in class, with your friends and with your family. Consider if there is something that you could do together. Even if you break the promise you make remember that our God loves us to keep trying so just start again! Imagine how proud of yourself you will be on Easter Sunday if you have done what you said you would do! Write your Lenten Commitment in the heart and sign it. Ask someone at home to witness your signature so that they know what you are doing and can help by encouraging you during the next forty days. Cut out the heart and place it somewhere you can see it every day.



LENT 2017

My Commitment is...

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS



When Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptised by his cousin John it marked the beginning of his public **ministry**. Up until this time we believe that Jesus had been living in Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.

John had been baptising people with water. He did this by plunging them into the waters of the **River Jordan**, cleansing them of their sins and asking them to change the way they had been living. We can read more about this in the gospel **of St Matthew, chapter 3, verses 1-6 & 11- 17.**

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. **2** "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" **3** John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, "Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!" "**4** John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. **6** They confessed their sins, and he baptised them in the Jordan. **11** I baptise you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. **12** He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out." **13** At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him. **14** But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptised by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!" **15** But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed. **16** As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. **17** Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

Did you Know?

John the Baptist was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth who Mary went to visit after the Angel Gabriel told her that she was going to have a baby who was the Son of God

Many people began to think that **John the Baptist** was the one sent by God, the **Messiah** for whom the Jewish people had been waiting for a very long time. But John knew that there was another person who was greater than he. What verses in the text on page 7 tells us this?

The word Messiah, means 'anointed one.' The Messiah that Jewish people wait for is someone sent by God who will establish the kingdom of God here on earth. Jewish people do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Jesus began his public ministry after his baptism in the river Jordan. Ministry is another word for doing God's work. Jesus did this by telling the people about God's love for them, healing and caring for those who were sick and challenging people to live their lives by loving one another.



The river Jordan is an important part of the story of the land of the Bible. It runs through a valley between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.

The Jordan is important for the Jewish people because the tribes of Israel led by Joshua crossed the river to enter the Promised Land after years of wandering in the desert. You can read more about this in Joshua 3-4

It is important for **Christians** because it was where John the Baptist baptised Jesus.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: MATCH THE CORRECT MEANING WITH THE WORD

Ministry	Jesus' cousin, son of Elizabeth and Zechariah
River Jordan	service to God
John the Baptist	the anointed one
Messiah	the tribes of Israel crossed this to enter the Promised Land after wandering in the desert for 40 years

Use the map on page 8 to find some of the key places in Jesus' life and ministry.

1. Cana
2. Sea of Galilee
3. Jerusalem
4. Nazareth
5. Bethlehem
6. Jericho
7. Samaria
8. Judea

- a) Can you remember anything that happened in each one of these places? In groups of two or three try and find an event in Jesus' life for each place.
- b) Draw the map into your Religion copy and write a sentence to show that you know what Jesus did or what happened to him in each one of the places mentioned above.

The following bible references might help you:

Luke 2: 41-52; Matthew 19:1-2; John 4: 1-29; Matthew 4:18-22;
Luke 19:1-10; John 2:1-11; Luke 2:1-10; Matthew 2:19-23



TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING: ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Where was Jesus living until he began his public ministry?

2. Where was John baptising?

3. What was John wearing?

4. Which prophet of the Old Testament spoke about a man like John?

5. What did people think John might be?

6. How did John answer their questions?

7. In what form did the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus?

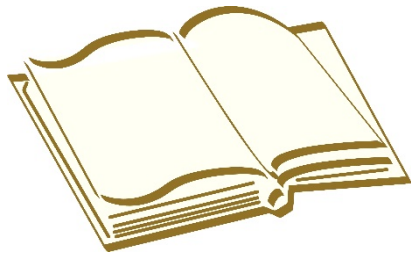
8. What did the voice from the heavens say?

9. Who do you think spoke from the heavens?

10. What were these two things signs of?

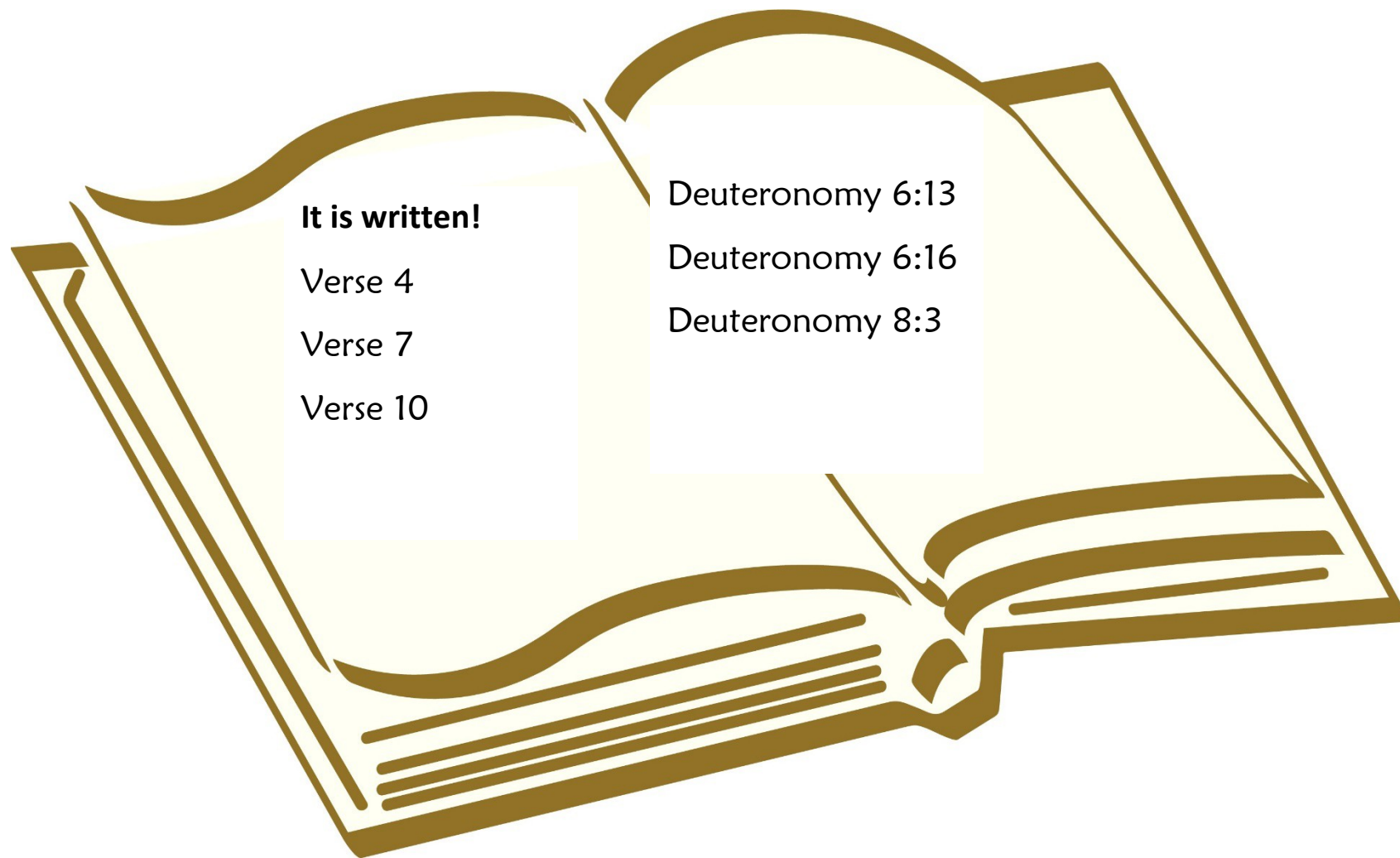
JESUS WAS LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO THE DESERT

MATTHEW 4:1-11



1 Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. **2** After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. **3** Then the Devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." **4** But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, "Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'" **5** Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, **6** and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says, "God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" **7** Jesus answered, "But the scripture also says, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" **8** Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. **9** "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me." **10** Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!" **11** Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him.





Find the verse in Matthew 4 and use your bible to match it with the correct verse from Deuteronomy

Put the temptations in the correct order by numbering them 1-3 and adding the appropriate verse reference from Matthew 4

'If you are God's Son,
throw yourself down'

'If you are God's Son,
order these stones to
turn into bread.'

'All this I will give you
if you kneel down and
worship me'

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This can be used by the teacher as a preparation for individual confession (Rite 1) or as a Penitential Service in the church where the children celebrate the sacrament according to Rite 2.

LEADER: Let us begin our time together by marking ourselves with the sign of our faith:

ALL: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

LEADER: On Ash Wednesday as the season of Lent began we were called to '*turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.*' The Sacrament of Reconciliation offers us an opportunity to think about the times when we haven't been faithful to the way Jesus wants us to live our lives and to say sorry for that. We know that God will hear our prayers and will always forgive our sins for he loves us with an everlasting love.

READER 1: Our reading tells us of how the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert where he was tempted by the devil. We are all tempted from time to time, but we know that God always understands and always forgives us for those times. Let us listen now to what St Matthew tells us...

READER 2: Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. Then the Devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, "Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.'" Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says, "God will give orders to his angels about you; they will hold you up with their hands, so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" Jesus answered, "But the scripture also says, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me." Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!" Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him.

REFLECTION

In the Gospel story Jesus was tempted and each time he was able to say no. The word '*devil*' can mean the one who is our enemy or the one who tempts us. The devil was

clever and tried to trick Jesus by quoting from the bible, but Jesus knew better. Sometimes we are tempted to do things that we shouldn't. We are tempted to turn away from God's way, to forget how we are called to live as followers of Jesus. For a few moments we will bow our heads and think of times that we have been tempted and have not been able to say no.

- Sometimes we take things that don't belong to us. Sometimes we take more than our fair share. Sometimes we don't share our toys or our sweets.
- Sometimes we are a bully. Sometimes we start fights. Sometimes we say hurtful things to our friends, our parents, our teachers, or our families.
- Sometimes we aren't always willing to make peace after a quarrel. Sometimes we hold grudges against other people. Are we willing to ask forgiveness when we have hurt our parents, or a brother or sister, a friend, by our selfish words or actions?
- Sometimes we don't pray. Sometimes we don't thank God for all that God has given us. Sometimes we don't use the gifts that God has given us and we can be lazy and unhelpful. Sometimes we don't pray for our parents, our brothers and sisters, and all the people who love us and take care of me.
- Sometimes we don't really pray with other people when we worship together in church. Sometimes we disturb others.

TOGETHER WE PRAY: I confess to almighty God....

LEADER:	We ask God to help us when we are tempted as Jesus was:	
READER:	For our forgetfulness	ALL: We are sorry
READER:	For our unkindness to one another	ALL: We are sorry
READER:	For our selfishness or refusal to help	ALL: We are sorry
READER:	For our broken promises	ALL: We are sorry
READER:	For our failure to do good	ALL: We are sorry

LEADER: Let us pray together our Act of Sorrow...
ALL: **Oh my God I thank you for loving me.....**

LEADER: Now let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us
ALL: **Our Father.....**
(Opportunity for Individual Confession, Penance and Absolution)

THE MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of how Jesus healed the man who was blind. Read the story in John 9: 1-11 and use the Word Bank to help you fill in the blanks

JESUS HEALS THE MAN WHO WAS BORN BLIND

As Jesus was _____ along, he saw a man who had been born blind. Jesus went to him. He _____ on the _____ and made some _____ with the spittle; he rubbed the mud on the man's _____ and told him to go and wash his face in the Pool of _____. So the man went, washed his face, and came back _____ to see. His neighbours and the _____ who had seen him begging before this, were surprised and asked one another, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and _____?' Some agreed that he was the one who used to beg because he could not see to _____. Others disagreed. They thought that he just like the blind man. But, then the man himself stood up and said, 'I am that _____.' Everyone wanted to know how he could now _____. He told them how the man called Jesus made some mud, rubbed it on his eyes and told him to go to Siloam and _____ his face. Then he said; 'so I _____, and as soon as I washed, I could see.'



WORD BANK

<i>Siloam</i>	<i>walking</i>	<i>Jesus</i>	<i>ground</i>	<i>dead</i>	<i>people</i>
<i>blind</i>	<i>spat</i>	<i>wash</i>	<i>eyes</i>	<i>man</i>	<i>able</i>
<i>rubbed</i>	<i>mud</i>	<i>beg</i>	<i>work</i>	<i>see</i>	<i>went</i>

HOLY WEEK

Lent ends and Holy Week begins. The week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday evening. It is called Holy Week because it is the holiest week in the Church Year.

PALM SUNDAY is the beginning of Holy Week. There are two Gospels this Sunday. The first one is read at the beginning of Mass and reminds us of how Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover with his friends. He arrived into the city on a donkey and the people waved palms and shouted 'hosanna' as he passed by. This was their way of showing that they believed that Jesus was indeed the 'Messiah,' the one sent by God to save them. This is why we bless palms and carry them in procession to church at the beginning of Mass on Palm Sunday. Then we take the palms

home with us and put them somewhere that we can see them during the coming year. The priest wears red vestments today because red is the colour of blood and reminds us of Jesus' death on the cross. The second Gospel is the story of how Jesus was crucified. We call it the Passion and we will hear this Gospel again on Good Friday.

THE TRIDUUM

The last three days of the week are called the **Triduum**. The Easter Triduum is the most important celebration in the Church year. Triduum means '*three days*' and it begins on **Holy Thursday** with the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus knew it was time to leave his friends and he wanted to share one last meal with them. We call this meal The Last Supper. Jesus did two very important things at the Last Supper; he washed his disciples' feet and then he took bread, broke it, gave thanks and shared it with his friends. He did the same with the cup of wine. Then he told his disciples to '*do this in memory of me.*' So every time that we go to Mass we are remembering what Jesus did at the Last Supper and doing what he did. At the end of this Mass the **Blessed Sacrament** is removed from the **Tabernacle** and brought to a special place in the church called the **Altar of Repose** where it will remain until **Holy Saturday** when we next celebrate Mass.





GOOD FRIDAY

On **Good Friday** we remember that Jesus died on the cross. In church on Good Friday we listen to the story of Jesus' death and then we are invited to come and kiss the cross. On this day we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death and that is why we call the day 'Good.'

HOLY SATURDAY

The Triduum continues on Holy Saturday night when we celebrate the Easter Vigil. The paschal fire is lit outside many churches. It is from the paschal fire that the new Paschal Candle will be lit during the Easter Vigil. This candle will be a sign to all of us for the coming year of Jesus' resurrection. The candle will have the year 2017 inscribed onto it. Five ornate incense pins, which will symbolise the five wounds of Jesus on the cross, are placed in the candle. The Paschal Candle also contains two Greek letters the Alpha and the Omega, which, in English translation, means the beginning and the end.



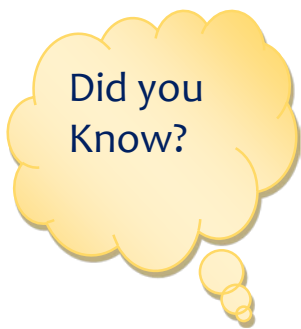
This candle will be lit throughout the Sundays of the Easter season until Pentecost Sunday. It is also lit during Baptisms. During funerals, the Paschal candle is lit and placed near the coffin as a sign of the hope of the resurrection into which the person was baptised.

During the Easter Vigil, fresh water is blessed for the baptismal and holy water fonts. There may be a new member of the community baptised during the Mass. In some churches, you might even see adults being baptised. These adults have decided that they want to belong to the Catholic Church, and so, after some time of praying, reflecting and being guided, they are ready to become members of our Christian community.

The word '*Paschal*' comes from the word *Pesach*, which, in Hebrew, means Passover. This is the feast that Jesus was celebrating with his friends when they ate their Last Supper together. Find out more about the Passover by reading Exodus, chapter 12.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The Easter season continues until Pentecost Sunday.



Sometime during the early days of Holy Week, the bishop of each diocese celebrates a very special Mass called the Chrism Mass. In the past, this Mass was celebrated only on Holy Thursday, but many dioceses now celebrate the Chrism Mass on one of the days earlier in Holy Week to allow more people to attend. During this Mass, which normally involves members from each parish of the diocese, the bishop consecrates the Oil of Chrism and blesses the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick. All the oils are then brought back to the parish churches of the diocese. Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, a sweet-smelling perfume.

The Chrism Oil is used for the anointing at Baptisms, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

FOR YOU TO DO:

What is the name of your diocese? _____

What is the name of your bishop? _____

What is the name of the Cathedral in your diocese?

Find out when the Chrism Mass will be celebrated in your diocese this year.



THE HOLIEST WEEK

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

1. What name is given to the last three days of Holy Week?
2. Why does the priest wear red vestments on Palm Sunday and Good Friday?
3. When does the Triduum begin?
4. What meal was Jesus celebrating with his friends when he told them *to 'do this in memory of me?'*
5. Where in church is the Blessed Sacrament kept?
6. What happens to the Blessed Sacrament at the end of Mass on Holy Thursday?
7. Why do we call the Friday of Holy Week 'Good Friday?'
8. What is lit at the Easter Vigil? (there are 2 answers)
9. What does the word Paschal mean?
10. When is the Paschal Candle lit in the church?
11. What do the five grains of incense symbolise?
12. What happens at the Chrism Mass?
13. What oil is used at Confirmation?
14. What is used to give the Chrism Oil its special smell?
15. When does the Easter season end?

