



RE NEWSLETTER

Easter and Pentecost

May 2024



For hundreds of years May has been a month dedicated to Our Lady. Around the world children place crowns made of flowers on statues of May, lay flowers at her feet, and pray the rosary as a sign of their love and respect for the mother of Our Lord.



In Year 4 we have learning all about Mary and how we celebrate her during the month of May. We have been busy planting, as we carefully nurture these plants daily and watch them grow, we hope that we will also grow in faith, gentleness and kindness each day.

The main themes within the **Sacraments** topic are:

R - Different stories about Jesus and how he is with us at the different stages of our lives.

Y1 - Prayers, signs and symbols associated with forgiveness.

Y2 - Signs, symbols and words used during the celebration of the sacraments studied.

Y3 - The Eucharistic prayer.

Y4 - First Holy Communion Programme (Eucharist).

Y5 - The meaning of the symbolism in the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders.

Y6 - The Rite of Baptism and Confirmation.



The first World Children's Day will take place between two symbolic places of the city of Rome: St. Peter's Square and the Olympic Stadium on May 25th and 26th. To mark the occasion, Pope Francis has written a letter to children around the world.

In assembly, the children listened to the letter.

A copy of the letter can be found at

<https://www.worldchildrenday.org/news/message-of-the-holy-father-for-the-first-world-childrens-day-25-26-may-2024/>

It makes us feel loved. Even if someone is going through hard things, they can look to God and know they are precious.



It makes me feel warm inside because we can help others. We are all equal. We can brighten up someone's day by saying please and thank you.



The letter makes me feel included and part of the special church community.



I like how it is helpful advice especially for the younger children. At FCJ, we love discovering new things in our learning. Pope Francis talks about companionship and how to be together. I really like his letter.





CATHOLIC CHURCH IN JERSEY

St Patrick's Gift Shop

The shop is open after Sunday's 5.30pm Mass. It has a broad selection of cards and gifts for First Communion and Confirmation.

Sisters of Bethany

On Saturday 25th May between 3pm and 4pm, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Mary & St Peter. A Mass of Thanksgiving for the 10 years that the Community Christ of Bethany have been in Jersey will be held on Friday 24th May at 6.30pm at St. Thomas Church. We send our warmest congratulations to them on this special occasion.

SVP

The Food Bank is open on Wednesdays from 2pm to 3.30pm and on Saturdays between 10am and 11am. SVP is located to the side of St Thomas Hall on Val Plaisant. Donations of tinned foods and toiletries may be left in the designated SVP red baskets at any of the Catholic churches. Thank you for your support.

First Holy Communion 2024

The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Saturday 8th June at 11am at Our Lady's Church, St Martin. Please keep the children who are preparing to receive both the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, in your prayers. This is a very special time for the children and their families.



FCJ 1000 Pledges for the earth...



"...there are no lasting changes without cultural changes, without a maturing of lifestyles and convictions within societies, and there are no cultural changes without personal changes."

Pope Francis LD#71

The FCJ Sisters in the Area of Europe have been marking Laudato Si Week. This year the theme of the Week is **Seeds of Hope**. They aim to gather 1000+ pledges of actions (small or large) that people will take in caring for our common home. In our final Prayer Pal session this half term, we talked about the pledges we could make as a community. If you would like to make a pledge as a family, you can use this link. bit.ly/FCJ1000Pledges.



IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

An Introduction

A Family Examen

The Examen is a simple, yet powerful practice developed by St. Ignatius almost 500 years ago. The Examen can help us become aware of God's presence in our everyday lives. This is a simple example to try at home as a family.

1. Become aware of God's presence. Remember that God's love is in your heart and in our family and moving through our whole world. Light a candle, feel your breath fill your lungs, and feel God's tender and loving presence.
2. Review the day. Look back on the events of the day. Invite the images and memories from your day to come to your mind and heart. Just let the day's events arise—your daily routines, conversations, work or school, moments in nature.
3. Look toward tomorrow. What do I look forward to tomorrow? What do I hope for? To whom do I want to give more love? What do I need to ask God for as I start a new day? (E.g. courage, kindness, patience, etc)

Ignatian spirituality is a way of envisioning the world and our place in it, in relation to God's ever active and loving presence. It helps us develop a personal relationship with Jesus which allows for the possibility of a shift in our world perspective. Through contemplation of Christ in the Gospels, we desire to know, love and serve Him more. It is a way of growing in awareness of God's action in the ordinary routine of our everyday experience, 'finding God in all things'.

As part of our Ignatian Spirituality we develop our sense of self-awareness. Can you use some of these questions at the dinner table or at bedtime?

- What do we love about our family?
- What are our strengths as a family?
- What kinds of things do we want to do?
- What kind of feeling do we want to have in our home?
- What kind of relationships do we want to have with one another?
- How do we want to treat one another and speak to one another?
- What kind of relationships do we want to have with others? The earth? Our home?
- What things are truly important to us as a family?

Gratitude Conversation Starters

Can you use some of these questions at the dinner table or at bedtime to foster an 'attitude of gratitude'? This is a special part of our Ignatian Spirituality.

- What's one nice thing you did for someone today?
- What was the most delicious food you ate today?
- What is the best thing that happened today?
- When did you feel peaceful today?
- What did you see that was beautiful today?
- Who made you smile today, and why?

attitude
OF
gratitude