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## THE CHURCH'S YEAR – THE LITURGICAL YEAR

All through the year, the Church family celebrates the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We also celebrate feasts and saints. In the following pages you will discover a description of each season or feast, an explanation of the appropriate liturgical colour, a suggested working for an entrance hall or classroom display and an appropriate scripture quotation for each Key Stage. Enjoy a school journey through the Church's year.

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

*Begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on 24<sup>th</sup> December.*

Advent has a twofold character. It is the season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered, and it is the season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, the season of Advent is a period for devout and joyful expectation.

**Liturgical Colour:** Violet

Symbolises joyful waiting, renewal and expectation.

### **Display:**

Bible, Advent Wreath, Jesse Tree, a small plant or flower in bud to represent 'waiting' for the birth of Christ; an empty crib.

### **Wording For Hall Display:**

Welcome to our school as we journey through Advent to prepare to celebrate Christmas.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"Prepare the way for the coming of our God."

(adapted from Luke 3:3)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom:**

- We are getting ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- How can we get ready for Jesus?

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"Someone very good is coming!" (adapted from Mark 1:7)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom**

Advent is a special season in the Church's Year. We are waiting... (or 'we are preparing')

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"The Lord is very near" (adapted from Philippians 4:4)

## THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

*Begins on Christmas Day and end on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.*

Christmas is a season, not a day. This is difficult to realise since the world wants to ‘get back to normal’ long before we have arrived at the last day of Christmas: the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is a season of true joy when we celebrate that ‘God-is-with-us’ – Emmanuel!

The colour and vibrancy of our Christmas celebrations should inform a very deep part of ourselves that something has happened, that Christ is born, and the world will never be the same again.

*The Word was made flesh and lived among us. (John 1:14)*

**Liturgical Colour:** White or Gold  
Symbolises true joy and triumph.

### **Display:**

Crib (but without the Wise Men), holly and ivy.

### **Wording for Hall Display**

Join with us this Christmas season to celebrate God’s gift of Jesus, the best gift of all.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“A child has been born for us.” (based on Isaiah 9:6)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom:**

“We are happy because God has come to live with us.”

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem – in a stable because there was no room for him at the inn.” (based on Luke 2:7)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

“During the season of Christmas, we remember ‘God-is-with-us.’

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“When the time was right, God the Father send Jesus into the world.”  
(based on Galatians 4:4)

## THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

*This feast is celebrated on the Sunday nearest to the 6<sup>th</sup> January.*

The Epiphany of the Lord is one of the greatest feasts in the Church's year and in many parts of the world, it is celebrated as the most joyful day of Christmastime. The word 'epiphany' means 'showing'. We rejoice that the glory of God is shown to the whole world through the person of Jesus Christ. That glory is shown to the Magi who came from far away and followed the star to Bethlehem. The wise men are the first of many people who would seek Jesus and find him.

### **Liturgical Colour:** White

White symbolises light, innocence, purity and joy.

### **Display:**

Three wise men in the crib with gifts, stars.

### **Wording for Hall Display:**

On the Feast of the Epiphany, we journey like the wise men to seek Jesus.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"Where is the child born to be King...? (based on Matthew 2:1-2)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom**

Who has been like a bright star leading me to Jesus?

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"When they saw the star, they were delighted" (based on Matthew 2:16-18)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom**

We rejoice that Jesus is shown to all those who truly seek him.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"We have seen his star rise and have come to worship him."  
(based on Matthew 2:1-12)

## THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

*This feast is celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany*

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord closes the Christmas season and prepares us to follow the teaching of Jesus and celebrate his life during the coming year. As Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, the followers of John saw the heavens open and the voice of God was heard. The voice invited all those who saw Jesus to listen to his message. In this event, God's glory was revealed and so the Baptism of the Lord is another 'epiphany' or 'showing'.

**Liturgical Colour:** White or Gold  
Symbolised true joy and triumph.

### **Display**

Bible, candle, water, picture/painting of the Baptism of the Lord e.g God's Story 3 (page 80)  
Could also use flowers, plants, different types of greenery.

### **Wording for Hall Display:**

After his baptism, Jesus began to preach the Good News. We promise to help Jesus in his great work of bringing the Good News of God's love to everyone.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"You are my son, whom I love." (based on Mark 1:11)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom:**

When Jesus was baptised, he knew God loved him. We are all loved by God, too!

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"You are my son, whom I love." (based on Mark 1:11)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

The Spirit of God lives in you and lives in me!

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"The Spirit came down upon him..."  
(based on Luke 3:21-22)

## ORDINARY TIME

*From the end of the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent).  
From the day after Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent.*

For a few weeks in January and February, and then all through the summer and autumn, the Church is in Ordinary Time. “Ordinary” comes from the word “ordinal” and means “counted”. In other words, each of the weeks has a number (for example, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time). During Ordinary Time, the Sunday gospels follow Jesus from story to story in Matthew, Mark or Luke. Each of these gospels is read for one year in the church’s three year cycle of Sunday Mass readings. Sunday after Sunday, we also read through the various letters of Paul and others in the New Testament.

**Liturgical Colour :** Green  
Symbolises life and growth.

### **Display:**

Bible, candle, seeds or glass tube with growing plant in to show growth, or anything from nature or human life showing promise of growth, pictures of ordinary activities e.g. reading, writing, doing homework, eating, playing etc.

### **Wording for Hall Display:**

During Ordinary Time, we will try to do ordinary things well.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Always do what is best for you and everyone else.” (based on Thessalonians 5: 16-17)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom**

We are trying to be our best.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“People who see you at your best will thank God.”(based on Matthew 6:16)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

We are God’s holy people.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“In everything you say or do, do it as Jesus would want you to”  
(based on Colossians 3:17)

## LENT

*Begins on Ash Wednesday and end on Holy Thursday in the evening – approximately 6 weeks.*

In the Christian Year, Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a penitential season and a time of spiritual growth and a time for discerning and doing good. Traditionally, we give more time to prayer, fasting and almsgiving (money given to the ‘poor’ or good causes). This helps us to say ‘yes’ to God’s will and ‘no’ to our selfish ways in order to become better followers of Jesus. The season begins by recalling the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the desert and prepared to proclaim the Good News. In the Northern Hemisphere, Lent begins in winter. When the 40 days are over, we know that the warmth and new life of spring are surely coming.

**Liturgical Colour:** Purple  
Symbolises penance.

### **Display:**

Cross made out of branches and draped with a purple cloth; stones, sand and pebbles, sandals and footprints, bowl of flower bulbs or seeds, pot of bare twigs or branches.  
On Ash Wednesday, a bowl of ashes could be added.

### **Wording for Hall Display:**

We are journeying together through Lent to prepare ourselves well to celebrate Easter.  
Give me the heart of stone within you, and I’ll give you a heart of flesh

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Turn you life towards God and live!” (based on Ezekiel 18:32)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom**

During Lent we are trying to be better followers of Jesus.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Follow me.” (based on Luke 5:27)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom**

We are trying to live up to God’s law of love.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Repent and believe the Good News”.

## HOLY WEEK

For the Church, Holy Week is the ‘greatest week’ during which the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus is remembered in special celebrations.

On PASSION SUNDAY which is sometimes called PALM SUNDAY (because we bless palms and we hear the reading of the Passion of Jesus), Christians celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to face his suffering and death.

*If this day is remembered in school, then palms and other spring branches may be added to the Lenten display.*

## THE PASCHAL OR EASTER TRIDUUM

This begins on Holy Thursday in the evening and ends of Easter Sunday in the evening.

“Paschal Triduum” means “the Three Days of Passover”. For the Jewish people, Passover celebrates the greatest event when God delivered the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom. The followers of Jesus proclaim that in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God has freed and saved us.

When Lent ends, we stand in the centre of the Christian year. On the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, we keep the Easter Vigil. We gather to light a fire and a towering candle, to listen to our most treasured Scriptures, to sing psalms and other songs. Then we go to the waters and baptise those who have been preparing for new life in Christ. The newly baptised are then anointed with fragrant oil and, at last, with these newly baptised, we celebrate the Eucharist.

We prepare for this Vigil in the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday and in the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday. We also prepare by fasting. The Church fasts – from food, from entertainment, from chatter, from work – so that we have time to ponder deeply the death and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery of faith that we will celebrate in our Vigil.

## HOLY THURSDAY

**Liturgical Colour:** White or Gold  
Symbolises true joy and triumph.

**Display:**

Bible opened at John 13, a cross, bowl and jug of water, white towel, sandals, picture of the washing of the feet by Seiger Koda as backdrop.

**Wording for Hall Display**

Jesus gave us the best example by the way he lived his life. We try to follow him.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“I have given you an example, so that you may copy what I have done for you.”  
(based on John 13:15)

**Wording for F/KS1 Classroom:**

God asks us to be loving and giving.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Love one another”.  
(based on John 15:12)

**Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

We are trying to follow Jesus’ law of love and service.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Love one another as I have loved you.”  
(John 15:12)

## EASTER SEASON

*Begins on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later on Pentecost Sunday.*

Easter Sunday is the beginning of the Easter Season which lasts for 50 days. The Easter season is to the year what Sunday is to the week. It is the heart of the Christian faith. St. Paul writes that without a strong, unswerving belief in the resurrection of Christ, then, 'empty too is our preaching; empty too your faith' (1 Corinthians 15:14). We are an 'Easter People' and make 'Alleluia' our song because we delight and praise the Lord who is raised from the dead and now share his new life. The Paschal candle, the giant candle that is lighted during this season whenever we celebrate in church, shows that Jesus lives.

**Liturgical Colour:** White or Gold  
Symbolises true joy and triumph.

### **Display:**

Large white candle, bowl of Easter water, 'Alleluia' banner, cross draped with a white or gold cloth, any symbols of new life e.g. eggs, spring flowers, butterflies etc.

### **Wording for Hall Display:**

We are an Easter People and 'Alleluia' is our song! Join us!

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"God raised Jesus to new life".  
(based on Ephesians 1:20)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom**

Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"We know he is alive for we have seen him"  
(based on Acts 2:32)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom**

We want to spread the Good News of Jesus.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"Tell the people everything about this new life".  
(based on Acts 5:21)

## PENTECOST

*50 days (7 weeks) after Easter Sunday*

Pentecost is a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish ‘feast of weeks’ was held fifty days after the beginning of the grain harvest. It was a thanksgiving feast to celebrate the end of the harvest and to commemorate the day God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was important that they carry on his mission after he was gone. He promised he would give them the strength of his Spirit to do this. At Pentecost, the Church celebrates the fulfilment of Jesus’ promise that the Holy Spirit will guide and help his disciples to understand all that he has taught them. It is sometimes called the ‘birthday’ of the Church.

**Liturgical Colour: Red**

**Symbolises royalty, fire and martyrdom**

**Display:**

A picture of Pentecost/Holy Spirit, red flowers, bible opened at Acts 2:1-43, one large white candle surrounded by 12 smaller red ones.

**Wording for Hall Display**

With the strength of the Spirit we can go out and proclaim the Good News to everyone!

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4)

**Wording for F/KS1 Classroom**

Holy Spirit, help us!

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“I give you the Holy Spirit to help you”. (based on John 20:21)

**Wording for KS2 Classroom**

The Holy Spirit leads, guides and strengthens all the friends of Jesus.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Let the Holy Spirit guide all you say and do”  
(based on Galatians 5:16)

## ORDINARY TIME

**Liturgical Colour:** Green  
Symbolises life and growth.

**Display:**

Follow the theme of ‘growing’ using nature objects, craftwork, pottery, unfinished needlework, schoolwork.

**Wording for Hall Display:**

During Ordinary Time, we will try to do ordinary things well.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Always do what is best for you and everyone else.” (based on Thessalonians 5: 16-17)

**Wording for F/KS1 Classroom**

We are trying to be our best.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“People who see you at your best will thank God.”(based on Matthew 6:16)

**Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

We are God’s holy people.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“In everything you say or do, do it as Jesus would want you to”  
(based on Colossians 3:17)

## FEASTS OF MARY

### **May and October:**

Mary, the Mother of God has a special place in the Church's seasons and feasts. For the Church, May is the month of Mary and in October, Catholics are encouraged to pray the Rosary. There are also special feasts throughout the year and many local traditions and celebrations throughout the world. There are six major feasts that the Church celebrates in honour of Mary. They are:

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mary the Mother of God
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Annunciation
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	The Visitation
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	The Assumption
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mary's Birthday
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	The Immaculate Conception

**Liturgical Colour:** [Blue and White](#)  
[Traditional colours for Our Lady](#)

### **Display:**

Use some of the following: icon of Mary Mother of Jesus, rosary, flowers, candles, bible opened at appropriate scripture passage.

### **Wording for Hall Display:**

Mary, the Mother of Jesus has a special place in the life of our school.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"Rejoice, Mary, God has blessed you and is very close to you." (based on Luke 1:27)

### **Wording for F/KS1 Classroom:**

Like Mary, we can sing happy songs to God!

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"Mary was so happy, she sang a song of praise to God". (based on Luke 1: 46)

### **Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

With Mary, we give praise to God.

### **Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

"God is so good. My heart is full of joy" (based on Luke 1:39-58)

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE – INCLUDING THE CELEBRATION OF ALL SOULS.

**Liturgical Colour:** Purple/White

**Display:**

Paschal Candle, white cloth, Holy water as a sign of Baptism and link with final sprinkling of the coffin.

**Wording for Hall Display:**

In November we remember.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Don’t be sad about people who die... they will all live again with God”.  
(based on 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)

**Wording for F/KS1 Classroom:**

In November we remember.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“Don’t be sad about people who die... they will all live again with God”.  
(based on 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)

**Wording for KS2 Classroom:**

In November we remember.

**Appropriate Scripture Phrase:**

“God will take away all your sadness and wipe the tears from your eyes.  
There will be no more hurt, no more pain, no more suffering, no more dying.  
For all these things are finished and gone.”  
(Revelation 21: 1-5)