

# The Olive Branch

14.3.25

## We Prepare...



We began Lent on Ash Wednesday with the receiving of ashes. Ash Wednesday marked the start of Lent when we're invited, for forty days, to find time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The season is dedicated to spiritual growth as we prepare to commemorate the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and the celebration of his resurrection at Easter. These six weeks mirror the amount of time that Jesus spent in the desert to fast and pray. The Ashes, imposed on our foreheads in the sign of the cross, are an outward sign of our inward sorrow for our sins and of our commitment to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Throughout Lent we will be celebrating Mass with Fr Francis at Holy Cross Church. We will also be learning about this most holy time of year within RE lessons. We will also have many other opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Click on this link for CAFOD's Interactive Lent Calendar  
[Cafod Interactive Calendar](#)

*"You are dust and  
to dust you shall  
return"*

*Genesis 3:19*



In the last couple of editions of the Olive Branch, we heard that the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: the Department for Christian Life and Worship, and the Department for Education and Formation have decided upon changes to Catholic Education. The third section is focused on Catholic Life and Mission.

- **Catholic Life and Mission**

Catholic Life and Mission is centred around the teachings of Christ. At Holy Cross our guiding principle is that 'Christ is at the Centre' of everything we do. This is reflected in our ethos, curriculum, and day-to-day activities. Each classroom and activity is an opportunity to bring Christ's love, compassion, and wisdom into the lives of our children.

In addition to this we recognise specific days throughout the year, providing opportunities for all our children to enhance their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development.

Through these days we can live out our Mission to be like Jesus and follow in his footsteps.

In the school foyer you can see some examples of our Catholic Life and Mission in action.



This is the mission of every Christian: lumina pandit - to spread the light and to tell the world of God's love.

— Pope Francis —

## **Catholic Social Teaching**

Catholic Social Teaching forms a major part of our catholic life at school. It is embedded within the RE curriculum and is part of our Catholic Life & Mission.

This edition is learn about the principle of the Participation.



Taking part  
**Participation**

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**We all have the right  
and duty to participate  
fully in society.**

Together we can confront the problems of our world and seek solutions that are truly effective. We listen to our school community and help them to participate if needed, and speak out boldly on their behalf when it is right to do so.

At Holy Cross we recognise and work towards Participation by:

- Developing an inclusive environment, so that everyone can participate
- Finding opportunities to take part with projects within class, school and the wider community
- We speak out where there is injustice