

Spring 2025

SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

Emmaus Church of England and Catholic Primary School

We are friends journeying with Jesus in faith, hope and trust as we live, love and learn together.

Welcome to our Spring Spiritual Life Newsletter.
In this term, we had four religious services with our friends from St Cuthbert's and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs.

FUN FACT—There is another Emmaus Catholic and Church of England Primary School in Sheffield. Mrs Simmerson, their Headteacher, visited our school in 2024 to learn about our RE curriculum and spirituality. She was full of praise for all she saw and was especially impressed by the senior pupils who took her on a school tour.

Our Collective Worship & Christian Values in Spring Term were 'Perseverance' and 'Justice'.



Our Entrance Displays



In **Spring Term**, EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Year 3 have all been enjoying learning topics from our new RE Curriculum 'To know You more clearly'.

Branch 3 Galilee to Jerusalem.

'God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.' John 1:18. In this branch, pupils will experience the ministry of Jesus, the Word of God. They will learn about the life of Jesus and his revelation of the Kingdom of God through parables, encounters, miracles and teachings. They will learn about the call of the disciples and the nature of being a follower of Jesus.

Branch 4 Desert to garden.

'Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day.' Corinthians 15:3. In this branch, pupils will study the season of Lent and its culmination in the events of Holy Week. They will learn about the Paschal Triduum at the heart of the Catholic Church's Liturgy and life.

Come and See is still being taught in Years 4, 5 and 6.

In the **Spring Term** we consider God the Son, Jesus and the question, 'Who am I?'

Church Theme - Community – Local Church focuses on the people of God, united in the journey of faith, in care for one another, in sharing their story and celebration.

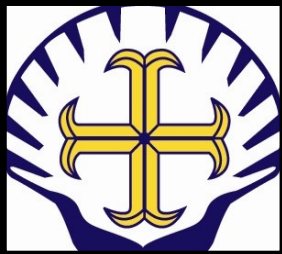
Sacramental Theme - Relating – Eucharist focuses on the invitation to know Jesus, to live in communion with him and one another.

Christian Living Theme - Giving – Lent/Easter focuses on Jesus' loving self-giving on the cross, the Father's love that raises him to new life and the challenge to Christians to follow Jesus' example of self-giving.

Our Collective Worship & Christian Value for Summer 1 is 'Service'.

'I can endure all these things through the power of the One who gives me strength.'

Philippians 4:13



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Update from St. Cuthbert's

The Spring Term has been very busy.

Shrove Tuesday - a successful Pancake Party.

April 12th saw a wonderful Easter party for at least 40 children with games, crafts and time with the Easter Bunny!

Holy Week

Monday—Stations of the Cross.

Tuesday—Compline with music.

Wednesday—Prayer Spaces for adults!

Maundy Thursday—the traditional Eucharist with the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday—a craft morning for the children and a beautiful Last Hour Reflection in the afternoon.



An amazing Easter Sunday service with much noise being made as the triptych was opened. This was followed by an exciting Easter Egg Hunt in the church gardens.



Update from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs

We started Holy Week with the blessing of the palms and marked Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We read the Passion from Luke's Gospel.

On Wednesday, we attended the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral, where our holy oils were blessed and priests renewed their vows.

On Maundy Thursday, we celebrated and commemorated the first eucharist and acted out Jesus washing the disciples' feet. The blessed sacrament was moved to the Altar of Repose.

On Good Friday, we had a walk of witness, our younger parishioners had 'Little Church' and we had the veneration of the cross. We read the Passion from John's Gospel.

On Holy Saturday, we blessed our Easter Candle and welcomed 4 people into our church.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated the risen Christ together in our mass at 10:00am.

'You know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.' James 1:3



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Highlights of Spring Term



Easter Service

On Tuesday 1st April, we had our annual Easter Service. It was extra special this year because we shared it with some very distinctive guests: Fr Anthony from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs' Parish, Reverend Kate Johnston-a Church of England reverend, our Chair of Governors Mrs June Simm, from St Cuthbert's Parish and Mrs Newton, our music/singing teacher. The children really enjoyed sharing songs, prayers and offertory gifts together, while learning about Jesus' life during Holy Week. Our RE Ambassadors led the service and read beautifully. We would like to thank everyone for their support in making this such a memorable occasion.



Prayer Spaces

Thanks to our governors Mrs Simm, Mrs Cain, Ms Caffrey and Mrs Verma for working with our Key Stage 2 children on a range of thought provoking activities for Holy Week. These included work on trust, friendship, dreams for the future and what needs changing in our world or ourselves. It was a pleasure to see that some children chose their paper chain as an offertory gift in our Easter Service.

'Happy are those who obey his commands, who always do what is right.' Proverbs 106:3



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RE in Action

Pictures of some Collective Worship tables from classes showing the value of Justice.



FAITH in ACTION

So far this year, we have supported a wide range of charities. In October, we donated food to St Andrew's Foodbank in order to help local families. We raised funds for Youngminds on World Mental Health Day. Our 'Hope Run' for North West Cancer Research also took place. During November, we continued to support the British Legion by buying poppies. Our Christmas Jumper Day in December helped to raise money for Save The Children. All the charities we support are very dear to us, so we want to say a huge **thank you** for your continued generosity.

RE Ambassadors

Our RE Ambassadors are doing a wonderful job in Emmaus School. We have representatives from the Catholic and Church of England religions. The children take turns to lead in each religious service we have. All Ambassadors like to read and many enjoy writing their own prayers, like Oliver in Y5 who wrote a thoughtful prayer for our Easter Service.

To develop their roles even further, Ambassadors will take part in Collective Worship training that will enable them to deliver messages from Scripture in different classes. They will help all children to understand and demonstrate God's message 'to love one another'.

Dear God,
Thank you for Jesus, who died for us and then came back to life! We love Jesus and are so happy that He is alive and with us.

Amen.

'To do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with our God.' Micah 6:8



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Pope Francis

On Monday 21st April, our beloved Pope Francis died. Please join with us in praying for him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



O God,
from whom the just receive an unfailing reward,
grant that your servant Francis, our Pope,
whom you made vicar of Peter
and shepherd of your Church,
may rejoice forever in the vision of your glory,
for he was a faithful steward here on earth
of the mysteries of your forgiveness and grace.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Taken from the Order of Christian Funerals.

Epiphany Service

We celebrated the Epiphany with Fr Anthony and Mrs Newton. The RE Ambassadors led this service well, sharing readings, prayers and thoughts on the Wise Men who visited baby Jesus. Well done everyone!



Ash Wednesday Service

On Ash Wednesday we were joined by Deacon Chris Housbey, Mrs Newton, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Simm for 2 services to give out ashes to our whole school community. Thanks to everyone who took part. The children enjoyed receiving their ashes on this special day.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our school has a special committee of governors called the Spiritual Dimension Group that discuss and agree on all matters spiritual at Emmaus, including the quality of Religious Education and Collective Worship. This committee also discusses charities, religious services and anything else that brings God's light and love to our children. As a joint denominational school we have Foundation Governors from both the Archdiocese and the Church of England. This committee meets every term in the school year, to ensure governors are kept fully up to date.

'Let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry.' Amos 5:24