The Friday Message
Volume 17 – Friday 16th January 2026
Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Reception

After learning about the journey of the Three Wise Men last week, this week we focused on the special gifts they brought when they arrived at the stable to visit baby Jesus. The children shared thoughtful ideas about the kinds of gifts we might offer Jesus today, such as kindness, happiness, love, and helping others, discussing how these are special gifts that do not come in a box but show care and love. We then explored the traditional gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given by the Three Wise Men. We enjoyed creating collages using special paper. We drew the chests and bottles the gifts may have been presented in and carefully decorated them with shiny and textured materials, making them beautiful and special for baby Jesus.

Year 1

During our second week of Galilee to Jerusalem learning we have focused on Candlemas. We have listened to stories and experiences of how people celebrate Candlemas. We have designed and decorated a candle for Candlemas with symbols and images that represent the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. We have listened to the story Finding Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52). To show our understanding of this we sequenced the key events.

Year 2

During their first RE session this week the Year 2 children identified the links and similarities between John the Baptist and the prophet Isaiah. They were able to explain that they were both bold prophets who spoke of the coming of the Messiah. Both told people to follow God and not sin. We have continued to look at the Baptism of Jesus. In the second session, the children looked at lots of paintings, sketches and cartoons of the event by different artists. They identified the similarities in the portrayal of The Holy Spirit (a dove), Jesus, John the Baptist, God and the Heavens opening. The children then enjoyed creating their own artistic representation of the event.

Year 3

In R.E this week the children have been building on their understanding of the Magi and looking at how different people felt during this experience and journey. We have also looked at the epiphany and what it means to different countries around the world as well as within the catholic faith. With the epiphany, the children looked at it with awe and wonder and took the point of view of someone who was experiencing this amazing experience and wrote from this point of view.

Year 4

In RE this week, Year 4 continued their learning about Jesus' role as our Messiah and what this means for us today. We explored different Gospel stories, such as Jesus stilling the storm and forgiving the thief on the cross and annotated the passages to identify the qualities of the Messiah revealed in each moment. The children reflected on what these stories show us about Jesus' compassion, authority, and forgiveness, and considered why He was not the kind of Messiah many Jewish people were expecting at the time. In our second lesson, we revisited the Nicene Creed. While many of the children were already familiar with it, we used it as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the core beliefs of the Catholic faith, reflecting on which passages are most meaningful to us and to Christians today.

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have continued to work hard as they linked the Beatitudes to the beautiful virtues of faith, hope, and love. They reflected on how these virtues can help us live out Jesus' teachings and transform our communities with compassion and kindness. The thoughtful discussions showed how much they are growing in understanding. They also compared scripture from both Luke and Matthew and settled as a group on which they found the most powerful. Well done Year 5!

Year 6

This week in RE, we built thoughtfully on our learning about the seven sacraments and demonstrated a much stronger understanding of their purpose within the life of the Church. The children explored which sacraments can be performed by bishops, priests and deacons, making clear links to their specific roles and responsibilities. We also discussed how the sacraments are celebrated within a parish community and why they are so important in supporting faith, belonging and spiritual growth. In our second lesson, we began an exciting new focus on the Gospel of John. The children compared John's Gospel with those of the other Gospel writers, discussing what makes it distinctive and why it was written in a different style. To deepen their understanding, pupils explored key symbols associated with John's Gospel and used these creatively to design their own biblical front covers. The outcomes showed excellent engagement, reflection and creativity.

Monthly Gospel Value
Our Gospel Value we are exploring is
…. PERSERVERANCE

What are you going to try hard on?