

Articles of

FAITH

It's been a lovely week at Yoxall St Peter's, full of teamwork, exciting learning and deep, spiritual thinking.

In RE, Classes have been continuing their look at Holy Week and the Easter story, working out how people must have felt at the time - and how it makes people feel today. Next week, Father Jeremy will be in school to talk about the symbolism and meaning of the Holy Communion, after the original story was vividly and poignantly brought to life by Open the Book on Tuesday.

We're starting to collate the results of our whole school survey of Worship. One clear thing that has come through is that the children want to take a more active part in Worship, leading it themselves. You will see us putting into action the children's suggestions throughout the coming weeks.

Now that we are starting to get back to normal, each class will be leading a service every half term, as they always used to. We are also getting our Church Council to coordinate 'pop-up' worship, based on our themes of the week.

The schedule will be:

Class 4 – Vesak – 4th May

Class 3 – Pentecost – 18th May

Class 5 – Ascension – 25th May

Class 2 – Trinity – 8th June

Class 1 – You've Got A Friend in Me - 15th June

In our Worship, we also look at other major festivals and faiths. From now on, we will publish a diary for each month, so you can see what other faiths or stories we will be covering, should you wish to share these with your child.

Major Religious Holidays for April

4/2 to 5/2 – Ramadan: The holy month of fasting, introspection, and prayer celebrated by Muslims.

4/14 – Vaisakhi: An ancient festival for Hindus that simultaneously celebrates that Solar New Year and spring harvest.

4/15 to 4/23 – Passover: A 7-day holiday in the Jewish faith that honours the freeing of the Israeli slaves.

4/17 – Easter: The most important day in the Christian faith when we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

4/24 – Feast of the Divine Mercy: A feast day on the second Sunday of Easter when Christians seek Christ's forgiveness and grace.

Courageous Advocacy

The children have been continuing their collection of items **to help refugees from Ukraine**. Many thanks to Mrs Knightsmith who has now taken many, many car-loads of essential items to the collection centre. Thank you everyone for your efforts.

Making Links



We'd love to make links with Churches around the world. If you have any links to Churches or Schools in other countries, could you let the office know? We'd like to write letters and link up via video!

Of course, there are always those people who go 'above and beyond' in service of their neighbours. We are aware that a number of houses in the village are opening their door to take in refugees from Ukraine – a truly Christian act. We are getting the school ready in case we are able to take in any Ukrainian children.

To help children understand the concept of refugees, we are discussing the events in Ukraine at a suitable level – and obviously treating it delicately so as not to alarm children. One book that we will be sharing is *My Name is Not Refugee*. You can share this with your children using <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9n1plse2K4>

A Prayer for Ukraine

**God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen**

**Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**

Our Mother's Day Assembly is on Friday 25th and it will be the first time we have invited parents into school for a gathering for almost 2 years! Thereafter, parents are invited (as used to be the case) to our **Friday Celebration Worship**. This will move to the original time of 2.45pm and will also be on TEAMS, which will hopefully give many more parents and carers a chance to join in the celebrations. Invitation is strictly via the children's TEAMS logins.

Have a lovely weekend, everyone. See you next week!