

## Year 4



### Advent Term

#### Domestic Church – Family: **People**

The children will begin to understand that God is the loving Father of the human family and that Jesus was born and lived in a human family. The children will understand the ideals for family life, whilst acknowledging and respecting the real experiences of other families. Importantly, the children will understand that the family (a gift from God) is the first place for growth and development and is of central importance.

#### Baptism / Confirmation – Belonging: **Called**

The children will begin to explore the invitation that they are given, through Baptism, to share the life and work of God. The children will begin to understand that the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation help them to be formed into God's people and become filled by the Holy Spirit. When someone is given the gifts of the Holy Spirit, by partaking in these sacraments, they will understand that they are now called to build up the Church: the Body of Christ.

#### Advent / Christmas – Loving: **Gift**

At this precious time of year, the children will engage with the love they experience in their lives, developing an understanding that gifts given and received are a sign and expression of love, as well as reflecting the truth that all life is given by God. The children will explore the notion that God's love became a reality in the Person of Jesus Christ.

### Lent Term

#### Local Church – Community: **Community**

The children will engage with how it feels to be part of a community, understanding that community is an essential and enjoyable part of life for people of every age and faith. This will be connected with the Church's celebrations, as these are communal events. This will be identified by exploring the habit of going to Sunday Mass, as this is time to remember how much there is to celebrate.

## **Eucharist – Relating: Giving and Receiving**

The children will study the Eucharist as a gift given by God, through Jesus' sacrifice. They will understand that, when we receive Christ's Body in the form of the Eucharist, we become closely connected with Jesus both during his Passion and Resurrection. This will lead to a greater understanding of how Jesus gave himself so that we could receive everlasting life.

## **Lent / Easter – Giving: Self-discipline**

The children will engage with the significance of self-discipline in the light of Lent, realising that Lent is a season when Christians practise both giving, and giving things up. They will understand that this is a way of showing our love and care for Jesus, as he pursues His path towards His crucifixion. In learning about this, the children will understand the significance of having self-discipline and how this encourages one to think more about the need to give whole-heartedly to others.

## **Pentecost Term**

### **Pentecost – Serving: New Life**

Following on closely from the events in Lent, the children will study the effects of the Holy Spirit; principally His capacity to influence the lives of every person in a unique and special way. The children will begin to understand that it is the work of the Holy Spirit that helps people to hear God's message, and to act in ways that follow the example of service that Jesus gives us.

### **Reconciliation – Inter-relating: Building Bridges**

Building on the work of the previous two topics, the children will engage with the idea that the price of sin has been paid by Jesus, because he sacrificed Himself on the cross. Because of His great sacrifice, the children will study the power of forgiveness; acknowledging that we have the power to reach out and ask for forgiveness and peace and understand that we will be forgiven, thanks to God's great mercy.

### **Universal Church – World: God's People**

Christians believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and has the special gift and challenge of sharing in God's creation. The children will explore themselves as part of creation and their dependence upon it: in caring for creation we are caring for ourselves. They will begin to develop an understanding of what it means to care for the world in which we live, the people within it, and the natural resources available to us.