



Holy Week

Sunday 5th April – 12th April

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter Sunday. We remember the events leading to the death of Jesus and his rising to new life. This time is the most important time in the Church year—the life and resurrection of Jesus is the reason we are Church family. In our Holy Week celebrations and prayers we think about life, faith and hope! The whole point of Holy Week and Easter is that we learn to be people who are, not only compassionate and loving, but filled with hope.

Each day this week home rooms will take a focus on each event during daily prayer.

Palm (Passion) Sunday

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. It celebrates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Great crowds of people waved palm branches to welcome Him.

Good Friday

Good Friday recalls the story of Jesus dying on the cross. We hear about Jesus carrying His cross and the feelings of his friends and followers. We remember Jesus rising to New Life. Some families eat Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday. They have the symbol of a cross on the top to remind us of Jesus' cross.

Holy Thursday

We remember the meal Jesus had with his friends. It is known as the Last Supper. At mass we recall this meal when we hear the words "This is my body. This is my blood. Do this in memory of me". Jesus washes the feet of His friends as a sign of love and service. We are reminded to love through service.

Easter Sunday

We hear the story of the empty tomb. The message is Jesus has risen and gives us the promise of New Life.

At Galilee we are constantly reminded of the cycle of New Life in our environment, in ourselves and in our relationships.

Easter eggs are a symbol of New Life and New Beginnings. In some cultures, the Easter Bunny (another symbol of life) delivers them on Easter Sunday.

Easter is an exciting time and it is also part of our Catholic Tradition and learning. Therefore, the following outlines giving of Easter Eggs at Galilee.

At Galilee we begin celebrating Easter on Easter Sunday and the season continues for 7 weeks! We are currently in the season of Lent and will move to the Holy week period as outlined above. It is important to our teaching and part of our faith that we move through these seasons as they occur and as close as possible to the event.

Eggs are symbolic of Easter. Children are encouraged to offer each other 'Happy Easter', but not to give eggs etc. to avoid difficult situations including:

- ❖ Providing lots of 'sweet' items is not good for wellbeing and not all families' support this.
- ❖ Not all families can afford or want to supply a 'gift' and often children feel undue stress to bring a small gift/egg.
- ❖ Due to current health situation
- ❖ The ability of all children to be appreciative and sensitive to what is given can result in hurt feelings. This includes comments such as "is that all" etc.
- ❖ Some children have allergies.

Thank you for your support and we wish you a safe Easter and keep you all in our prayers at the time!

