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**Dates for the Diary\***

**April**

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for April:** Fundamental Rights

Wed 21 Memorial St. Anselm, Doctor of the Church

Fri 23 Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England

Wed 28 Memorial of St. Peter Chanel

 Memorial of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort

Thurs 29 Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe.

Fri 30 Memorial of St. Pius V

**May**

**The Pope’s Prayer intention for May:** The World of Finance

Sat 1 Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker

Mon 3 Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles

Tue 4 Feast of the English Martyrs

Wed 12 Memorial of St. Pancras

Thurs 13 Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Fri 14 Feast of Matthias, Apostle

Tues 18 Memorial of St. John I

Wed 19 Memorial od St. Dunstan

Thurs 20 Memorial of St. Bernadine of Siena

Fri 21 Memorial of Ss Christopher Magallanes and companions

Sun 23 Pentecost Sunday

Mon 24 Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church

Tue 25 Memorial of St. Bede the Venerable

Wed 26 Memorial of St. Philip Neri

Thurs 25 Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest

*\*For a complete list of dates, readings and colours please refer to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Ordo 2020-2021.*

*Further prayer resources can be found on https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/*

**CAFOD**

**The Eyes of the World are on Us:** The eyes of the world are on us this year as Britain hosts world leaders for the United Nation’s climate change talks – COP26. They will make important decisions that will affect millions of people around the world and shape the future of our global family. Join CAFOD’s campaign to call on the Prime Minister to support the poorest communities on the front line of the climate crisis.Join the national assembly on **22 April**.

**Pentecost:** Child Led Collective Worship resource for KS2. <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Collective-worship-primary/Pentecost-primary-resources>

**Missio**

**Pentecost:** Missio have developed a resource linked to Pentecost concerning anxieties around change and transition. Find the resource here: <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/resources-for-pentecost-2020/>

**Our Lady Five Fact Assembly:** The key moments of Mary’s life are highlighted. This assembly has been designed so it can also be led by children. Find out more here; <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/marian-and-mission-rosary/>

**Prayer for the Easter Season**

**Regina Caeli**

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia!

For he whom you were made worthy to bear. Alleluia!

Has risen as he said. Alleluia!

Pray for us to our God. Alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

For the Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us pray;

God, who through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

has made glad the whole world, grant us, we pray,

that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother,

we may attain the joys of everlasting life.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Classroom Prayer Areas**During the season of Easter, the prayer area should be adorned in white and gold cloth as a celebration of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Day. An Easter Garden could be added as a joyful reminder of the empty tomb which was discovered signifying Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday. The word ‘Alleluia’ should feature prominently as a reminder that Christ is risen. Images of the risen Christ as well as a Risen Jesus crucifix would be appropriate. Flowers and symbols of new life including eggs would also celebrate this joyful time. Year 1 in particular should include a Paschal Candle/Easter Candle to signify that this candle represents Christ.

* An image of the Ascension could be displayed on the Feast of the Ascension.
* A statue or image of Our Lady for May and/or flowers for the month of Mary should be added.
* An image of the Holy Spirit and symbols of the Holy Spirit should be displayed for the feast of Pentecost (23 May). Please note after this date the Church returns to Ordinary Time and therefore the prayer areas are once more adorned with green.

**Ascension & Pentecost**

God the Father sent Jesus his Son into the world to save us. We read in the Acts of the Apostles about Jesus returning to heaven to be with his Father after he had finished his ministry work on earth. This event is called the Ascension and it follows 40 days after Easter Sunday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave his followers a special mission to spread the Good News about God. Jesus assured the disciples that the Holy Spirit would give them the power to do this and be their guide. Nine days after the Ascension was the Jewish feast of Pentecost. Mary and the disciples had gathered together to pray when suddenly the Holy Spirit descended upon them. When the disciples spoke everyone could understand them in their own spoken languages and taught them about Jesus. The Catholic tradition of praying a Novena

(nine days of prayer) has its foundations on this time

between the Ascension and Pentecost.

**Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina)**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy;
Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears!
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

**Titles of Mary**

Mary, the Mother of God, has many different titles attributed to her that have developed from her personal life, places of honour in the life of the Church, her role in the plan of our salvation and her intercession to God on our behalf. Devotion to Mary is based upon scripture, church tradition and teachings, the writings of the saints, Marian apparitions and the reports of miracles and healings. Mary has her special role in union with God and so when we honour Mary, when we pray the rosary and the stations and the many other prayers associated with her, we honour God.

Here are some upcoming Feast Days of Mary for this half term:

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Feast Day: April 26**

This title was given to the Blessed Virgin Mary due to a miraculous painting. The painting can now be found in the thirteenth century Augustinian at Genazzano near Rome in Italy. The fresco image is painted on a thin layer of plaster the width only of an eggshell. Over the centuries, devotions to Our Lady of the Good Counsel grew among saints and Popes, to the extent that a reference to it was added to the Litany of Loreto and the devotion spread throughout the world.

**Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day: May 13**

Our Lady of Fatima is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary when she appeared at Fatima, Portugal between Mary and October of 1917 to three shepherd children called Lucia Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto. Mary appeared to the children many times and she gave the children three secrets, all of which have since been revealed.

**Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day: May 24**

Saint John Chrysostom first used the title Help of Christians to refer to Mary in a homily in 345. St Don Bosco dedicated the mother church at Turin of the Salesian Congregation to Our Lady Help of Christians in 868.



**Summer 1:“These have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God” John 20:31**

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**The God who Speaks – Mary Resources**

Posters for Mary can be found by following;

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/posters-for-schools/>

**Staff/Tutor room Noticeboard Summer 1**