

EARLY YEARS ASH WEDNESDAY 17 February 2021

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Usually Christians go to church and a Cross is made on our foreheads with ashes to show that we want to grow more like Jesus. It may not be possible for everyone to go to church this year.

Lent is the Church's season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It lasts for six weeks or 40 days.

The day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. 'Shrove' means being forgiven for the times we get things wrong. Traditionally pancakes were made to clear out all the rich ingredients from the cupboard before the start of strict fasting in Lent. Today we still keep Shrove Tuesday but during Lent we don't have as strict a fast as people used to have.

During the forty days of Lent, Christians are encouraged to try to become more like Jesus by caring, sharing and helping. This helps us to think about other people. Lent is also a special time when we think about Jesus, how he grew in love and we try to grow in love, goodness, kindness and helpfulness like him.

How could you follow Jesus' example by caring, sharing and helping?

Make a Lenten promise card showing how *'I want to grow in love like Jesus by...'*

There are some ideas for each day on the Mission Together Lenten calendar. If you can, look at the other Mission Together resources:

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/resources-for-lent-2021/>

Or the resources on the CAFOD website

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Lent-resources-for-children>

Mission Together Lenten Calendar 2021



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
15 FEBRUARY Decide as a class on your mission this Lent. 	16 Shrove Tuesday Pancake day Why do we make Pancakes today? 	17 Ash Wednesday Find out why ashes are placed on our foreheads today. 	18 Write a Lent prayer. Include the words: pray, share, help, listen, Jesus. 	19 With your class, pray and reflect on the first two Stations of the Cross.* 	20 As a family, pray the Our Father for children in need of help. What else can you do to help? 	21 Why does the Church use the colour purple in Lent?
22 Sunday's Gospel was from Mk 1:12-15.* Read it as a class. What did Jesus say was near? 	23 Find out about Mission Together and how you can share God's love with children everywhere. 	24 Say the Mission Together prayer as a class. 'May all children in the world, share love, share friendship, and live in the peace of God's love, now and forever. Amen.' 	25 What can you share with someone today? Ask God to help. 	26 With your class, pray and reflect on the 3rd and 4th Stations of the Cross.* 	27 Share with a family member three things you have learned about Lent. 	28 Share any worries you have with Jesus, our God and friend.
1 MARCH Sunday's Gospel was from Mk 9:2-10.* Read it as a class. What does God tell us to do? 	2 Yesterday was the Feast of St David. What does 'Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus' mean? 	3 Find out what the word 'sacrifice' means. Then consider what you could sacrifice for someone today. 	4 Centuries ago 'Lent' used to be the name for 'spring'. Look out for signs of spring today. 	5 With your class, pray and reflect on the 5th and 6th Stations of the Cross.* 	6 As a family, pray for those in need this Lent and think of ways you can help them. 	7 Find a quiet place to be and say a prayer for those who are sick, sad or lonely.
8 Sunday's Gospel was Jn 2:13-25.* Read it as a class. Why was Jesus angry? 	9 Keep an eye out for someone who needs help today. 	10 Visit the Mission Together virtual map, choose a country to visit and pray for the children there.* 	11 Eggs are a symbol of new life. How does this link to Easter? 	12 With your class, pray and reflect on the 7th and 8th Stations of the Cross.* 	13 Lent is a special time to say sorry and forgive. As a family, pray for the strength to do both. 	14 Mothering Sunday Ask God to bless all mums and grandmas.
15 Sunday's Gospel was Jn 3:14-21.* Read it as a class. Who did God send into the world? 	16 Make someone smile today and share God's joy with those around you. 	17 Feast of St Patrick Find out where St Patrick went to share God's love. 	18 Tomorrow is the Feast of St Joseph. Find out why he is an important saint.* 	19 With your class, pray and reflect on the 9th and 10th Stations of the Cross.* 	20 Tell a family member about the Stations of the Cross and why we pray them in Lent. 	21 Thank God for all the beautiful things he has created. Pray that you may care for them all.
22 Sunday's Gospel was Jn 12:20-33.* Read it as a class. What does Jesus predict? 	23 Make a small sacrifice this week and put a coin in your Little Red Box. 	24 Feast of St Oscar Romero Find out why Fr Romero was made a saint.* 	25 Feast of the Annunciation How did Mary's 'yes' change the world? 	26 With your class pray and reflect on the 11th and 12th Stations of the Cross.* 	27 Ask a family member to help you discover why palms will be given out at church tomorrow. 	28 Palm Sunday What did the crowd sing when Jesus entered Jerusalem?
29 Sunday's Gospel was Jn 12:12-16.* Read it as a class. What does it say about hope? 	30 Today we remember how Judas made a bad decision. Ask God to help you make good choices this week. 	31 Today Jesus planned his last supper. Thank God for your food and pray for children who are hungry. 	1 APRIL Maundy Thursday Why does the Pope wash the feet of others today? 	2 Good Friday Sit quietly, be still, and thank Jesus for showing us how to love. 	3 Holy Saturday Today we wait as Jesus lies in the tomb. Tomorrow we celebrate as Jesus rises to new life. 	Jesus is risen. Alleluia!

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 Asterisks refer to abridged scriptures, or accompanying liturgies and activities, all are available on the Lent page of the Mission Together website. Our virtual map is hosted on the home page.

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