

Lent at Home and School

The Diocese of Sheffield, Lent 2021

The season of Lent is part of the Christian calendar and runs from Ash Wednesday (17th February) to Easter Sunday (4th April). The Diocese of Sheffield Education resource "Lent at Home and School" details significant parts of the Christian calendar over the season (e.g. Mothering Sunday, St Patrick's Day) and also adds some other significant dates (e.g. World Book Day, International Women's Day) - and also some odd ones (e.g. the anniversary of perforations, invention of the aglet). The hope is that these can stimulate some planning and provision throughout the Lenten Season from Shrove Tuesday (16th February) to Easter Sunday (4th April).

It is not differentiated so apologies that it needs elasticating for age and stage, and children will need some more explanation and support than others. Hopefully these activities and questions provide something with a particular view to making something positive out of each day for children and families.

It is a Word document so you can cut, paste and adapt to suit your needs.

Please share with any other schools or contexts but if we can keep the Diocese logo on that's helpful.

Each day has something about the day, followed by:

- **Could You?:** which is something a child or their family may have a go at doing
- **A Question...:** the question is supposed to be one a teacher can ask children, children can ask each other and then, crucially, something that can be chatted about at home. Take the question and ask it of a few people.
- **And Finally:** where these occur they are an extra at the end of some sections just to add a thought, question or activity.

Hope it is of use,

Huw Thomas

Diocesan Director of Education
Diocese of Sheffield

Tuesday, 16 February 21

Shrove Tuesday

This isn't Lent, it's the eve before.

Traditionally the coming season of Lent was a solemn time so on the day before it began (Ash Wednesday) people would have a party and eat some of the luxury foods.

Could you?

You may be making pancakes and celebrating, but could you also write a menu for the most luxurious best café imaginable. It can have the foods you love ("fish and chips", "chocolate cake") but you can also invent some luxury foods (what would a "Chocolate Bar Jelly" be like?)

A Question...

What are your top three luxuries that you either do enjoy, or would if you could have them?

And Finally

Any thoughts on the best pancake ingredients?

Wednesday, 17 February 21

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season in the Church calendar. Lent includes 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. Ash Wednesday is so named because Christians sometimes have ash crosses placed on their forehead on this day, as a reminder of the way the world has fallen and isn't as God would want it to be, and also as a "sorry" for our part in that.

There is more about the story behind the 40 days on Sunday 21st.

Could You?

Have a think about the word "Sorry" and why we say it and when we say it. Think about what makes it helpful and why it can be good to say "sorry"?

Christians believe we say "sorry" to a God who loves and forgives us. Again, we could think about forgiveness. Why is it good to forgive? How can it help us?

A Question...

Can someone be made to say sorry, or do they have to want to say it?

If they are made to, is it worth saying?

And Finally

The word 'Lent' may come from the old English word for 'lengthening', because during this time the days are getting longer. Can you find out what time the sun sets?

Thursday 18 February 21

“The Pilgrim's Progress” was published on this day in 1678.

John Bunyan’s classic story wrote about the life of faith as a pilgrimage. It is an allegory in which places and people represent experiences and problems. So, the idea of “Help” is represented by a character called “Help” and someone in despair is depicted in a cage.

Could You?

Find out more about what an allegory is?

You could imagine your own.

“Pilgrim’s Progress” is a story about Christian life, but it is an allegory. Things people experience or feel are turned into characters on a journey.

You could try thinking of your life thus far as a journey and imagine the different places it has taken you along the way.

Who knows, some budding Bunyans out there may even turn it into a map!

A Question...

What is the most special journey you have ever made, or could imagine making, and what makes it special?

And Finally

You could think about the word “progress” and your progress. What are some of the things you have learned this school year?

Friday, 19 February 21

Nicolaus Copernicus was born this day in 1473.

He would grow up to be a great astronomer who put forward the idea that the Sun is at the centre of our Solar System. Back then, folks thought it was the Earth.

Could You?

Could you think about some of the things you know about the earth we live on and the creation in which we live? In Copernicus's day his teaching was new and would cause a bit of an uproar, but came to be seen as the truth.

What are some of your favourite facts, things you know and thoughts about our world?

A Question...

When was the last time you changed your mind about something? What was it?

And Finally

Last month's "Perfect Planet" was all about the Sun.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p08xc2x7/a-perfect-planet-series-1-2-the-sun>

Saturday, 20 February 21

Edward VI was crowned King of England

on this day, at just 9 years of age in 1547.

Could You?

Find out who the kings or queens were before and after Edward?

Do you know the names of any other Kings or Queens before or after Edward? can you put them in order?

If you need help, here's a list:

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/KingsQueensofBritain/>

A Question...

Is 9 too young to be put in charge of things? If it is, how old is old enough?

And Finally

This portrait of Edward and others is explained by all the links on this National Portrait Gallery page:

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw00459/King-Edward-VI-and-the-Pope?LinkID=mp01429&role=sit&rNo=4>

Sunday, 21 February 21

Jesus in the Wilderness

Today, in our churches, we read the story of Jesus in the wilderness – a story really important in Lent.

Could You?

Could you read the story?

Jesus spent his 40 days readying himself for his mission.

You can read about it in Luke 4:1-13.

If you want to use an online Bible, here's one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

A Question...

Jesus was faced with the temptation between the right and wrong choice: how do we decide what is the right thing to do?

And Finally

A beautiful, short film called "40", mapping 40 days over 40 slides

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-6a25Yo2wE>

Monday, 22 February 21

Birth of George Washington,

who would grow up to be the first president of the United States.

Could You?

How many leaders' names can you list, from now or from the past?

Do you know the name of the current US President? What about the one before? Or the one before that?

A Question...

What is the best way to decide who should be in charge of a group or a country?

And Finally

Christopher Jackson, who played Washington in the musical "Hamilton", talks about the fact that Washington was also a slave owner, and how he reflected on that troubling past:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXFuKpxyXk8>

Tuesday, 23 February 21

St Polycarp's day

St Polycarp (69-155 AD) was one of the earliest Church writers and someone who became a martyr.

Could You?

Look up the Gospel of John in a Bible, or find out about something in that Gospel?

Tradition has it that Polycarp knew John – and John knew Jesus. He's like an early link in the chain of history.

A Question...

Who do you know and chat to in different generations to your own?

And Finally

Today is also Handel's birthday so why not listen to this snippet from the great composer: (1865)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5vfAoPwepg>

Wednesday, 24 February 21

The first perforated postage stamp

The first perforated postage stamp – a Penny Red – was introduced on this day in 1854

Could You?

Could you find a postage stamp? Or two? What do they look like? How often do we use them?

A Question...

What are all the different ways in which we send messages and communications to each other?

And Finally

Here's Ruby talking about Postage Stamps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KJtLOyHTcw>

Thursday, 25 February 21

Purim Begins this evening

This evening, after sundown, the Jewish festival of Purim begins.

Could You?

Could you find out about the Story Of Esther? She has her own Book in the Bible, and in chapters 4 and 5 she does what nobody was supposed to do and enters the presence of the king, without being invited.

If you want to use an online Bible, here's one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

"If I die, I die" she says, as she sets off on this daring visit.

A Question...

What should people do if they think their rulers are doing the wrong thing?

And Finally

Here's a telling of the Story of Esther: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3oSJ_xbc

Friday, 26 February 21

Purim

The Feast of Purim (see 25/2) continues today. It's an exciting day in which the Jewish people celebrate a time when their people were saved from being wiped out.

Could You?

Could you think about the most exciting stories you know?

What makes them exciting?

What makes for a good, action packed story?

A Question...

Find out from one another what stories you think are the most exciting ever told.

And Finally

Here's a beautiful old painting showing Esther's uncle persuading her to risk approaching the king:

<https://www.nga.gov/collection/art-object-page.133837.html>

Here's one of her in with the king:

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/sebastiano-ricci-esther-before-ahasuerus>

Just look and ask who's who: who is doing what in these paintings?

Saturday, 27 February 21

George Herbert

The Church of England designates February 27 as a feast day for the priest and poet George Herbert (1593-1633)

Could You?

Could you read this bit of a poem by George Herbert?

It is a prayer that anything he does will be done as a special something for God.

“Teach me, my God and King,

In all things Thee to see,

And what I do in anything,

To do it as for Thee.”

A Question...

“Teach me my God and King” is all about seeing importance in all things – big or small – that we do. Think of some of the boring and seemingly unimportant things we do, and think about why we have to do them: how special are they?

And Finally

Here’s that poem we looked at in full, after a lot of information about George Herbert:

<https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/27-february-thanks-george-herbert/>

And here is another one, about meeting God a- meeting Love:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44367/love-iii>

Sunday, 28 February 21

The 28th of February

Today is the last day of the shortest month!

Could You?

Check which months have which number of days?

You could use the old rhyme:

“Thirty days hath September,

April, June, and November,

All the rest have thirty-one,

But February's twenty-eight,

The leap year, which comes once in four,

Gives February one day more.”

A Question...

What are the two best months of the year and what makes them so good?

And Finally

28 is the second smallest “perfect number” – this is a number that can be made by adding all its divisors (the numbers by which it can be divided, so $1+2+4+7+14 = 28$).

So, what is the smallest perfect number?

Monday, 1 March 21

St David

Today is the Feast of St David, the patron saint of Wales.

Could You...

Find Wales on a map.

Maybe you know some things about Wales, or places in Wales, or can ask others about places they know.

You could even try drawing your own map with the bits that stick out at the top and the bottom.

A Question...

David is special for Welsh people. Which famous person do you think of as being special for you? A singer? An actor? A sports personality?

You can list your top three.

And Finally

Today some Welsh people will wear daffodils or leeks – the national emblems. They are like the badge of the Welsh. What flower, vegetable or other curious item would you have as your emblem?

Tuesday, 2 March 21

St Chad's Day

Could You?

St Chad is one of the oldest English Saints, born around the year 620 and travelled a lot around the North of England. He was an abbot of a few monasteries. A monastery is a place where people go to live lives devoted to prayer and work for God. He was also the Bishop of York. He studied at Lindisfarne and started monasteries at Barrow and Lichfield.

Could you find these places on a map of England? They are all North of the big city of Birmingham.

Maybe you could also find some of the other towns you know, in the top half of a map of England, such as where you live or places you have visited.

Here's a link to a map:

[https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:1&tbm=lcl&sxsrf=ALeKk000wYCKkZN3g2qq7EcnBAfbnpNH70:1612265940500&q=map+of+cities+of+england&rflfq=1&num=10&ved=2ahUKEwirxKrVjsvuAhV1QEEAHTeqClgQtgN6BAg0EAc#rfl=hd::si::mv:\[55.80552903299189,2.2436761453124854\],\[52.54087024683256,-7.786841432812515\],null,\[54.20543122082961,-2.7715826437500146\],7](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:1&tbm=lcl&sxsrf=ALeKk000wYCKkZN3g2qq7EcnBAfbnpNH70:1612265940500&q=map+of+cities+of+england&rflfq=1&num=10&ved=2ahUKEwirxKrVjsvuAhV1QEEAHTeqClgQtgN6BAg0EAc#rfl=hd::si::mv:[55.80552903299189,2.2436761453124854],[52.54087024683256,-7.786841432812515],null,[54.20543122082961,-2.7715826437500146],7)

A Question...

If you could do a day trip – so not too far and done in one day – where would you go, and why?

And Finally

Think about it: What do you think travel would have been like 1400 years ago?

Wednesday, 3 March 21

Launch of Pioneer 10

Pioneer 10 was launched on this day in 1972. It was the first human-made object to be launched and to leave the solar system. It left the solar system.

Could You?

Could you find out about planets and the sun?

Remember the names using the mnemonic (memory tip) "My Very Easy Method Just Speeds Up Naming Planets" (the letters match Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn Uranus, Neptune...and we're including Pluto, but you could just say ".just speeds up naming" if you don't).

Here is Pioneer 10's photo of Jupiter

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pioneer_10#/media/File:Pioneer_10_-_p146.jpg

A Question...

If you discovered a new planet, what would you call it?

And Finally

Pioneer 10 finally left the solar system in 1983 and contact was lost with the probe in 2003.

What is the furthest distance you have ever travelled?

Thursday, 4 March 21

World Book Day

Could You?

As well as doing whatever else is being done for World Book Day, could you think about your favourite two books.... yes, you can pick two...and think what it is that make them special, for you?

A Question...

What makes a story particularly good – as in exciting, heart breaking, funny or adventurous?

And Finally

Whether at school or not, could you dress up as a book character?

Friday, 5 March 21

Anniversary of Last Year's World Book Day!

Could You?

Why are we talking about last year's World Book Day? There's a reason...could you try and remember it? For many of us it was the last big event in school we could celebrate together. After this it was lockdowns and bubbles. So, could you use this opportunity to think and chat about how much has changed since you last dressed up or did something similar for World book Day?

A Question...

Can you think of something that happened in each month between last World book Day and this one?

And Finally

Could you make a time line of things that have happened during the past year?

Saturday, 6 March 21

Dentists Day

Dentists Day, observed annually every March 6, and is a day set aside to remind us to say "Thank You" and show appreciation to your dentist.

Could You?

Could you clean your teeth? Could you also take a good look at them and think of all the different ways they mash, cut or grind food such that you can eat it?

A Question...

How do you feel about going to the dentist...and why?

And Finally

You might want to arrange for someone to help you get a message by text or email to your dentist thanking them for all their work, particularly this past year.

Sunday, 7 March 21

Saints Perpetua and Felicity

Today the Church remembers St Perpetua and St Felicity, two martyrs of the Church. Martyrs are people who were killed because of their faith. Perpetua and Felicity were martyred around 203.

Could You?

Remember the names – Perpetua and Felicity. We keep days like this to remember people and learn their story, and also learn from their story.

Perpetua was a rich woman. Felicity was a servant. Perpetua was a Christian and refused to give up her faith, even though warned that the Emperor was having followers of Jesus killed. Perpetua met Felicity in prison, where they were awaiting execution. The two women became friends.

They met a grisly end. The two women were martyred by being gored by wild beasts and then beheaded in the arena at their home town.

Together they wrote the earliest Christian book known to have been written by women.

A Question...

Felicity and Perpetua died for what they believed in.

What beliefs or opinions are really important to you?

And Finally

A short film from the Catholic Church in which the two martyrs' story is told – with the story of the water jug: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BubQSY1A1-s>

Monday, 8 March 21

International Women's Day

The full name of this day is: "United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace." Throughout history women have experienced discrimination. Today we challenge that, and celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations.

Could You?

Think about the great women in your life: who has inspired you? Or supported you? Or brought you up? Or cared for you?

Could you wish some of them a Happy International Women's Day?

A Question...

Why is so important to have International Women's Day?

And Finally

Click here to find some of the inspirational women through history, celebrated on this day:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/international-womens-day/>

Tuesday, 9 March 21

Birth dates of Samuel Barber (March 9, 1910 – January 23, 1981)

Samuel Barber was composer of one of the most famous and beautiful pieces of classical music, the Adagio for Strings. It was composed in 1936 as part of a bigger piece of music, a String Quartet, but is often played as a stand-alone piece.

Could You?

Listen to Barber's Adagio and ask yourself, what thoughts and feelings did you have while you listened to this piece of music.

Here's a link to an orchestra performing it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAoLJ8GbA4Y>

A Question...

What makes a piece of music beautiful?

How does it feel to listen to beautiful music?

And Finally

Try another piece of classical music. What about something completely different...

Wednesday, 10 March 21

Mario Day

Yes...it really is...

Today is the day Mario fans celebrate the little computer game character.

And you can see why...?

Could You?

Think about the computer activity or game you like the most and what you would say are the three best things about it.

A Question...

What would life be like if, tomorrow, we couldn't use any computers – including smart phones?

And Finally

Just in case you can't see why: Mar10 looks like the name 'Mario'.

Thursday, 11 March 21

Bobby McFerrin's Birthday

The folk-jazz vocalist who does amazing musical things with his voice, like this...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81uJZIF9TCs>

Some older ones may remember him as the composer and singer of "Don't Worry, Be Happy".

Try listening to things like one of his Circle Songs – they are all voice, no instruments:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbfB62AAE5Y>

Could You?

Listen to the way Bobby McFerrin make musical moments with his voice, and try making up your own?

Could you repeat it, or add to it?

A Question...

What is your favourite piece of music and why do you think it is your top tune?

And Finally

Watch this one where he plays with the audience...

https://www.ted.com/talks/bobby_mcferrin_watch_me_play_the_audience

Friday, 12 March 21

Ghandi's Salt March

This day, marks the beginning of Mahatma Ghandi's Salt March.

You can find out about it here: <https://www.history.com/topics/india/salt-march>

Could You?

Find our about this amazing trek.

Mahatma Ghandi was a leader in India at the time when the British ruled that country and India wanted its independence. Back then it was illegal for Indians to collect salt. Indian people had to buy it from the British. As part of his campaign to gain independence, Ghandi would do non-violent acts that resisted British rule. On this day, in 1930, Ghandi set out from his home to trek 240 miles to the sea, and make salt. It was one of the many things he did to gain independence for his country.

A Question...

Should people disobey a law if it is a bad law or if the rulers who make them are unjust?

And Finally

This clip from an old film includes (at 2:30) the story of the Salt March

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WW3uk95VGes>

Saturday, 13 March 21

Pope Francis was declared Pope on this day in 2013

Could You?

Have a read of these words from Pope Francis:

“Let us open the doors to the Spirit, let ourselves be guided by him, and allow God's constant help to make us new men and women, inspired by the love of God which the Holy Spirit bestows on us! How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say: Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person! How beautiful!”

Pope Francis (2015). “The Spirit of St Francis: Inspiring Words on Faith, Love and Creation”, p.23, SPCK

A Question...

Pope Francis speaks of us being inspired by the love of God. What does it mean to be “inspired”?

What inspires you and what do you do as a result of inspiration?

And Finally

Watch a few clips here of Pope Francis and his encounters with children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux4EQxW7bLA>

Sunday, 14 March 21

Mothering Sunday

It's the fourth Sunday in Lent – you can count back and check.

Traditionally, the fourth Sunday is when we celebrate Mothering Sunday. We celebrate our Mums and the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives.

Could You?

Could you create a visit? Traditionally, Mothering Sunday was a day when people working away from home would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year, going back to the place they were from or that they called home. In the past, when travel was rarer and more difficult this would be a big occasion. This year, this Sunday, you may be at home. Why not step outside the front door and knock on it, step inside and visit your own home. Say "hello" to your folks, spend some time catching up, take any cards or gifts you may have... and do a traditional Mothering Sunday.

A Question...

In what ways do families look after and "bring up" their children? What are the most important things on that list of 'things families do'?

And Finally

Find out more about Mothering Sunday here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/stories-and-features/mothering-sunday-what-are-its-origins-church>

Monday, 15 March 21

Ides of March

The 15th of March is known as the Ides of March, from the Latin phrase meaning “Middle of March.”

It is famously the time at which Julius Caesar was assassinated by some of his politicians. The story goes that he had been warned by a soothsayer – an ancient fortune teller. Shakespeare includes the warning from a soothsayer to Caesar, in his play ‘Julius Caesar’: “beware the Ides of March.”

In histories and the play, Caesar is said to have ignored the warning. Whoops!

Could You?

Speak some Latin.

In Latin, the Ides of March are

idus Martiae (pronounced eye-dus mar-she-ay)

These three Latin mottos below are all pretty much pronounced as they are sounded out:

“Ad astra per aspera” means **‘to the stars through adversity.’** This motto suggests that we’ll not reach for the stars (astra – like in astronomy) without passing through the challenges (the ‘aspera’).

“Acta non verba” means **‘works not words.’** This is what you would say if the time has come, or somebody needs, to do something. It’s like saying “Enough talk. I need action.”

“Finis coronat opus” means **‘the end crowns the work.’** How something ends and what it does is really important. It can also be a way of saying “Wait and see how this turns out” if you are in the middle of something.

A Question...

Caesar ignored the soothsayer’s advice.

What one piece of advice would you give to somebody? Could be about how to tackle school or how to get on with friends. What’s your word of advice?

And Finally

Marieke Audsley, a director from the Royal Shakespeare Company tells the story from Shakespeare’s play, “Julius Caesar,” here, including what happened to Brutus and Cassius:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/julius-caesar/the-plot>

Tuesday, 16 March 21

First FA Cup Final, 1872

The FA Cup is the oldest football tournament in the world and this date marks the anniversary of the first cup final, in London, at which was won by Wanderers Football Club.

Could You?

Find out some of the most important facts about a sport you enjoy. You may know enough to just know what the facts are – players' names, famous anniversaries etc.

A Question...

What was the most exciting sporting moment. ever?

And Finally

Let's watch the fourth goal from the 1966 World Cup:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg2CXkJVCHk>

Wednesday, 17 March 21

St Patrick's Day

St Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. He was born in Scotland but kidnapped as a child and taken to Ireland. He escaped to France, where he trained as a priest and returned to Ireland to serve God.

He died on 17th March in the year 461.

Could You?

Escape stories can be great fun. The story goes that when Patrick escaped he hid on a boat thinking it would take him back to Scotland, but he ended up in France.

Can you imagine the different ways someone could escape from somewhere they have been made to stay? What would you do? Disguising? Sneaking? Climbing? Hiding?

A Question...

Do you have one place you think you most want to be? Where is it and why?

And Finally

Find Ireland on a map.

Thursday, 18 March 21

First Space Walk 1965

On this day, in 1965, Russian cosmonaut Alexei Leonov was in a capsule in space, and became the first person to leave a space capsule, attached by a cable, and, float orbit.

Could You?

Look up.

Go or look outside, but look up.

Imagine going up over three hundred miles (how far is that from where you are?)

What would the journey be like?

What would clouds and the earth look like?

What would you see once you were up there?

A Question...

What is the most exciting journey you could imagine making?

And Finally

Here's a half hour film from NASA, the space agency, about space walks:

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/premiere-of-suit-up-documenting-50-years-of-spacewalks>

Alexei is 3:45 in.

Friday, 19 March 21

Joseph of Nazareth

Today the Church remembers Jesus's father Joseph.

Could You?

You can read Joseph's story in the Bible, in the Gospel of Matthew. Start at chapter 1 verse 18 and try read all the way through chapter 2.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

A Question...

Joseph had to take Jesus to a safe place in another country: what is it like, or what do you think it would be like, to leave one place and move to another?

And Finally

St Joseph, who took the baby Jesus to Egypt, safety from King Herod, is the patron saint of immigrants – people who move to live in a new country.

Imagine you were planning to move to a new country. What would you pack in one suitcase?

Saturday, 20 March 21

St Cuthbert

St Cuthbert is the Patron Saint of Northumbria, up in the North East of England. He spent a long time living a simple life on the island of Lindisfarne. His tomb is at Durham Cathedral.

Could You?

Could you find out more about Cuthbert?

After his death, there were fears Viking raiders would steal his body so his followers dug up his coffin and took it to safety. You can read more about Cuthbert here. In particular the strange story of what happened to him after his death and the journey he went on.

<https://digventures.com/lindisfarne/timeline/diary/cuthbert-the-saint-whose-journey-continued-after-death/>

A Question...

How do you think you would manage if you decided to go and live on an island?

And Finally

Listen to these ducks. They make amazing noises.

Eider Ducks are known as Cuddy Ducks (Cuddy is another name for Cuthbert), because the saint is said to have been on good terms with many animals, including the ducks of his island.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b03bkcwq>

Sunday, 21 March 21

Passion Sunday ... and Selma

Passion Sunday marks the start of the final two weeks of Lent.

Today is also the anniversary of the day when civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King began one of his most famous marches – the Selma march.

Could You?

Could you learn about this march?

Martin Luther King led the March from Selma to force the President to make a law to say that all citizens should be allowed to vote.

It was a dangerous march that had been tried twice before and met with police brutality but, on this day in 1965, it went ahead and the marchers marched roughly 50 miles to their state capital. At the end of the march there were 25,000 marchers.

The President went ahead and changed the law.

A Question...

Why is marching one way people try and change a government's mind?

And Finally

You can watch Martin Luther King speaking at the end of another march, this time on Washington, with his famous words "I have a dream"

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/martin-luther-king-i-have-a-dream-video-washington-dc-lincoln-memorial-civil-rights-movement-a8286926.html>

Monday, 22 March 21

The Lumiere's first film show

On this day in 1895, Auguste and Louis Lumière (pronounced 'Lew-me-air) did their first screening. It was a film called "Workers Leaving the Lumière Factory," and was the moment that invented cinema. The premiere was held at a private screening for ten people.

Could You?

Watch the film. Here it is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEQeIRLxaM4>

It may not look like much but, back then, it was really exciting: moving pictures on a screen.

A Question...

What is your favourite film, ever, and why do you like it so much?

And Finally

You could also watch this early film, from the Kenyon Brothers, of school children in Widnes

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-parade-of-widnes-school-children-1901-1901-online>

Tuesday, 23 March 21

First printed use of 'OK'

The earliest recorded use of the word "O.K." in print took place on this date in 1839, in the Boston Morning Post. It was used to stand for "all correct" – as a joke way of saying "Orl korrekt"

Could You?

What abbreviations or clever uses of letters do you know and use?

There are these, but do you know any others?

LOL: Laughing out loud

ASAP: As soon as possible

FYI: For your information

G2G: Got to go

IMO: In my opinion

PLZ: Please

L8R: Later

IDK: I don't know

TBH: to be honest

A Question...

What are the earliest memories you have of writing something?

And Finally

How many acronyms and abbreviations do people use in text messages?

Wednesday, 24 March 21

Oscar Romero

In the 1980s the army and government in the country of El Salvador were brutal, and were killing people who protested against them. Archbishop Oscar Romero protested against this and received many death threats, but this did not stop him. In his sermon on 23 March, he said "I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!" The next day (today's date), he was shot and killed while saying Mass.

Pope Francis made him a Catholic Saint and today the Church of England remembers him.

Could You?

Find out a bit more.

Here is a film about the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/St-Romero>

A Question...

Romero said:

"Let us not tire of preaching love;

it is the force that will overcome the world."

How can love be a force? How does it change things?

And Finally

Some more resources about Romero can be found here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Romero-prayers>

Thursday, 25 March 21

The Annunciation

This is another word for an announcement.

This is the special day in the Church calendar when we celebrate the story of the angel appearing to Mary and telling her she would have a baby and he would be called "Jesus".

You can read it in the Bible in Luke 1.26-38

Could You?

Find out or tell someone the story about you being born. Where did it happen? Who told who about it? How was your name chosen? When was your new name announced?

A Question...

When did you remember somebody announcing something, maybe on the news or on the internet?

And Finally

Can you guess what the most popular names are in this country? You can find you here:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/most-popular-baby-names-uk-england-ons-2020-a4533416.html>

Friday, 26 March 21

Robert Frost (1874 – 1963)

The poet Robert Frost who wrote poems like

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” was born on this day in 1874

Could You?

Could you read Frost’s poem and try to imagine the scene and feelings in it?

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42891/stopping-by-woods-on-a-snowy-evening>

A Question...

Have a look at this quote from another poem and ask what it means for you, what it makes you think and feel....

“I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less travelled by,

And that has made all the difference.”

And Finally

You can read and listen to the poem “The Road Not Taken” here:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44272/the-road-not-taken>

Saturday, 27 March 21

The invention of the shoelace

On this day in 1790, Harvey Kennedy patented shoelaces. This means he claimed the invention for his own, though beforehand other people had been trying different types of lace. Kennedy was the one who figured out the need for an aglet. The aglet is the little thing that wraps the ends of the laces to make them easy to thread.

Could You?

Try tying laces, and maybe have a laces race. How fast can you tie yours? Can you do two shoes (with double knots) in 10 seconds? What about 7?

A Question...

Why does it matter who invented something? What difference does it make?

And Finally

Draw your shoes. They make great art subjects!

Sunday, 28 March 21

Palm Sunday

The First Day of Holy Week

The week ahead is Holy Week, the week that tells the story of Jesus in Jerusalem, his death and rising again.

Could You?

Today Christians remember the story of Jesus coming to Jerusalem on a donkey and people waving palm leaves.

You can read the story in John 12:12-16. If you want to use an online Bible, here's one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

In many churches, children are given palm leaves made into the shape of a cross.

You might want to try this activity here, which reminds us of that activity. You will need a bit of paper:

https://youtu.be/_Tr4ka8sKcs

A Question...

Can you think of times when you have celebrated something or someone?

And Finally

Imagine someone famous or special coming to where you live.

Make a list of the people you would be really excited to see?

Monday, 29 March 21

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

The day after the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem, there is the story of Jesus action in the temple.

Could You?

The day after entering Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Temple. This was the special building where God was to be worshipped. Jesus found lots of money changers there, and he proceeded to turn over their tables and threw them out of the Temple, saying, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers." (Luke 19:46).

You can read the story in Luke 19:45-48: If you want to use an online Bible, here's one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

Could you imagine what it would have been like to have been one of Jesus friends who went there with him?

What about one of the money-changers?

And how do you think Jesus felt?

A Question...

What makes you angry? Can being angry be a good thing as well as sometimes a bad thing?

And Finally

On this page you will find three artworks showing this story.

<https://www.raydowning.com/blog/2020/3/2/holy-week-in-art-jesus-cleanses-the-temple>

Tuesday, 30 March 21

Chrism

Chrism is pronounced "krisum." Often, during Holy Week, sometimes on the Monday, Bishops will hold a Chrism Service.

At these services they bless the oils that can be used to show God is with people when they are baptised, or sick or doing something special for God.

Could You?

Chrism comes from the Greek word 'Crisma', meaning anointing. The oils prayed over at a Chrism service are used for anointing – which simply means marking someone with oil. At baptism the Priest makes a sign of a cross on the baby's forehead with such oils.

If you have any olive oil in the house could you dab a bit n your hand and feel how it feels.

Back in Bible times oil was special and so was used for special symbolism.

In the Church these days, oil is used to show that God is with someone at an important or difficult time of life.

A Question...

What have been the most special or memorable times in your life?

And Finally

Here is the Greek word 'krisma' in it's Greek letters. It's actually 'chrisma' with the 'ch' sounding like it does in "Christmas":

χρῖσμα

Can you write it in Greek?

Wednesday, 31 March 21

Spy Wednesday

Today is sometimes called Spy Wednesday.

Could You?

Spy Wednesday reminds us that some time during Holy Week, the last week of Jesus life, his friend Judas betrayed him. That means he want and arranged for Jesus enemies to catch him and became their spy. Jesus friend let him down in a big way.

Could you think about friendship and some of the best times you have had with friends? You might just have some memories or you could get in touch with them and thank them for being good friends.

A Question...

What advice would you give someone about the best ways to have good friendships?

And Finally

Today is also the last day of the month or March. What is the most memorable things that has happened this month?

Thursday, 1 April 21

Maundy Thursday

Jesus shared the Last Supper with his friends, the meal that started the Christian practice of sharing bread and wine in worship.

Could You?

You can read the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet in John 13:1-17

If you want to use an online Bible, here's one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

He did it as a way of showing that we should serve each other and care for each other. Is there something you could do today around the home that would be a good act of helping, and serving others?

A Question...

What are the ways we can serve one another?

And Finally

Look at this image of the foot washing by Ford Maddox-Brown. look at how the different disciples are reacting:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/brown-jesus-washing-peters-feet-n01394>

Friday, 2 April 21

Good Friday

This is the day Jesus died.

Could You?

This is Good Friday because although we remember a sad and terrible event, Christians believe Jesus was doing what he planned and changing things by his dying.

You can read the whole story of the day in the gospel of John, chapters 18 and 19.

If you want to use an online Bible, here's one:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/gnt/>

A Question...

What makes a day good or a day bad? Can a bad thing ever cause a good thing?

And Finally

This shorty film uses words from a famous sermon and animation to show the story.

<https://fervr.net/videos/its-friday-...-but-sundays-comin>

Saturday, 3 April 21

Holy Saturday

The evening of this day is celebrated in some churches with a service to celebrate the resurrection. Some churches light a bonfire outside the church and light a Paschal Candle – a candle made specially for Easter. This is then brought into the church, symbolising Jesus coming back and being like a light in the darkness.

Could You?

Could you think about stories in which things seem to have gone really badly for characters, and then goes well?

Think about stories like that and how you felt when it went wrong.

When did you guess thing had changed?

How did you feel?

A Question...

Why do you think light is used as a symbol of good things?

And Finally

Wait for the sunset and notice when it happens.

Sunday, 4 April 21

Easter Sunday

Christians celebrate the Resurrection. Christians believe that after being crucified, Jesus' tomb was found to be empty. He had risen from the dead to life

Could You?

Christians celebrate the belief that after his death, Jesus came back to his disciples in various stories.

You can read some of these stories in Luke 24.

Christians celebrate that, in Jesus, life beat death.

Today is a good day to celebrate life, including new life and the life God has given us. Could you think about the things that make for a good life – what do you most love about living and enjoy the most.

A Question...

What are the best things about life?

And Finally

Happy Easter! Could you wish other people a Happy Easter?