

Children's Newsletter

St Mary's

1st Sunday
of Lent

Matt 4:1-11

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus goes into the desert for 40 days where he is tempted by Satan but the angels look after him.

When he returns from the desert, Jesus goes into Galilee to start his public work of preaching the Good News from God.

Lent

Lent is a special season of the Church year and it began on Ash Wednesday. Many of us will have had ashes placed on our heads to remind us that it is a season of repentance, this means we think of things we have done wrong and say sorry. This is why the priest will be wearing purple vestments until Easter.

The ashes which are used are made from burning the palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

Did you notice that we did not say the Gloria or

Superhero –Noah

Noah was told by God to build a large ark for him and his family and for two of every animal. Noah did as God had asked even though his neighbours thought he was crazy. The Ark was huge and when it was ready Noah and his family went on board. With them were two of every kind of animal and when they were all on the ark the rain began.

It rained for forty days and forty nights and the waters rose and flooded the earth. After 150 days Noah sent out a raven and then a dove. After the second time the dove flew out of the ark, it came back with a freshly picked olive branch. Noah knew then that the waters had gone down.

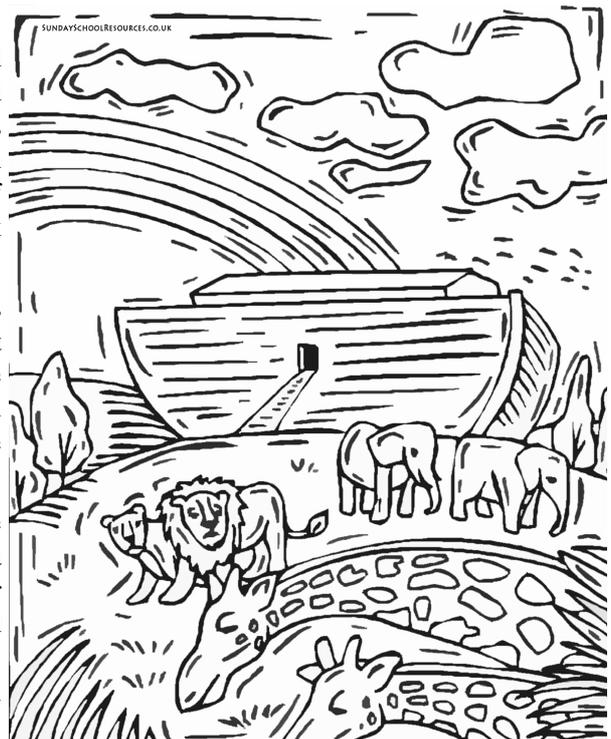
After Noah, his family and the animals came out of the ark, Noah thanked God for saving them all. God made a covenant (agreement) with Noah that there would never be such a huge flood again and to show that he would keep his promise God put a rainbow into the sky.

When you have coloured the picture why don't you try drawing your own picture and bring it next week?

the Alleluia at Mass before the Gospel reading? When do you think we will say this Gospel acclamation again?

We are always encouraged to give up something or do something for Lent. This practice of denying ourselves is used to remind us of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. It also helps us to build self-control and teaches us that we can resist temptation. What are you giving up?

What are you doing for Lent?



Saint Casimir

Patron Saint of Poland

Casimir was the third child of King Casimir IV and Elizabeth of Austria. He was born in 1461 and could have had a life of luxury and riches. He could have been leader of his father's army and help his father become even more powerful than he was.

This was not what Casimir wanted. Casimir wanted only to worship God. He was uncomfortable with all the riches in the palace and wore only the plainest of clothes and spent many of his nights in prayer. Casimir was laughed at for his choices but he stuck by them.

When his father wanted to take over the throne of Hungary, he sent Casimir at the head of the army. When Casimir failed, he was banished from the court but this suited Casimir who spent his time praying, studying and helping the poor.

Casimir died at the age of 23 in 1484 from lung disease. He was buried with his favourite song, a Latin hymn to Mary called "Omni die dic Mariae" which we know as "Daily, Daily Sing to Mary." Because of his love for the song, it is known as the Hymn of St. Casimir although he didn't write it. .



Hymns

We sing many different hymns at St Mary's, including St Casimir's favourite hymn, which is often sung in May and October. Some of the hymns are modern, some were written many years ago.

Lots of people enjoy singing and St Augustine said that to sing well was to pray twice. Do you have a favourite hymn? Why don't you write it out on a card and decorate it? You could use it when you are praying even if you don't want to sing it.

The Cross

In ancient times the cross was a symbol of punishment. Criminals would be tied to the cross until they died.

However, when Jesus was crucified it became a symbol for his death and how he had suffered and died for us. For Christians the cross has become a symbol of hope.

All churches will have a crucifix, which is the main ornament on the altar. These will have the figure of Jesus nailed to the cross and we will use a large one during the Good Friday Service.

The cross on the right is a different kind of cross. Jesus is not nailed to the cross but is shown as the risen Lord. Which cross do we have in our church?

