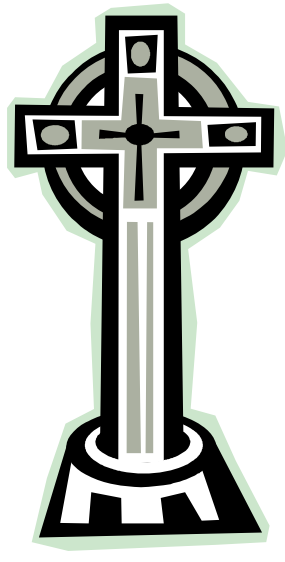


A parent's guide  
for  
Religious Education



## Contents

Mission Statement	2
Who was Saint James the Great?	3
Prayers we use at Saint James the Great	4
The Rosary	5
Here I Am	7
Attitudes, skills and concepts	8
The Bible	9
The New Testament	10
Holy days, Priests' vestments	11
Mass Responses	12
The seven sacraments	13
Advent and Lent	15
Stations of the Cross	16
Apostles	17
The Holy Spirit	18



**Dear Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for my family.  
Please may your love always be with us,  
Please may your care always protect us,  
Please may your peace always surround us,  
Amen.**

## **Mission Statement**

*Our school, as a place of learning, belongs to the parish communities of Thornton Heath and Norbury and exists to educate the children of the community with the Gospel values, traditions and beliefs of the Catholic Faith at the centre of its ethos, while recognising and understanding and individuality of the “faith journey”.*

Taking account of National Curriculum requirements, the School will provide a framework within which all pupils are enabled to develop the highest possible level of achievement, fulfilling their academic, moral, physical and spiritual potential.

The school will foster a respect for self and others in a climate of tolerance of individual differences, whilst recognising the importance of striving for excellence and enhancing children’s transition to responsible adulthood.

### **Nursery and Reception**

At St James the Great, we always try to do our best in everything we do. We learn about God and how He made us and loves us. He teaches us how to love others in the same way. We belong to the churches of St. Andrew’s and St. Bartholomew’s. We know that we are all special in our own different ways.

### **Years 1 and 2**

Our school is a place where the children from St. Andrew’s and St. Bartholomew’s work, play and pray together. As Catholics, we learn to treat each other and ourselves with respect, following in Jesus’ footsteps.

### **Years 3 and 4**

This is our schools. It is where we come to learn. We are on our way to learning more about the kind of person Jesus wants us to be. Every day we will practise friendship towards others. We will try to understand and enjoy the ways in which we are all special. Our teachers will help us to know more about our God-given talents so that we can work towards doing our best in everything. We rejoice in each others’ successes, we make the most of every opportunity because we all have a part to play in God’s world.

### **Years 5 and 6**

We come to school to learn. We learn to live and grow as Jesus taught us. Our school is part of the Catholic communities of St. Andrew’s and St. Bartholomew’s. Our school is a community too, where everyone is valued and encouraged to do their best in their work and in their play. Our school helps us to understand that each one of us is special and shows us how to use our gifts and talents for the good of ourselves and our community and that we should respect each other for being different.

## Who was Saint James the Great?

Saint James the Great's mother was called Salome and his father was called Zebedee and he had a brother called John.

Saint James the Great was a fisherman who lived in Bethsaida at the same time as Saint Peter.

Saint James the Great was one of the twelve disciples. He was older and taller than the other disciple called James who was known as Saint James the Lesser.

Saint James the Great was with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before He died.

After Jesus was crucified, Saint James the Great went to Spain to tell people about Jesus. Mary appeared to Saint James the Great while he was in Spain.

Saint James the Great was beheaded in AD 42 and is buried in Compostella in Spain.

Many people travel to Compostella each year on pilgrimage. Saint James the Great's symbol is a scallop shell, which represents the pilgrims to Compostella.

Saint James the Great is the patron saint of Spain and his feast day is on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.



## Prayers we use at Saint James the Great

### The School Creed

This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here.  
Let the school be full of contentment.  
Let love abide here,  
Love of our school,  
Love of one another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself  
And love of God.  
Let us remember,  
that as many hands built the school,  
So many hearts make the school.

### Grace before meals

Bless us O God as we sit together  
Bless the food we eat today  
Bless the hands that made the food  
Bless us O God. Amen

### Act of Charity

O my God, because you are so good, I love you with all my heart, and for your sake, I love my neighbour as myself.

### Act of Contrition

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and by the help of your grace I will try not to sin again.



## **The Rosary**

October is the month of the Rosary which is dedicated to Our Lady and consists of a series of prayers. The word "Rosary" means "Crown of Roses". Each time somebody says a Hail Mary, they are giving Our Lady a rose, each complete Rosary makes her a crown of Roses. The whole Rosary is composed of twenty decades. Each decade is recited in honour of a mystery in Our Lord's life and that of His Blessed Mother, Mary.

How to say the Rosary:

- ❖ Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- ❖ Say the Our Father
- ❖ Say three Hail Marys
- ❖ Say the Glory Be
- ❖ Let the children know which of the mysteries (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful or Glorious) you are contemplating and tell them which part of the mystery you are focussing on eg. The Annunciation.
- ❖ Say the Our Father
- ❖ Say ten Hail Mary's (usually someone says the first half to "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus." And the rest of the children say the second half together.
- ❖ Finish the decade with the Glory Be to the Father
- ❖ Complete the mystery by saying four more decades (each decade consists of stating the part of the mystery being focussed on, one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and a Glory Be)
- ❖ Conclude the five decades ie. the complete mystery, by saying the Hail, Holy Queen.
- ❖ This whole cycle of the Rosary is repeated three more times in order to say the twenty decades of the Rosary.

## **Prayers of the Rosary**

### The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### The Our Father

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

### The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

### The Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

### Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us. And after our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

## **The Mysteries of the Rosary**

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary (before Jesus began His public ministry):

- ❖ The Annunciation (Luke 1:28)
- ❖ The Visitation (Luke 1:41-42)
- ❖ The Birth of Our Lord (Luke 2:7)
- ❖ The Presentation (Luke 2:22-23)
- ❖ The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:46)

The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary (during Jesus' public ministry):

- ❖ The Baptism of Our Lord (Mark 1:10)
- ❖ The Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:11)
- ❖ The Proclamation of the Kingdom (Mark 1:15)
- ❖ The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:2)
- ❖ The Last Supper (Luke 22:19)

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary (Good Friday):

- ❖ The Agony in the Garden (Luke 22:44-45)
- ❖ The Scourging at the Pillar (John 19:1)
- ❖ The Crowning with Thorns (Matthew 27:28-29)
- ❖ The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)
- ❖ The Crucifixion (Luke 23:46)

The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary (Easter Sunday and onwards):

- ❖ The Resurrection (Mark 16:6)
- ❖ The Ascension (Mark 16:19)
- ❖ The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)
- ❖ The Assumption (Apocalypse 12:1)
- ❖ The Crowning of Our Lady as Queen of Heaven (Judith 15:9-11)

Pope John Paul II added five new decades in the Luminous Mysteries.

## Here I Am

Here I Am is used in the Foundation Stage and at Key Stages One and Two. It adopts a four year cyclical whole school approach. Three topics are explored each term.

	<b>Route A</b>	<b>Route B</b>	<b>Route C</b>	<b>Route D</b>
<b>Autumn</b>	Myself	Beginnings	Babies	Homes and Families
	Invitations	Friends	Initiation	Signs and Symbols
	Birthdays	Preparations	Gifts	Visitors
<b>Spring</b>	Journeys	Special People	Books	Celebrations
	Communion	Meals	Memories	Thanksgiving
	Growing	Good and Evil	Death / New Life	Self-giving
<b>Summer</b>	Good News	Messengers / Witnesses	Energy	Holidays / Holydays
	Choices	Change	Freedom and Responsibility	Building Bridges
	Neighbours	Treasures	Special Places	Difference

The teaching of other faiths follows a three year cycle:

<b>3 Year cycle</b>	<b>Autumn Term</b>	<b>Spring/Summer Term</b>
Year 1	Judaism	Islam
Year 2	Judaism	Hinduism
Year 3	Judaism	Sikhism

### Planning

Each topic is taught over four weeks. At St James the Great, as recommended in the Here I Am scheme, the teaching content is divided as follows:

Week One	Recognise, Reflect, Respect
Week Two	Relate
Week Three	Relate
Week Four	Rejoice, Remember, Renew

## Attitudes, Skills and Concepts

Below are listed the attitudes, skills and concepts that will be developed through the teaching of Religious Education.

### Attitudes

self esteem  
respect  
openness  
appreciation  
tolerance  
integrity

consideration  
acceptance  
curiosity  
sensitivity  
questioning  
co-operation

justice  
awe and wonder  
responsibility  
care  
empathy  
commitment

### Skills

enquiry  
expression  
interpretation

reasoning  
creativity  
imagination

group work  
prayer  
meditation

### Concepts

Worship and Celebration  
Authority  
Lifestyle  
Symbol and the language of Religion  
Ultimate questions



## The Bible

The Bible is a collection of sixty six books written by many people. It is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

### The Old Testament

The Old Testament contains sacred writings of the Jewish faith. It is divided into law, history, poetry and prophecy.

#### Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

#### History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

#### Poetry

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

#### Prophecy

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

## The New Testament

The New Testament was written after Jesus lived and tells us about His life. The books of the New Testament are divided into Gospels, history, letters and prophecy.

### Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

### History

- Acts

### Letters

- Romans
- Corinthians 1
- Corinthians 2
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- Thessalonians 1
- Thessalonians 2
- Timothy 1
- Timothy 2
- Titus
- Philemon
- Hebrews
- James
- Peter 1
- Peter 2
- John 1
- John 2
- John 3
- Jude

### Prophecy

- Revelation



## Holy Days



6 <sup>th</sup> January	Epiphany – Visitation of the Three Wise Men (holy day)
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
Feb/Mar	Ash Wednesday – beginning of Lent
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Annunciation – Angel Gabriel came to Mary
Mar/Apr	Maundy Thursday – Last Supper
Mar/Apr	Good Friday – Jesus was crucified
Mar/Apr	Easter Sunday – Jesus rose from the dead (holy day)
40 days after Easter	Ascension – Jesus went up to Heaven (holy day)
10 days after Ascension	Pentecost – the Holy Spirit came
11 days after Pentecost	Corpus Christie (holy day)
29 <sup>th</sup> June	St Peter and St Paul (holy day)
25 <sup>th</sup> July	St James the Great
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Assumption – Mary went up to Heaven (holy day)
24 <sup>th</sup> August	St Bartholomew
1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints (holy day)
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	All Souls
30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in December	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception

## The Priests' vestments

Green	Ordinary time
Purple	Lent, Advent
White	Christmas and the Christmas season, Easter and the Sundays after Easter until Pentecost, weddings, funerals, saints days
Red	Good Friday, Palm Sunday, Pentecost, feasts of martyrs (those who died for their faith)

## Mass responses

Emphasis on making gestures carefully and reverently eg making the sign of the cross and genuflecting.

### Introductory rite

*"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*

*"And also with you."*

### Liturgy of the Word

(The first and second reading)

*"This is the Word of the Lord."*

*"Thanks be to God."*

(The Gospel)

*"The Lord be with you."*

*"And also with you"*

*"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to ..."*

*"Glory to you Lord"*

Make the sign of the cross on the forehead (I believe in Jesus)

Make the sign of the cross on the lips (I will tell people about Jesus)

Make the sign of the cross on the heart (I love Jesus)

*"This is the gospel of the Lord."*

*"Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ."*

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*"The Lord be with you"*

*"And also with you."*

*"Lift up your hearts"*

*"We lift them up to the Lord"*

*"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God"*

*"It is right to give him thanks and praise"*

### Doxology (end of Eucharistic prayer)

*"Through him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever"*

*"Amen"*

### Concluding Rite

*"The Lord be with you"*

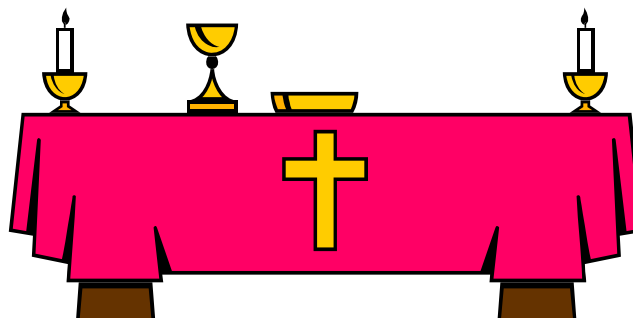
*"And also with you"*

*"May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit"*

*"Amen"*

*"The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord"*

*"Thanks be to God"*



## Sacraments

There are seven sacraments

- Sacraments of initiation: { Baptism  
Eucharist (Communion)  
Confirmation
- Sacraments of healing: { Penance (Confession or Reconciliation)  
Anointing of the sick  
Holy Orders  
Matrimony

### Baptism

Through Baptism, we become a member of God's family. Jesus began His public life after His own Baptism by St. John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

"I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit Amen"

Water symbolises cleansing and new life.

The white garment symbolises the pure new life of Jesus.

The lighted candle that the child is given is lit from the Paschal (Easter) candle which symbolises Jesus risen from the dead, the Light of the World.



### Reconciliation

Through this sacrament, we are forgiven our sins through the Priest who stands in the place of Christ. We are reconciled with God and with the Church. This is a gift of God, supported by the gift of the Holy Spirit, who gives us strength to admit that we have done wrong.

The five stages of reconciliation:

Examination of conscience

Confession to a Priest

Sorrow for our sins (act of contrition)

Forgiveness (prayer of absolution)

Doing penance (making up for what we have done wrong)

Before reconciliation, Pupils need to be given an opportunity to think about what they have done which may have hurt God or their neighbour.

They could be guided to think about if they have:

- Said their prayers
- Been to Mass on Sundays
- Been good at home
- Been good at school
- Hurt anyone
- Spoken badly about anyone
- Told lies
- Stolen anything
- Been jealous
- Shared with others
- Been selfish

Format of confession:

“Bless me Father for I have sinned. It is .....(weeks/months) since my last confession.

Since then I have .....(children then tell the Priest their sins).

I am sorry for all these sins and for any that I cannot remember. (The Priest then talks to the child and will ask them to say an Act of Contrition).

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and by the help of your grace I will not sin again.(The Priest will then absolve the children from their sins and ask them to spend some quiet time speaking to God and saying some prayers as penance.



### Holy Communion

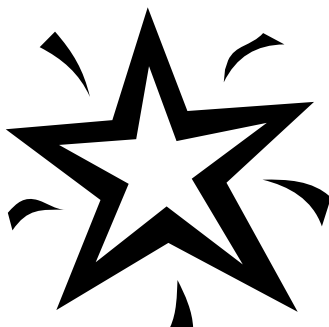
“On the night that He was betrayed He took bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and gave it to the disciples saying: Take this all of you, and eat it. This is my body which is given up for you.”

“This is the cup of My blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

The Catholic Church believes that when Jesus spoke these words, He was speaking literally. We believe that the bread is completely changed into the Body of Christ and the wine is changed into the Blood of Christ. This change has traditionally been called transubstantiation because the substance of bread and wine are changes through the power of the Holy Spirit into the Body and Blood of Christ. Only the appearance of bread and wine remain. The risen Jesus is present in each part of the host and in each drop of the Precious Blood.



## Advent



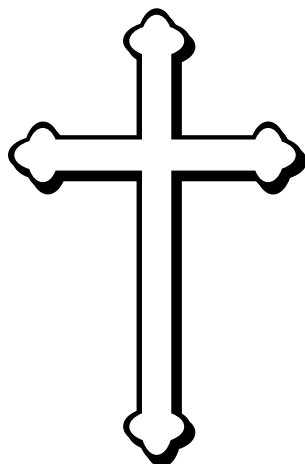
Advent is the four week period of waiting and preparation before Christmas. Advent means the Coming of the Lord. During Advent, the Priest wears purple vestments, there is no Gloria at Mass, no flowers in church and a spirit of penitence – thinking how you as a person can improve.

The Advent wreath symbolises the four weeks before Christmas. The wreath is circular (never ending) and evergreen (everlasting). It has five candles, three purple candles lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent, one pink candle lit the third Sunday of Advent called Rejoicing Sunday. The fifth candle is in the middle of the wreath and is white, it is lit on Christmas day.

## Lent

Lent is a period of fasting and prayer forty weekdays before Easter. This time reminds us of the forty days that Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert. This season of spiritual preparation begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday when ashes, made from the palms left over from Palm Sunday, are marked in the sign of the cross on the forehead. This reminds us that our bodies will return to dust one day as our souls hopefully will join God in Heaven.

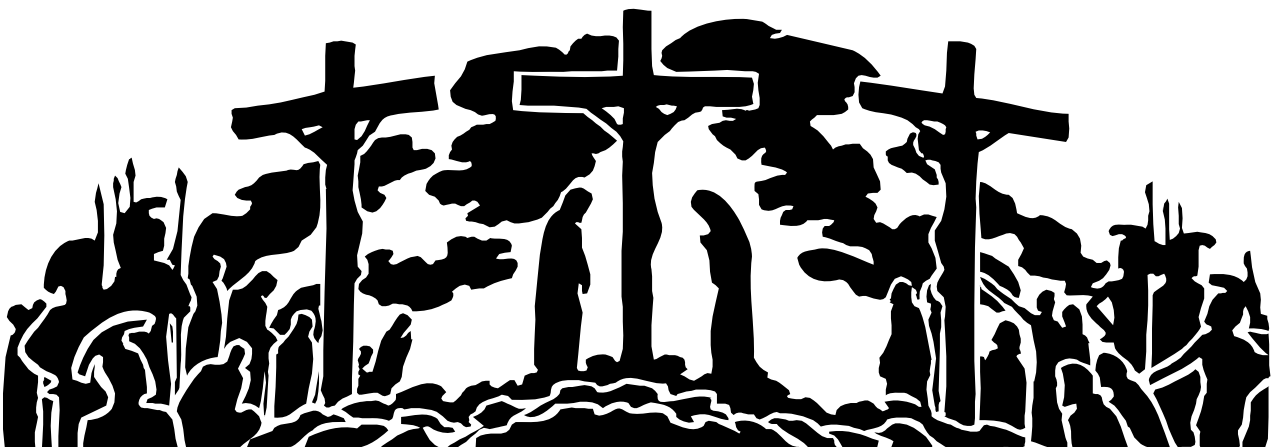
During Lent, the Priest wears purple vestments, there is no Gloria at Mass, except for feast days, no alleluia until Easter, no flowers in church and a spirit of penitence – thinking how you as a person can improve. We try to build up our spiritual strength and work on our weaknesses through giving up something or doing something positive. We think of the wrong things that we have done and said and ask for God's forgiveness as we try to become better people. We also think of others less fortunate than ourselves and collect money for the Catholic Children's Society.



## Stations of the Cross

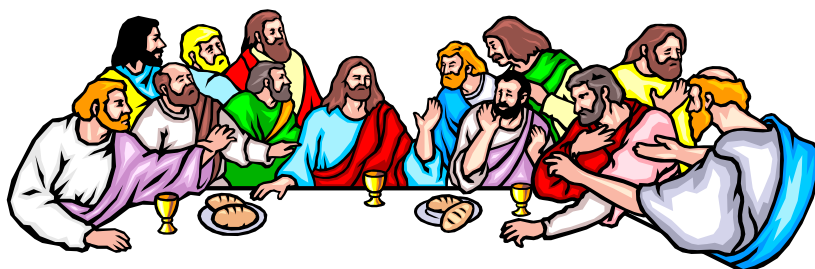
Lent is a time to focus on Christ's suffering. There are 14 Stations of the Cross:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries His cross
3. Jesus fall for the first time
4. Jesus meets His blessed mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus fall for the second time
8. Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem who weep for Him
9. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross and laid in the arms of His mother
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb



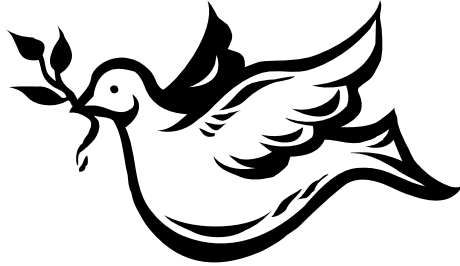
## The Apostles

1. Peter was the leader of the Apostles and came from Bethsaida near the Sea of Galilee where he was a fisherman. He was married and his brother was Andrew. His feast day is 29<sup>th</sup> June.
2. Andrew was Peter's brother and was a fisherman in Capernaum. He was a disciple of John The Baptist before becoming an Apostle of Christ. He was with Jesus at the feeding of the five thousand. His feast day is 30<sup>th</sup> November.
3. James was the son of Alphaeus and his mother stood by Christ on the cross. He was younger and smaller than the other James and was therefore known as James The Lesser. His feast day is 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
4. John was the son of Zebedee and brother of James. He looked after Mary after Jesus' death and wrote the fourth gospel towards the end of his life. His feast day is 27<sup>th</sup> December.
5. Philip lived in Bethsaida and was the one who brought Bartholomew (or Nathaniel) to Jesus, he was one of the early disciples. His feast day is 3<sup>rd</sup> May.
6. Bartholomew was also known as Nathaniel and came from Cana in Galilee. He was a martyr. His feast day is 24<sup>th</sup> August.
7. Simon . His feast day is 28<sup>th</sup> October.
8. Matthew was a tax collector before becoming an Apostle. He wrote one of the gospels. His feast day is 21<sup>st</sup> September.
9. James was a fisherman in Bethsaida and had a brother called John. He was older and taller than the other James so was known as James The Great. His feast day is 25<sup>th</sup> July.
10. Thomas was also called the twin. He refused to believe in the resurrection unless he touched Jesus' wounds. His feast day is 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
11. Thaddaeus was also known as Jude and wrote the Epistle of Jude. His feast day is 28<sup>th</sup> October.
12. Judas led the soldiers to Jesus while He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He died.



## The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit enables us to love others with the love God has shown us in Jesus.



### The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Wisdom
- ❖ Knowledge
- ❖ Faith
- ❖ Healing powers
- ❖ Working of miracles
- ❖ Speaking God's message
- ❖ Speaking in strange tongues
- ❖ Ability to explain

### The fruits of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Love
- ❖ Joy
- ❖ Peace
- ❖ Patience
- ❖ Kindness
- ❖ Goodness
- ❖ Trustfulness
- ❖ Gentleness
- ❖ Self-control