

Freeland CE Primary School KCV

Red Kites Spring 2 Year B Theme:

Beliefs

Key Question: Should believers give things up?

Key Concept Questions:

Why is the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert important to Christians in explaining Lent?

Why is giving things up important to Christians at Lent and Advent?

Does fasting make people better Christians?

Key Knowledge

There are two seasons in the church year that are about giving things up – fasting. The first is Advent – the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas and the second is Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter.

The period before lent is, in many catholic traditions, a season of partying and feasting.

Carnival, leading up to Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday is celebrated around the world – though not so much in England, where pancake day is the focus.

The idea is that the feasting uses up all the food that will not keep during the fast and allows people to have fun before the fasting begins.

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday; in many churches the previous year's palm crosses are burned and used as ash to mark a cross on the foreheads of worshippers at the service, usually a communion. This is a sign of penitence and repentance.

Many people give things up for Lent, though these days many people are taking up social or eco action or acts of kindness instead of giving things up.

In the Christian tradition Lent is a 40 day fast and reflects the 40 days that Jesus spends in the wilderness, immediately following his baptism. This story can be found in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13.

In the Bible it tells the story of how Jesus was tempted by Satan after fasting.

The aim of the fast is to please God and enable the believer to focus more on God and be less selfish. For some, the giving up of something will free up resources to give to others.

Key Vocab

Definition

Lent

40 days leading up to Easter when Christians typically give something up.

Advent

A Latin word which means 'coming'. It is the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas.

temptation

A strong urge to do something, usually which is wrong.

Mardi Gras

In French means Fat Tuesday and is a celebration in many countries the day before Lent begins. All the fats in the home are used up on this day so delicious things are eaten.

Shrove Tuesday

The day before Lent begins and traditionally a time to feast by using up all the food in the house.

Ash Wednesday

The day after Shrove Tuesday which marks the start of Lent.

penitence

When someone shows that they feel sorry they have done something wrong.

repentance

Being sorry and feeling remorseful.

