

# Jewish festival of Hanukkah



## Monday 'Meaning'

This week's **Sacred Time** theme is 'Jewish festival of Hanukkah'

Hanukkah 2022 will begin in the evening of Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. Hanukkah is an important Jewish festival which originated from events in the second century BC. It celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple after the Maccabean Revolt. The temple had been destroyed during the battles and there was only enough oil left to light the Menorah for one day. The people decided to light the oil lamps on the menorah anyway whilst they sent for oil. A miracle happened and the oil lasted and stayed lit for 8 days. This showed the Jewish people that G-d was on their side.

Why is this theme relevant in today's world?

## Tuesday 'Talks'



This week's **Sacred Time** theme is 'Jewish festival of Hanukkah'.

Jewish people now celebrate the Hanukkah miracle each year by lighting candles on a Chanukiah. A special candelabra with 9 spaces – one for each day and one to hold the lighting candle. Jewish people celebrate by eating different types of foods cooked in oil, such as donuts and a special potato pancake called a latke. Children are given chocolate coins called 'gelt' as a gift and often play the dreidel game. This reminds them of games that were played before the revolt to teach children about their religion without being found out.

**Personal pause** – Reflect on times

## 'Try it' Tuesday

Each week for 'Try it' Tuesday, we will get an opportunity to put sacred time into action and be the 'Good Samaritan'. It will also be a chance to have a personal pause. This week let's think of one thing where we can turn a negative into a positive. How can we bring light out of darkness? How can we bring good out of a bad situation. Make a list of qualities that nurture your inner light such as compassion, kindness, and generosity. Commit yourself to further cultivating one of these qualities starting in the here and now.



## Wednesday 'Words of Wisdom'



This week's theme on 'Jewish festival of Hanukkah'

### **A Vision of a Golden Lampstand - Zechariah 2:13-4:7**

'And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, ha lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?". Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. 7 Who are you, no great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'

**Read** today's specific Bible reading [HERE](#).



## Thursday 'Thoughtfulness'

Our thoughtfulness for today is a prayer:

***This prayer is one part of the Hanukkah prayer, which is read in Hebrew. It is said before lighting the candles (but after placing them in the menorah), Jewish people recite three blessings.***

*Praised are You,  
Our God, Ruler of the universe,  
Who made us holy through Your commandments  
and commanded us  
to kindle the Hanukkah lights.*

**Listen** to the BBC Radio 4 'Thought for the Day' [HERE](#).



## 'Find out' Friday



What is happening in the world around us? **Watch** Newsround to find out more [HERE](#).



### **Key questions**

What is happening in your world?

What is happening in St Helens and our local area?

Can we relate our theme this week to what is going on in the world?

Can we do anything to help any issues that our facing the world this week? Should we help?

Our **Cultural Capital** Sacred time this week links to **Tolerance**.

Focussing on the Jewish celebration of 'Hanukkah' reminds us that we should be tolerant of other religions, what they celebrate and how they celebrate.



## Form activity



Google 'Jewish festival of Hanukkah' and click on images. You will find loads of inspirational quotes. As a form class, come up with your own inspirational quote. Share this in the SACRED ROOM google classroom.