Dare to….dance!
Liturgical dancing during worship can be a contentious issue. However, done well, dancing can be a powerful way to communicate a Gospel story or prayer. Scripture is full of references to people dancing in praise of God. Dance can also be wonderfully inclusive of those students who are perhaps ‘challenged’ by silence and stillness! There is some accepted wisdom when teaching liturgical movement to children: where possible use an expert, dance to a song you know, keep the choreography simple and teach it in small, 30 second segments. YouTube can be a helpful resource if you are looking for some “moves”! A Eucharistic gathering may not necessarily be the best place for your movement because mass is never about a performance! Consider prayer assemblies and liturgies of the Word.

**Sunday**
29th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Gospel: *In 10:11-18*  
*The Good Shepherd*

The Gospel for this week reminds us that Jesus is the ‘Good Shepherd’. We are reminded that Jesus knows each of us personally. Take time this week to ensure that everyone in the class is known to each other. Recognise each person’s gifts and give thanks for their unique contribution to your class.

**Monday**
30th April

*St Pius V*

*How have you RISEN from hardship?* Share a talent. Tell someone they are extraordinary. Create some antiphonal prayers of thanks and gratitude.

**Tuesday**
1st May

*St Joseph the Worker*  
World Asthma Day

Today is the first day of May – traditionally a month dedicated to Mary the mother of Jesus. *Pray the Rosary* together as a class.

**Wednesday**
2nd May

*St Athanasius*

Make a special effort this day to plan for moments of silence and stillness in the transition times of today’s strategies for silence and stillness.

**Thursday**
3rd May

*Sts Philip and James*

Use your prayer journal today to write a reflection about how you are an Easter person.

**Friday**
4th May

*Edmund Rice* (Sat)

The Edmund Rice mosaic icon is a beautiful image of his life and what his faith called him to believe in. What would your personal mosaic look like and what of your faith would you like to see represented in it? Invite students to create this using an appropriate medium.

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**The Month of Mary**

May in the northern hemisphere is usually mid-way through spring. After the long cold, the ancients were starting to feel the promise of the redemptive summer and as a consequence, dedicated the month of May to goddesses of creation and fertility.

Early Christians also recognised the importance of May in the agricultural cycle and looked to Mary as the perfect symbol of fertility and expectation. For present-day Catholics, May has become a time to honour Mary’s part in the great Paschal Story. We remember her bravery, wisdom and leadership in her constant ‘yes’ to God’s call.