

ST AGNES NEWS

Spring 2 2025



Welcome

Here it is! What you have all been waiting for – the Spring 2 edition of St Agnes News. Our wonderful journalists have researched and written some great articles this edition. Our team includes Manuela, Nol, Kenna and Tricia and we welcome this term to the team: Judith, Juan-David and Hannah.

Enjoy the edition and Happy Easter.



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Easter crafts

by Judith Constantine

Easter chains

Easter chains are really easy to make and quick as well!

This is what you need:

Coloured paper, scissors and colours.

Instructions:

- Cut your paper into little strips.
- Take a strip of paper and draw some bunnies or eggs.
- Take each end and glue them together
- For the second link, thread the strip through the first link and staple the ends together.
- Cut out two feet and a head
- Finally, stick the head and feet on each side.



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Easter jokes!!

by Judith Constantine

What do you call a baby who's a little too warm on Easter?

A hot cross bun(dle) of joy.

Why is Easter breakfast so fun?

Everyone's cracking yolks.

How does an Easter chick dress for Sunday?

Im-peck-ably.

Where does Easter take place every year?

Where eggs marks the spot!

What should you do to prepare for all the Easter treats?

Eggs-ercise!

What kind of jewellery is the best Easter gift?

A 14-carrot gold necklace.

What happens if you get married on Easter?

You live hoppily ever after.

**How does the
Easter Bunny travel?**

By hare-plane.



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Easter baking 1

by Judith Constantine

Easter biscuits

For the dough

- 200g/7oz softened butter, plus extra for greasing
- 150g/5½oz caster sugar
- 2 large free-range egg yolks
- 400g/14oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 level tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 level tsp ground cinnamon
- 2–4 tbsp milk

For the traditional currant biscuits

- 100g/3½oz currants
- caster sugar, for sprinkling

For the iced biscuits

- 1–2 tsp lemon juice
- 250g/9oz icing sugar
- different food colourings



1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Lightly grease two baking trays lined with baking paper.
2. Measure the butter and sugar into a bowl and beat together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolk. Sieve in the flour and spices and add enough milk to make a fairly soft dough. Bring together, using your hands, to make a soft dough.
3. Halve the mixture and set half to one side.
4. For the traditional currant biscuits, add the currants to half of the mixture and knead lightly on a lightly floured work surface. Roll out to a thickness of about 5mm/¼in. Cut into rounds using a circular cutter. Place on the prepared baking trays. Sprinkle with caster sugar.

Easter baking 2

by Judith Constantine

5. Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes, or until pale golden brown. Keep a careful eye on the biscuits – it doesn't matter if you open the oven door to check. Sprinkle with more caster sugar and lift onto a wire rack to cool. Store in an airtight container.
6. For the iced biscuits, knead the remaining half of the biscuit dough lightly on a lightly floured work surface. Roll out to a thickness of 5mm/¼in. Cut out Easter biscuits using an assortment of shaped cutters, such as bunnies, Easter eggs, chicks or spring flowers.
7. Lightly grease two baking trays lined with baking paper.
8. Place the biscuit shapes on the prepared baking trays and bake in the preheated oven for 10–15 minutes. Remove from the oven and lift onto a wire rack to cool.
9. To make the icing, pass one teaspoon of lemon juice through a fine sieve, to remove any pips or bits. Mix the icing sugar with the lemon juice and then add about two tablespoons of cold water, adding it little by little until you have a relatively stiff but smooth icing. Add a splash more sieved lemon juice if necessary.
10. Divide the icing into separate bowls and mix in food colourings of your choice into the separate bowls of icing, until you achieve the desired shade.
11. Spoon a little icing into a piping bag and pipe your decorations onto the biscuits. For a smooth finish, you can pipe the outline of your design in the firmer icing, then slacken it down a bit by mixing in a little more water, giving the icing more of a runny consistency, and use this to fill in the designs.

Hot countries 1

by Juan-David Anton-Bohorquezd

Fun and interesting facts of hot countries:

EGYPT

Egypt has the Sahara Desert which is blazing hot. There is something bad in the Sahara desert though. There are sand snakes, which are normally camouflaged, so it's basically dangerous. Most Ancient Egyptian pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs (rulers of Ancient Egypt) and their families. To date, over 130 pyramids have been discovered in Egypt. The afterlife was incredibly important to the Egyptians. They believed that by preserving a dead person's body – which they did through the process of mummification – their soul would live on in the afterlife forever. The Pyramid of Khufu at Giza is the largest Egyptian pyramid. This incredible structure weighs as much as 16 Empire State buildings! Both Egyptian men and women wore make-up. The eye paint was usually green (made from copper) or black (made from lead). As well as offering protection from the sun, the Egyptians believed make-up had magical healing powers, too!

Did you know, unwrapped, the bandages of an Ancient Egyptian mummy could stretch for 1.6km. Yikes!



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Hot countries 2

by Juan-David Anton-Bohorquezd

Fun and interesting facts of hot countries:

Dubai in the United Arab Emirates

Dubai is really hot I can even say it because I have been there. I mean it's burning I always try to stay in a place where there is air conditioning because that really does make you feel refreshed. Dubai has the tallest building called Burj Khalifa. The city has diverse culture, tax-free status, and record-breaking attractions. Dubai is home to more than 200 nationalities. Dubai is one of the "Seven Emirates" that come together to make the United Arab Emirates. Its closest neighbour is Abu Dhabi, which is the capital and another popular tourist destination. Dubai is fast becoming one of the world's most progressive cities. Its population is growing rapidly, as is its infrastructure. It's now one of the most popular destinations in the world for a holiday. The national animal of the entire United Arab Emirates is the Arabian oryx. What's an Arabian oryx, you ask? It's kind of like a mid-sized antelope.



Fun Facts

Did you know
that a rock in
the Sahara desert
is like a frying pan

so you can cook a egg. In Dubai it stays hot night and day.

That is it for today bye.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

by Hannah Adaoag

What is a Jubilee year?

A Jubilee year is a Holy Year of the forgiveness of sin, conversion and joyful celebration. Every twenty –five years a Jubilee year happens. The word “jubilee” comes from the Hebrew word yobel, which refers to the ram’s horn used to announce a jubilee in the Old Testament. It’s a time for people to go on sacred journeys to Holy places.

What do you do on a Jubilee year?

The Jubilee Year is a unique and sacred opportunity for Catholics worldwide to deepen their faith, seek reconciliation, and embrace hope. On a jubilee year you can go on a pilgrimage to a church or a Holy place to connect with God or to make your relationship grow even more with God.

What is the theme of this year’s Jubilee year 2025 and facts?

This year’s theme is the Pilgrims on hope. The papal bull, issued May 9, that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled “Spes Non Confundit,” or “Hope does not disappoint,” drawn from Romans 5:5. The Jubilee year also looks forward to 2033, when the church will mark the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, which Pope Francis called “another fundamental celebration for all Christians



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House pets

by Manuela Monteiro

In this part of the newspaper, we are learning about house pets to get and getting knowledge about them! Pets are so fun to have, but sometimes people mistreat them. Starting off small, a hamster!

HAMSTERS

Hamsters are very fun pets to have, if you are thinking about getting one this is a good paragraph for you! Hamsters come in many shapes and sizes, my favourite being Syrian and dwarf hamsters! Hamsters need a 100x50x50cm cage and at least 15cm of bedding. They also need lots of enrichment and a sand bath. Most importantly, they need a 27 inch wheel. Hamsters love lots of toys and places to hide, too.

GUINEA PIGS

Guinea pigs are truly wonderful, coming from someone who has six! Guinea pigs love Timothy hay and pellets. Did you know Timothy hay is 80% of their diet? Now you do! They are animals that travel in groups and pairs in the wild- so if you are thinking about getting one, keep that in mind! There are cages called c & c grid cages and they are the best option. The cheapest option of c&c grid cages are on Amazon! Also, guinea pigs need vitamin c everyday and lots of fruit, like peppers and apple!

DOGS

To properly care for dogs, you should:

Feed them a good and high-quality food and take them for a walk every day for at least half an hour. Provide them with the needed vaccinations on time. Keep a clean and hygienic environment for them. Engage with them and do not leave them alone for a long time. Also provide them with a good and comfortable shelter. Groom them regularly. Bathe them every couple of weeks. Monitor their general health. Protect them from household hazards. Provide them with plenty of exercise and affection, socialize them regularly.

Thank you for reading my article, I hope you enjoyed it! House pets are VERY hard work, but it is rewarding!



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World News

by Nol Rozhaja

Recent Wildfires in California

In January 2025, California experienced severe wildfires, especially in the Los Angeles area. These fires led to the tragic loss of at least 28 lives and destroyed over 16,000 buildings. Entire neighbourhoods, such as Pacific Palisades, were burned to the ground.

Causes of the Fires

The fires were fuelled by strong Santa Ana winds, very low humidity, and a prolonged drought, creating extreme fire danger. These conditions made it easier for fires to start and spread quickly.

Impact on People and Nature

The wildfires had a devastating effect on communities, destroying homes and forcing many people to evacuate. The fires also harmed wildlife and natural habitats, burning large areas of forests and grasslands. Additionally, the smoke from fires caused air quality to worsen, making it difficult for people to breathe.

Efforts to Help and Rebuild

Firefighters worked tirelessly to control and eventually contain the fire by early February 2025. Communities across the country came together to support the affected. In New York City, entertainers organised events like the Stand-Up for L.A comedy show to raise funds for relief efforts. Insurance companies, such as State Farm, are also helping by providing financial assistance to those who lost their homes, with payouts expected to reach 7.5 billion dollars.

Learning from the Fires

These wildfires highlight the importance of being prepared and understanding how climate change can increase the risk of such disasters. Warmer temperatures and drier conditions make areas more susceptible to fires. By learning about fire safety and supporting efforts to combat climate change, we can help reduce the risks.



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Ancient Greece 1

by Kenna Adugna

Ready for an adventure back in time? Then join us as we discover fascinating facts about Ancient Greece! And once you've had your fill of Ancient Greek facts, be sure to scroll down to learn more about Greece today...

Ancient Greeks lived over 3000 years ago. Their civilisations followed a Dark Age in Greece, which is thought to have ended in 800 B.C. For the most part, Ancient Greece was divided into several small city-states, each with their own laws, customs, and rulers. However, in the 300s B.C., these small city-states were forced to unite under one ruler: Alexander the Great. He was the founder of the Ancient Greek Empire, which stretched into Europe, Egypt, and South-West Asia.

The Greeks had some strange superstitions about food – some wouldn't eat beans as they thought they contained the souls of the dead!

The Ancient Greeks were descended from the Mycenaeans, who were also the first writers and speakers of 'Ancient Greek'. A famous legend tells how, in 1180 B.C., the mighty Mycenaeans conquered the city of Troy – by hiding inside a giant wooden horse! The horse was left outside the city's walls and, thinking it a gift, the people of Troy wheeled it inside... only for the sneaky Mycenaean soldiers to creep out and seize the city! Did you know that the Ancient Greeks invented the theatre? They loved watching plays, and most cities had a theatre – some big enough to hold 15,000 people! Only men and boys were allowed to be actors, and they wore masks, which showed the audience whether their character was happy or sad. Some of the masks had two sides, so the actor could turn them around to change the mood for each scene.

Most Ancient Greeks wore a chiton, which was a long T-shirt made from one large piece of cotton. The poor slaves, however, had to make do with a loincloth (a small strip of cloth wrapped around the waist)!

The Ancient Greeks held many festivals in honour of their gods. To celebrate the god Zeus, for example, the first Greek Olympics were held in the city of Olympia in 776 B.C. and are thought to have inspired our own Olympic Games! The winners of each event were given a wreath of leaves, and when they returned home, they would be given free meals and the best seats in the theatre!

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Ancient Greece 2

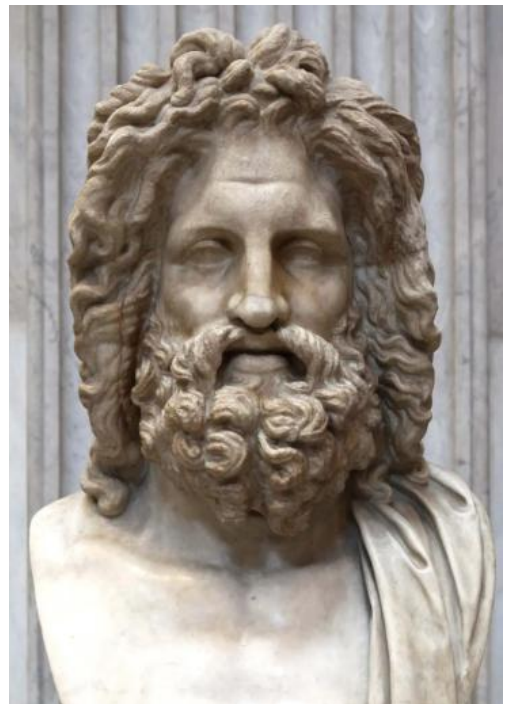
by Kenna Adugna

Statues of Greek gods and goddesses were placed inside temples, the most famous of which is the Parthenon. This temple in Athens was built for the goddess Athena, the protector of the city. Events at the Greek's Olympics included wrestling, boxing, long jump, javelin, discus and chariot racing. But in the wrestling event there were hardly any rules – and they had to compete naked. Eek!

The Ancient Greeks had lots of stories to help them learn about their world. The gods featured heavily in these tales, and so did mythological monsters – like Cerberus, a three-headed dog that guarded the gates to the underworld; Medusa, a slithery sorceress whose look could turn people to stone; and the Cyclops, who had one eye in the middle of its forehead – yikes! These tales are known as Greek mythology. The city-states were often at war, but just before the Olympics, a truce would be called so that everyone could travel to Olympia safely.



The Acropolis, Athens



Greek God, Zeus

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Springtime gardening 1

by Tricia Fiel

Now that it's March, Spring is forthcoming which means gardening is going to become more conventional and more common. Gardening is a lovely activity but some people don't know how to do this delightful activity. If you don't know too, come on this gardening tour with me!

THE BASIC STEPS TO GARDENING:

1. To start gardening, you'll need to follow these basic steps.
First: Decide what you'd like to grow.
2. Choose a location with 6-8 hours of full sun each day.
3. Plan your garden beds.
4. Invest in basic garden tools.
5. Test your soil and improve it if needed.
6. Prepare the soil.
7. Choose the right seeds or transplants.
8. Plant with care.



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Springtime gardening 2

by Tricia Fiel

GARDENING EQUIPMENT:

When gardening, you'll need to have some equipment. These include:

- A spade for digging and breaking up earth
- A shovel used for scooping loose material
- A garden fork for turning soil and breaking up clumps
- A hoe for weeding and soil preparation
- A rake for levelling soil and collecting leaves or debris
- A cultivator for easily loosening soil
- A pruner/shear/lopper for trimming and shaping plants
- A weeder used for removing weeds from the ground
- A garden hose/watering can for watering plants
- A sprayer for applying pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers
- Garden scissors for cutting various things in your garden
- A compost fork, also known as manure forks or mulch forks, used for loosening, aerating and transplanting compost or manure as well as moving bulk organic material
- A budding knife for delicate budding tasks and grafting
- A wheel barrow used for transporting soil, compost and garden waste
- Gloves to protect your hands while gardening
- Planting seeds

Some of these items are optional as they vary on what you're gardening.



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Springtime gardening 3

by Tricia Fiel

SAFETY:

Gardening is a lovely activity but has many safety hazards. Here is what they are and how to avoid them!

Before commencing work, you need to make sure the land you're working on is safe to work on and isn't contaminated. Even if the land is safe, it is important and key to remember that soil and land has millions of bacteria and other micro-organisms living in it. Most are harmless but some are potentially dangerous. If you have a cut, make sure your hands are clean and make sure you wear gloves as well. Gloves are also convenient for when you have to touch plants with thorns or spikes so you don't cut your hands, to enhance your grip, to prevent irritation and reduces fatigue.

Diseases and infections are also risks while gardening.

THINGS TO PLANT:

Spring is the season of the change, when we recover from cold winter months and is especially when flowers bloom. Spring is practically a furore of flowers! However, due to the many options of things to plant, it can be a challenge to select a specific plant. To help you, there will be a following list of flowers, trees and herbs to plant: magnolias, lily of the valley, hyacinths, tulips, narcissus', primroses, snowdrops, Lucile's glory-of-the-snow, basil, rosemary, sage, thyme and more.

MAGNOLIA

With these plants, you can bring the spring spirit and ambience into your own garden!

Springtime is the best time of year for gardening, so, get your seeds, gloves, sun-hat, rake and get gardening in this year's sublime spring!



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SPRING 2 FUN



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