



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

In this week's collective worship, the children have been thinking about the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. His death and resurrection are at the heart of our faith and they are the reason that we have our school and our Church today. The children have reflected on how they are called to make sacrifices too, not necessarily to give their lives as Jesus did, but maybe to give their love, time or compassion. The children have been asked to think about the people who make sacrifices for them and what this means for them. The children were set their mission to sacrifice something for someone else - whether it is giving money to a charity or helping their parents with chores. In essence sacrifice goes to the centre of our Lenten promises: **giving, acting and praying** and placing **Jesus at the centre** of all of our actions and words.



WEDNESDAY WORD

[Here is the link](#) to this week's Wednesday Word.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK



On **Monday 27th March at 2pm** each class will complete a prayer walk around our school and church grounds in order to support CAFOD with their Big Lent Walk and raise vital funds for communities around the world. We ask that each child brings a suggested **donation of £1** to support CAFOD.

Parents/parishioners are more than welcome to join us at 2pm and take part in the walk with the children and staff. This is a wonderful way to live out our Lenten promises of give, act and pray. Every £1 we raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. Further details about CAFOD's BIG Lent walk can be found [here](#).

YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 EASTER PRODUCTION

The children are very much looking forward to sharing with you the events of Holy Week and Easter in their production, 'Roll Back the Stone!' through song and drama on **Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 10.00am and 2.00pm**. There will be a cash donation collection at the end of each performance to cover the cost of the performance licence.

YEAR 1 MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA

Last Friday we invited our Mummy's to come into school and have Afternoon Tea with us as part of our Design Technology project. We thought about what our Mummy's like on sandwiches and their favourite way to cut them! We have been very busy baking scones and making sandwiches for our Mummy's. We were very excited for this day and we have never done it before. We made special plates to serve it on and each Mummy had a sandwich, a scone, jam and clotted cream. We had a special drink for the Mummy's!! We had some daffodils, a special card and a special letter for our Mummy. Love from Year 1 xxx.



PTA NEWS



The next event will be the Easter Raffle and will take place next Friday, 31st March. Tickets are available from the [PTA website](#) and are priced at £2.00. Each entry will get you one chance of winning a stunning Chocolate Hamper.

The draw will take place at 10:00am on Friday 31st March, and prizes will be sent home with children later that day. The PTA are also planning a Family Quiz that will take place on Friday 21 April

from 5 – 7pm. Further details are to follow.

To support the raffle, we ask that next Friday, 31st March, each child brings in an Easter egg or a bar of chocolate as a donation. In exchange, the children can come to school in non-uniform.

PARENT SURVEY

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey at the recent parents evenings. We had 76 responses in total. Attached is a summary of the results. I am delighted at the overwhelmingly positive response to the questions and I would like to thank all of the children and staff in helping to make St Mary's the amazing school that it is. The senior leadership team and I will continue to evaluate the responses, leading, where necessary, to positive changes for the future. Your continued support is very much valued and greatly appreciated.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

From the parent survey results, it was asked that clarification be given on what clubs are available at St Mary's. We run a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities, during school time, during lunchtime and after school for children in Reception to Year 6. The clubs we offer can change half-termly and these will be advertised to parents accordingly. We aim to provide a range of provision that will appeal to all children so that every child can find a club that interests them. Please find below some of the clubs/activities for Lent Term. If you are interested in any of the clubs then please enquire at the office to be added to the register or the waiting list. Guitar - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6, Piano/Keyboard - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Violin - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Woodwind - Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; Choir - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; Multi-Skills - Year 1 and Year 2; Cross Country - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; Spanish - Year 1 and Year 2; Art - Year 3, 4, 5 and 6; Pottery - Year 4 and Year 3; Wellbeing Workshop - Reception to Year 6.



PUPIL PREMIUM – ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOL

Are you aware that just registering your child for Free School Meals means that our school gets extra money? This funding is called 'Pupil Premium'. For every child registered, St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy School will receive approximately £1,385.00 additional funding each year per child registered. Even if your child is in Reception to Year 2 and receives a free school meal, school do not receive the additional funding without parents registering so please do read on! If you receive any of the following, then you most probably are entitled: • Income Support • Universal Credit (provided your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax and not including any benefits, you get) • Income related Employment and Support Allowance • Income based Job Seekers Allowance • Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 • Child Tax Credit only with an income of less than £16,190 • The guaranteed element of Pension Credit. The easiest way check if your child is eligible is to [click here](#). It is a very simple process, and the additional funds will then come directly to school. Alternatively, contact Mrs Major in the school office confidentially and we can support you. Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that school receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

MARATHON SUPPORT



Mrs Groarke-Booth, one of our amazing regular school volunteers is running her first marathon in Manchester next month in support of the Alzheimer's Society. If you would like to make a donation to this worthy charity and to give Mrs Groarke-Booth a morale boost to get her over the finishing line, you can do so by [following this link](#). Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Making sacrifices for the good of others is a very difficult thing to do. Sometimes we don't have time, sometimes we can't be bothered, sometimes we don't know how. For the times when we could have and should have made a sacrifice but didn't, let us say sorry.

Heavenly Father, you are the source of love and compassion. We are sorry for the times when we have failed to make sacrifices for others. Let us turn our sorrow into action and use our prayer life to fill us with your love and compassion. We ask that you open our eyes and hearts so that we can be like you. Amen.



THE MONTH AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
	<i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary.</i>
27 March	CAFOD BIG Lent Walk (2pm). All welcome!
27 -31 March	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5 (9:05am each day in the hall.)
29 March	Y1 and Y2 attend the Lenten parish Mass in church at 10:00am.
29 March	Holy Week & Easter Production (10:00am and 2:00pm). All welcome!
31 March	Easter Raffle – non uniform day in exchange for bringing in an Easter egg or bar of chocolate for the raffle.
31 March	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
31 March	School closes for the Easter break.
17 April	School reopens following the Easter break.
21 April	PTA Family Quiz (5:00pm – 7:00pm in the school hall). Tickets will be on sale via the PTA website soon.
24 April	Y3 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
1 May	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed.
5 May	King Charles III school celebrations – details to follow.
8 May	Coronation of King Charles III Bank Holiday – school closed.
9-12 May	Year 6 KS2 SATs week.
16 May	Eurovision Choir Extravaganza – 7:00pm – 8:30pm Stockport Town Hall.
22 May	Y4 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
26 May	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
26 May	School closes for the half term break.
12 June	School reopens following the half term break.

**Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.
Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**