

St Mary's Marple Bridge Catholic Life and Mission



NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2023

Seasonal Reflection

As we get set for Christmas. There is the shopping to do, the presents to buy and wrap. The cards to write and deliver. The turkey and trimmings to cook. Our minds are running at a million miles an hour as we get caught up in the festivities. During Advent we are preparing, this isn't just a time to prepare by decorating, shopping and listening to your favourite Christmas song or watching your favourite Christmas movie. These are all important and enjoyable things to do. However, Advent should be a time of preparing a space in your heart and home for Jesus. I urge you pause, reset and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. God loves us so much that he sent His Son down for us, not as a strong warrior to teach using force but as a small vulnerable, dependent baby. There is a lesson there for us all. To be like the baby Jesus and depend on God fully. I want to wish you all happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for 2024.

What's In This Term's Issue?

- SANCTA Squad training with Jamie.
- Rosary Club
- Year 6 Retreat day
- Seasonal Reflection
- Red Wednesday
- St Ralph Sherwin's Feast Day

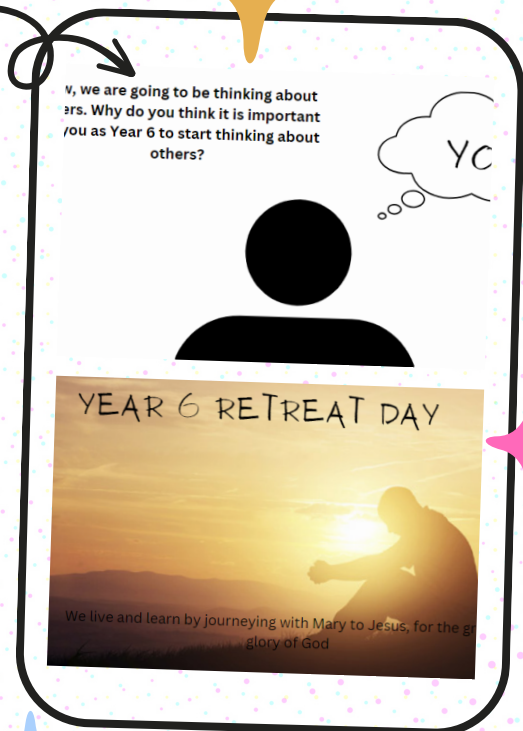
SANCTA Squad Training

We were very lucky to have Jamie the lead lay chaplain in for the day to work with Dan and the SANCTA Squad to help train and prepare them for the year ahead. The day comprised of learning about what chaplaincy is, how they are chaplains for their classmates, looking at the year ahead at things that they would like to achieve and finally having a great deal of fun getting to know each other and play team building games.

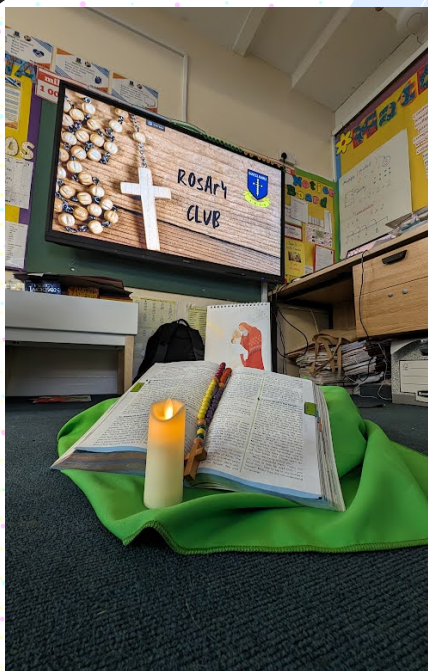


Year 6 Retreat Day

At the beginning of the Advent term Year 6 spent a day off timetable working with Dan. This retreat day focused on how to be thoughtful leaders in our school. We spent time thinking about ourselves and how amazing we are. It is important to be able to love ourselves before we can focus on thinking about others and loving our neighbour. The children were amazing and took part beautifully. They loved the chance to spend time with the Reception children in the afternoon as they prepared to think of others before making the big commitment to be a special friends for the year.



Rosary Club



We have been working our way through the mysteries of the Holy Rosary this term and will be continuing throughout the year as a devotion to our Patron Saint. We meet once a week on a Monday lunch time and reflect on one mystery of the rosary and say a decade of the Rosary together. We have been reflecting on how brave Mary was making the commitment to God and how we can be brave in our lives like Mary.

We meet on Mondays at 12:45 in the Year 5 classroom. Children from Year 1-6 are welcome to join in prayer for 15 minutes as we pause in our busy day.



"My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! Luke 1:46-48

Red Wednesday

On Wednesday 22nd November all children from Reception-Year 6 had the chance to pray for persecuted Christians around the world as we commemorated Aid to the Church in Need's Red Wednesday appeal. We broke the silence on Christian Persecution around the world and prayed for the safety of Christians around the world. We reflected on how lucky we are in our community to have the freedom of Religion and how we take it for granted.



St Ralph Sherwin Feast Day

On the 1st December we celebrated the Feast of the Trust patron St Ralph Sherwin. We enjoyed times of prayer and reflection with a whole school Liturgical Prayer lead by Dan. The children then enjoyed activities about how we can live out the Trusts mission statement in our daily lives. They also spent time throughout the day focusing on our Sancta Values and how we can live them out in our daily lives. Throughout the day the children drew a self portrait which when put together created the Trust Logo.



I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the small things, for the greater glory of God. *Blessed Dominic Savio*

Advent Service

On Monday 11th December the Faith Friends led a beautifully reflective and reverent Advent Service for the whole school and parents. This was a chance to reflect half way through Advent on the coming of Jesus at Christmas and how we should be preparing a space for him in our Hearts and homes.



Christmas Mass Times

Mass of Christmas Eve for families: Saturday 24th
December 6pm **New Mills**

Mass of Christmas Night Saturday 24th December
9pm **Marple Bridge**

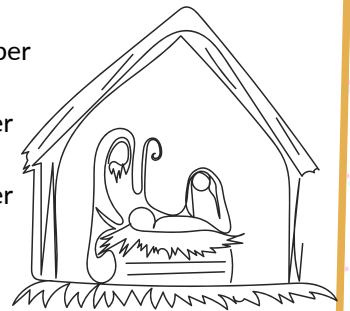
Mass of Christmas Day Sunday 25th December
9:30 **New Mills**

Mass of Christmas Day Sunday 25th December
11:30 **Marple Bridge**

Holy Spirit **Marple**

Christmas Eve- 8pm

Christmas Day- 9:30am



O how glorious our Faith is! Instead of restricting hearts, as the world fancies, it uplifts them and enlarges their capacity to love, to love with an almost infinite love, since it will continue unbroken beyond our mortal life.

St Therese of Lisieux



Christmas Liturgies from home

If you are looking for a way to spend some time in prayer with your family this festive period. The Mark Ten Mission produce some lovely resources and prayers for you to follow at home. The website is, <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

THE MARK 10
Mission

Nativities

The stars have been out this half term with amazing performances from all our Early Years and KS1 children performing beautifully in our Nativities. Our youngest members of our School family were first and retold the story of the Birth of Jesus. The children sang their hearts out and delivered the message so clearly for all to hear.

KS1 then lit up the stage with their rendition of the Christmas story reminding us all that Jesus really is the reason for the season. We are all extremely proud of the children for their incredible bravery standing up in front of the school and parents.



Wishing you a happy and Holy Christmas from all of us at St Mary's!

"He said to them in reply, 'Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.'"

St John the Baptist Luke 3:11

