



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

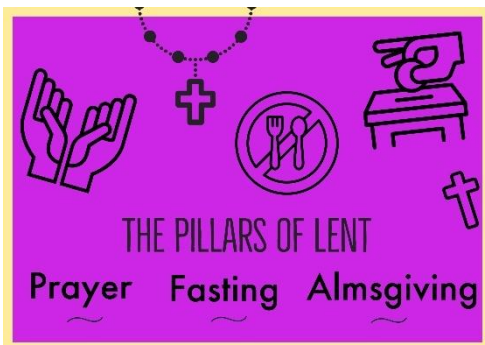
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

Bulletin Number 26: 28 March 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our celebration of the word focused on *almsgiving*, the third pillar of Lent, alongside *prayer* and *fasting*, which we have explored over the past few weeks. Reflecting on the Gospel story of the widow's two coins, we considered how true generosity comes from the heart and how giving cheerfully—no matter how small the gift—can make a big difference. As a school, we are extremely proud of the many ways we put this into action, from raising money for our class charities to supporting whole-school fundraising initiatives like CAFOD's *BIG Lent Walk*. Through these

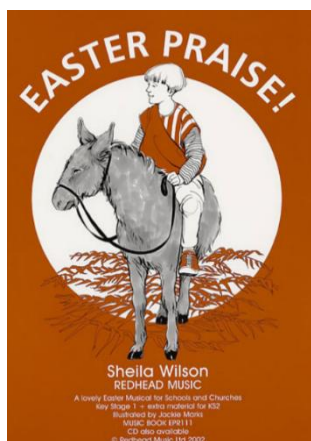
efforts, we live out our faith by caring for those in need and sharing God's love in our community and beyond.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

On **Monday 7 April at 2:00pm** 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. This will end our Lenten pilgrimage. We have already smashed our 240km target and have upped our game journeying virtually to the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome to celebrate the year of jubilee a suggested **donation of £1** to support CAFOD on that day. Parents/parishioners are more than welcome to join us at 2:00pm 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. Donations can also be made on our St Mary's CAFOD Just Giving page [via this link](#). You are all very welcome to join us for this last part of our Big Lent Walk.



YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 EASTER PRAISE PRODUCTION



We are excited to invite parents and carers to this year's Easter Praise production, performed by our wonderful Year 3 and Year 4 children. This special Lenten and Easter celebration will take place on Wednesday 2 April, with performances at 10:00am and 2:00pm. Through a beautiful combination of song, drama, and reflection, *Easter Praise* will take us on a journey through the key events of Holy Week, from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the joy and hope of the Resurrection. The children have been working incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs, and actions, and we are so proud of their dedication and enthusiasm. This production is a fantastic opportunity for them to share the true meaning of Easter in a way that is both engaging and inspiring. Due to fire regulations,

we kindly ask that only *two adults per child* attend each performance. At the end of each production, there will be a *collection for school funds* to support our ongoing projects. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing this meaningful and joyful celebration together!

WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children.



DIocese OF
NOTTINGHAM

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR
headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk
Company No 7937154



St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

CONGRATULATIONS - WE ARE RECOGNISED AS A PREM AWARE SCHOOL



We are delighted to share that our school has been recognised as a *Prem Aware School*, demonstrating our commitment to understanding and supporting children born prematurely. We know that starting nursery or school can be a significant step for families after neonatal care, and we are dedicated to ensuring that every child receives the support they need to thrive. Research shows that children born early may face challenges with learning, memory, attention, and processing speeds, and while not all will require additional support, we recognise the importance of being aware of their unique experiences. With an average of two to three children in every

classroom being born prematurely, our staff are committed to providing the right environment and interventions to help all our pupils reach their full potential. Being a Prem Aware School reflects our ongoing dedication to inclusion, understanding, and giving every child the best possible start on their educational journey.

TRI-GOLF CHALLENGE

A huge well done to all the children in Years 3-6 who took part in the Tri-Golf Tournament at Marple Hall School last Thursday afternoon. Our pupils showed fantastic skill, determination, and teamwork as they tackled a range of fun golfing challenges. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and sportsmanship in action, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts. A special thank you to the event organisers and supporters who made the afternoon such a great experience. Well done, team St Mary's! Who knows we might have the next Tiger Woods in our midst! Tri-Golf is a fun, child-friendly version of golf designed for primary school children. It uses lightweight plastic clubs and oversized foam balls, making it safe and accessible for all abilities. Instead of traditional courses, children take part in a series of skill-based challenges, such as chipping towards targets and putting for accuracy. Tri-Golf focuses on teamwork, coordination, and enjoyment, making it a great introduction to the sport!



KEY STAGE 2 SCHOOL COUNCIL VISIT TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



On Tuesday, our Key Stage 2 School Council members had an unforgettable experience visiting the Houses of Parliament in London. They took part in an engaging workshop on democracy, explored the historic corridors of the House of Commons, and had a brief glimpse of the House of Lords. A highlight of the day was meeting Lisa Smart MP, who shared insights into her role and answered the children's thoughtful questions. Traveling by train and London bus, they fully embraced the excitement of our capital city. Throughout the visit, our pupils were a credit to the St Mary's family, impressing everyone with their depth of knowledge, curiosity, and enthusiasm for learning. This hands-on experience truly brought democracy to life, deepening their understanding of how our country is governed. As a Catholic school, we take pride in living out our British Values through Catholic

Social Teaching—particularly the principles of subsidiarity and the common good. A huge well done to all the children—it was a pleasure to accompany you! A special thank you to Mrs. Ashton and Mrs. Mulryan for their invaluable support in making this a truly memorable experience.

NURSERY PLACES – SEPTEMBER 2025 – FINAL CALL

We have limited places in our wonderful nursery available for September. Please contact school on 0161 427 7498 if you would like to look around our early years provision. Please pass on this information to any parents of children who might be looking for a school nursery place. [Click here for more information about our nursery](#). Applications are made through [Stockport Council Admissions](#) and the deadline is 31 March 2025 for a September admissions.



PTA EASTER RAFFLE – 11 APRIL

The next PTA event will be the Easter Raffle. This will take place on Friday, 11 April. Tickets are available from the [PTA website](#) and are priced at £2.00. Each entry will get you one chance of winning a stunning and HUGE chocolate hamper!

Friday, 11 April will be a non-uniform day in exchange for bringing in a donation of an Easter egg or some chocolate.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



For centuries, the Fourth Sunday of Lent has been known as Mothering Sunday, a day when people would return home to visit their 'mother' church. Today, we also celebrate it as Mother's Day, a special occasion to honour our mothers and all those who care for us with a mother's love. It is a time to give thanks for their kindness, guidance, and unwavering support. As a school family, we take a moment to pray for mothers in our community and around the world:

Thank you, Lord, for all who care, bless them with your love. For

mothers everywhere, bless them with your love. For those who brighten up our day, bless them with your love. For those who always have the right words to say, bless them with your love. For their hugs, their love, and their smiles, bless them with your love. For the extra miles they go, bless them with your love. When times are tough, bless them with your love. When they feel they are not enough, bless them with your love. For those who always wanted children, bless them with your love. For those who have lost children, bless them with your love. For those who have lost their mothers, bless them with your love. Help us always to think first of others, bless them with your love. Amen. May this Mothering Sunday be a time of love, gratitude, and reflection for all.

THE MONTH (OR SO) 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. New dates in bold.</i>	
29 March	Cross Country Presentation.
2 April	Year 3 and 4 Easter Production 10:00am and 2:00pm.
7 April	BIG Lent Jubilee Walk finale 2:00pm.
7-11 April	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5. Each morning at 9:00am. All welcome.
11 April	PTA Easter Eggstravaganza. Non-uniform day in exchange for a donation of an Easter egg/chocolate. Tickets are available from the PTA website.
11 April	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury 1:15pm – 2:00pm.
11 April	Celebration assembly at 2:15pm. All welcome.
11 April	School closes for the Easter break.
28 April	School reopens following the Easter break.
29 April	Skateboarding workshops for Y1 – Y6 classes.
1 May	Wild Roadshow workshops for Nursery and Reception classes.
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday – School closed.
12-15 May	Year 6 SATs Tests.
12 May	Year 2 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
17 May	First Holy Communion Mass for St Mary's Parish children. 10:00am Church of the Annunciation, New Mills.
19 May	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
23 May	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury 1:15pm – 2:00pm
23 May	Celebration assembly at 2:15pm. All welcome.
23 May	School closes for the Spring half term break.
9 June	School reopens following the Spring half term break.
9-13 June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.
9-13 June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.
21 June	First Holy Communion Mass for Holy Spirit Parish children. 11:00am.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend and a very happy Mother's Day. Mr John Nish