



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 5: Friday 10 October 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

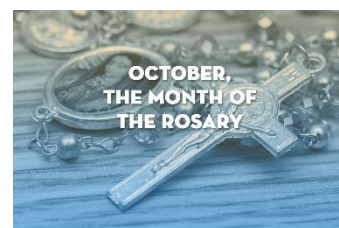


On Monday we were very fortunate to welcome Greg from The Mark 10 Mission into school. It was a beautifully prayerful day which began with a whole school celebration of the word, focusing on the scripture reading of the Transfiguration and how every occasion of prayer should change us slightly. The children also had the opportunity to learn two new hymns during the celebration. Each class then took part in a class celebration of the word with Greg and had the chance to ask him questions about his work and ministry. The day reflected our Jubilee Year theme of hope and our call to be pilgrims of hope, linking beautifully with October as the month of the Rosary. As

Rain in Year 5 reflected, "The Mark 10 Jubilee Mission Day was a very good highlight to our faith. Greg made sure to mention all the key things to know about being a pilgrim of hope." Some further pupil voice comments: "I enjoyed the peaceful vibe of the session" (Rosa, Yr 6). "I liked the singing and how fun it was to learn even more about Jesus" (Freddie, Yr 3). You can find out more about Mark 10 Mission [here](#). Many thanks to our wonderful PTA for supporting this workshop.

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and Bishop Patrick has once again set us a mission of praying one decade of the Rosary (one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be) each weekday during October. You can track your progress using this [chart](#). We will be help with this by setting aside time in one class worship per week during October to say a decade of the Rosary and also each Monday Dan, our chaplain, will lead a Rosary Club at lunchtime.



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

GLADIATOR 'STEEL'S' VISIT ST MARY'S



We were thrilled to welcome Zack George, also known as Zactive or Steel from Gladiators to St Mary's this week. Zack launched the morning with an inspiring and motivational talk focusing on the benefits of exercise, a healthy lifestyle, hydration and positive mental health. He spoke passionately about the importance of confidence, resilience and a positive mindset, sharing how his own journey from a young boy with big dreams to becoming a Gladiator was shaped by hard work, self-belief and determination. Zack also linked his story beautifully to our SANCTA values, especially aspiration, encouraging everyone to set goals

and never give up. After the assembly, he toured the school, answering the children's many questions and signing autographs, which the children were delighted to keep as a memento of his visit. As Natasha in Reception said, "Steel was amazing!", and a Year 4 child shared, "Zack made me feel like I can achieve anything if I keep trying and believe in myself." A huge thank you to our PTA for supporting this memorable visit.



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COFFEE AND CAKE SOCIAL

Our first Coffee and Cake Social, held on Wednesday afternoon, was a great success. The afternoon began with an informal meet and greet with Mrs Bradbury (Wellbeing Lead), Mrs Norburn (SENDSCO) and me, giving parents and carers the chance to chat and connect. This was followed by a special moment when the children joined their parents in the hall to share a piece of their learning. In the second half of the session, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Tanya Cross, Stockport Schools' Health and Wellbeing Adviser, who gave an excellent talk on online safety and practical advice for keeping children safe online.

It was a warm and positive afternoon of community, conversation and shared learning; a wonderful start to our Coffee and Cake events this school year. We look forward to welcoming families to our next Coffee and Cake social next term.



THE 2ND GREAT ST MARY'S BAKE OFF



The second Great St Mary's Bake Off was a huge success, raising over £400 for the school and filling the hall with the wonderful smell of freshly baked treats. A big thank you to everyone who took part and showcased their fantastic baking talents. The standard was incredibly high and made judging very difficult! Congratulations to all the winners across the four categories: biscuits and cookies (Florence F), small cakes (Zara M), traybakes, brownies and blondies (Santino B), and showstoppers (Isla H). Our chief judge, Dean from All Things Nice, was particularly impressed by the

creativity and skill on display. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our amazing PTA, whose hard work and enthusiasm made this much-loved event possible once again. It was a truly joyful celebration of community, creativity and cake!

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2025

Today we celebrated World Mental Health Day at St Mary's, and the children looked fantastic with their splashes of yellow, uniting with people up and down the country in support of the Young Minds charity and this year's theme, "Wear it Loud. Wear it Proud." The day was a wonderful reminder of the importance of talking about and supporting positive mental health. Throughout the week, the children have been learning about how to look after their own wellbeing and how to support others (the two workshops this week greatly supported this theme). Our fundraising will contribute to Young Minds,

a brilliant charity that supports children, young people and families with mental health challenges. We would also like to remind parents and carers of the support available through Young Minds, including online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/), a helpline open from 9:30am–4:00pm (0808 802 5544), and an online chat service for parents and carers who are concerned about their children's mental health (www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/). Thank you to everyone who donated £1 - your generosity will help the Young Minds charity continue its vital work supporting children and young people across the country.



#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

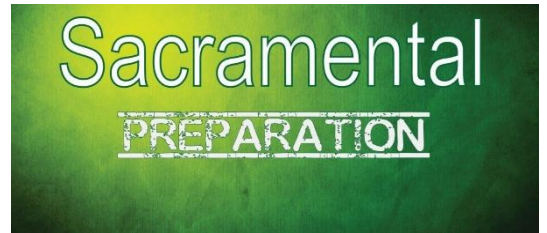
CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



On Tuesday after school, 16 children from across Key Stage 2 took part in the Cross Country event at Bramhall High School. It was a fantastic afternoon filled with determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship. Our Year 3 and 4 boys' team came 1st overall! Well done to Freddie M, Daniel L, Jonah W and Nicco T. In the individual results, Freddie M came 1st in the Year 3 and 4 boys' race, and Harry W came 1st in the Year 5 and 6 boys' race. Both Harry and Isaac P have qualified for the Greater Manchester Cross Country event in January, where they will proudly represent Stockport borough. We are so proud of all our runners for their effort and attitude, and we are keen to encourage even more children to join future races so that we can qualify for more team places. A big thank you to Mrs Ashton and to the parents who helped drive and support the children – your encouragement made all the difference.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2025/2026 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

I am delighted to share that preparations for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are now underway for families resident in the parishes of Holy Spirit, Marple and St Mary's, Marple Bridge. The programme is open to any baptised Catholic child in Years 3–6 who has not yet made their First Holy Communion. Dan, our lay chaplain, will lead the preparation sessions for both parishes, beginning after the October half term break. The programme will consist of 12 sessions, running on Mondays after school from 3:20pm–4:15pm between November and May. (Final dates will be confirmed before half term, depending on interest.)



If you would like your child to take part, [please complete this Microsoft form](#) by **Friday 17 October**, and send a copy of your child's Baptism certificate, to the school office.

For your diary:

- First Confession will take place in school on Wednesday 25 February at 2:00pm, and parents are warmly invited to attend and support their child as they make their Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.
- First Holy Communion will be celebrated at Holy Spirit on Saturday 9 May at 11:00am and at St Mary's on Sunday 17 May at 11:30am.

We look forward to sharing this special journey of faith with our children and families.

SCHOOL STREETS CONSULTATION



The School Street consultation drop-in held on Wednesday afternoon was very well attended, with many parents and local residents coming along to find out more about Stockport Council's proposal to introduce a School Street outside St Mary's on Lowry Drive. The initiative aims to make the road safer, reduce congestion, and encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Feedback from those who attended was very positive, with many welcoming the plans to improve safety and promote active travel. The consultation runs from 6 October to 17 November, and you can still share your views by completing the online survey at www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

THE STOCKPORT ONLINE SAFETY HUB

Offers information and advice for families and professionals. The hub is free to use and has an extensive library of advice and information including online bullying, screen time guides, individual app guides and advice on gaming. The hub also holds articles and guides that up to date, reacting to changes in the technological world and the most prevalent issues facing families and children. [The hub can be accessed here](#) or via the QR code to the right.



WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2025



At St Mary's, one of our SANCTA values is *support*, and we believe it is important to show gratitude and care for those in our local community. This Harvest, we are once again inviting families to bring in donations for The Wellspring, Stockport, so that together we can share what we have with people who are homeless or facing hardship in our town. This year, The Wellspring's Harvest Festival theme is "Growing Futures Beyond Homelessness", reminding us that by giving generously we can help to plant seeds of hope, opportunity, and dignity for others. This message also links closely with our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this half term: *care of creation* and the call to build a better future for all.

The Wellspring's [Wish List](#) includes: sugar, coffee, cordial, biscuits, crisps, tinned meat, cereal, butter, pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes. Collections are open until **Friday 17 October**. If you are able, please send your child into school with an item from the [Wish List](#) to support this important cause.

PTA NEWS – BOUNCE FOR YOUR CLASS - 'SPONSORED BOUNCE'

Taking place next **Wednesday 15 October**. We're holding this fun event and asking each child to get sponsorship for how many bounces they can achieve in 1 minute! The funds are being raised specifically for each classes wish list items. The PTA are asking all sponsorship money to be paid via [Go Fund Me](#), so that they can track it easier and benefit from being able to claim Gift Aid. As ever, thanks so much for your support!



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>	
13 October	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
15 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce.
15 October	Y6 Weight and Height checks.
15 & 22 October	Parents Evenings. 3:40 – 6:30pm. Parents Evening Advent 2025
24 October	Celebration Assembly 2:15pm. All welcome.
24 October	School closes for October half term.
3 November	School reopens following October half term.
5 November	Open Morning for prospective Nursery and Reception parents 10:00-11:30am.
8 November	St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair, New Mills. 10:00am – 1:00pm.
10 November	Year 3 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
11 November	Remembrance Service 10:50am – 11:05am. All welcome.
12 November	Open Afternoon for prospective Nursery and Reception parents 1:30-3:00pm.
24 November	Year 6 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
25 November	School photographs.
28 November	School Christmas Fair. 3:30pm – 5:30pm. All welcome.
30 November	PTA Wreath Making Workshop 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Marple Scout Hut.
1 December	Advent Service 2:30pm – 3:00pm. All welcome.
2 December	Junior Festival of Carols led by Y3. St George's Church, Heaviley at 7:30pm.
8 December	Pantomime at Romiley Forum.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.