

St Mary's Marple Bridge Catholic Life and Mission



NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2025

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 to 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 2026.

What's In This Term's Issue?

- Mark 10 Mission Day
- Year 6 Retreat day
- Welcome Mass
- Seasonal Reflection
- Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk
- Luce visit

Mark 10 Mission Day

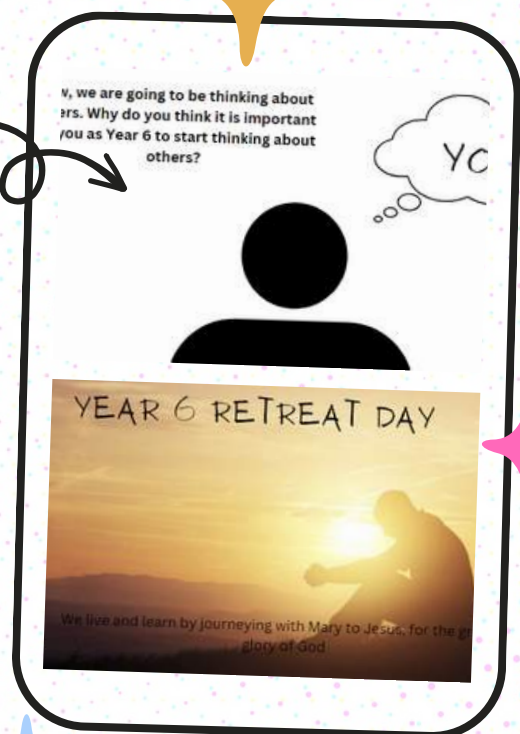
THE
MARK 10
MISSION

On Monday 6th October 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 looking at the scripture reading of the Transfiguration linking to how every occasion of prayer should change us slightly. The children also had the opportunity to learn two new hymns during the whole school Celebration of the Word. Each class then had the opportunity to participate in a class Celebration of the Word with Greg and question Greg about his work and ministry. All the children had an amazing day.



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.



Carol Singing

As part of our Advent mission to live out the values of love, kindness and service, a group of children from our school recently visited Marple Lodge Care Home to share some festive cheer with the residents.

The children proudly delivered handmade Christmas cards, each one filled with thoughtful messages, prayers and bright artwork. They then sang a selection of well-loved Christmas carols, filling the home with joyful music and reminding everyone of the true meaning of the season. Many residents joined in, singing along and smiling as they listened.

We are incredibly proud of our children for being such thoughtful ambassadors of our Catholic values. Thank you to the staff and residents of Marple Lodge for welcoming us so warmly, and for making this visit a truly memorable experience for all involved.



"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

First Holy Communion Preparations

This term children in Year 3 have started their preparations for First Holy Communion with Dan. They have been working hard and learning all about the different Sacraments, what the Church is and what we see when we go into a Church.



Pilgrimage Walk



On Thursday 23rd October the SANCTA, accompanied by the Mary's Missionaries from St Mary's New Mills, Fr Greg and members of the two parishes completed a 7km pilgrimage from St Mary's Marple Bridge to St Mary's New Mills. This was our pilgrimage walk to celebrate the Jubilee Year *Pilgrims of Hope*. We ended our pilgrimage with a whole school Jubilee Mass with Fr Greg. It was wonderful to see the children from both school chatting, singing and having fun together along the journey. Well done to all those who were involved and we hope that this will be the first of many joint events between the two schools.



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*



Luce visits Marple Bridge

On Monday 12th December Luce, the Jubilee mascot, came to visit St Mary's Marple Bridge. All the classes completed activities about Luce and being a pilgrim of hope. The children also had chance to think about how they can be pilgrims of hope this jubilee year and going forward.



Christmas Mass Times

New Mills-

Christmas Eve 6pm.
Christmas Day 9.30am

Marple Bridge.-

Christmas Eve 8pm.
Christmas Day 11.30am

Holy Spirit-

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 and Carol Concert

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. Finally KS2 finished off the term with a beautiful Carol Concert on the last day of term. As the carols were sung the children brought up different parts of our Nativity scene to show that we are almost at Christmas.



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

