St Mary's RE News

Spring Term 2026

Daily Celebration of the Word

In school, as part of our Prayer and Liturgy we spend time everyday in prayer with God as well as our lunchtime and end of day prayers. During our worship time, we gather, listen and celebrate the word of God, reflect on what we've listened to and can respond before ending our time with a prayer.





KS1 Liturgies and KS2 Class Masses

Each week, during the half term, Fr Stephen is involved in the Catholic life and Prayer and Liturgy of our school. KS2 classes have been visiting church and join parishioners to celebrate Mass. The children have been reverent, respectful and superb representatives of our school with sharing readings and prayers.



Epiphany

On our first day back of the Spring Term, the Mini Vinnies led our Epiphany liturgy. We shared the gospel of The Three Wise Men arriving in Bethlehem to visit baby Jesus. We blessed the doors and conducted a Christian tradition of 'Chalking the Door'.





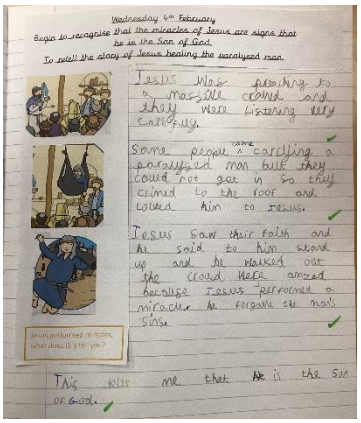


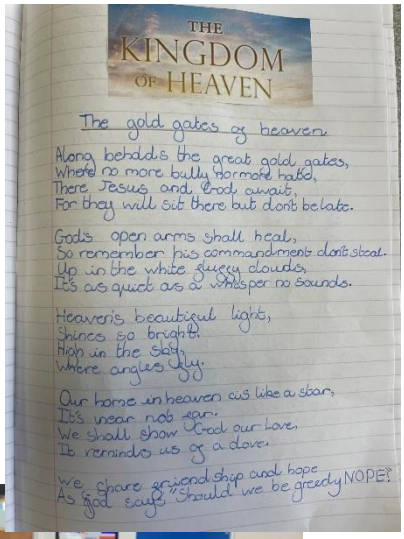
Curriculum RE

All our photographs of what is happening in RE, Prayer and Liturgy and the Catholic Life of our school are available under the leadership section of the school website – https://st-marys-catholic.secure-primarysite.net/religious-education/

Here is a sample of some of the work completed this term…









First Holy Communion

We are superbly proud and happy to share that two of our pupils, Peggy and Lola, are currently undertaking a programme called 'Order of Christian Initiation for Children (OCIC)'. These two girls have taken it upon themselves, with the support of their parents, to convert to the Catholic faith and following on from this programme with Fr Stephen they will complete the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then the Sacrament of the Eucharist, by making their First Holy Communion with other children in school – if your child is baptised Catholic, please contact Fr at St Wulstan's parish or Mrs Sewell after the Easter holidays. More photos of this before we finish in the Summer.

Ash Wednesday

To celebrate the start of Lent, KS2 came together with St Wulstan's and St Edmund's KS2 to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass. EYFS and our KS1 classes shared an Ash Wednesday liturgy, and Mrs Sewell came and distributed the ashes.











Pilgrimage to Ladyewell



On Friday 13th March, Nazareth Class were joined by Jerusalem Class for a special pilgrimage to Ladyewell. During our visit, the children took part in a beautiful *Way of the Cross* service using the outdoor stations in the gardens. As we walked from station to station, the children paused to reflect and pray, thinking about Jesus' journey to the cross. Along the way, we also visited different statues in the gardens, taking time for quiet prayer. The children then visited the Ladyewell Shrine of Mary, where they were able to spend time in prayer and fill their bottles with Holy Water. In the chapel, they wrote their own prayers, offering their thoughts and intentions to God.
We were very fortunate that Fr Stephen, our parish priest, was able to join us at the end of our visit to celebrate Mass together. The theme of the Mass was *"Walking with Jesus"*, reminding us that just like our pilgrimage, our faith journey invites us to walk closely with Jesus each day.











We're Going on a Prayer Hunt

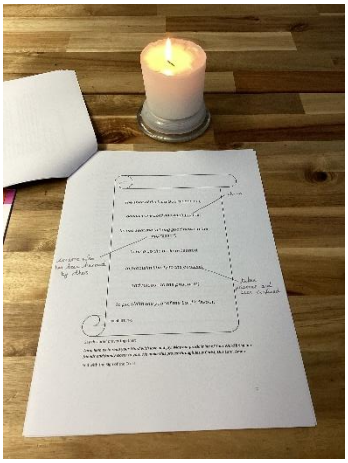




During Lent, Nazareth Class and Zion Class (Year 5/6) took part in a special prayer hunt around the Mount, which was led by the Mini Vinnies. As we travelled to different points around the Mount, we stopped to read passages from the Gospel and reflect on their meaning. At each station, we completed activities linked to the reading, helping us to think more deeply about our faith and the importance of prayer during Lent. It was a thoughtful and engaging way to journey together and grow spiritually.



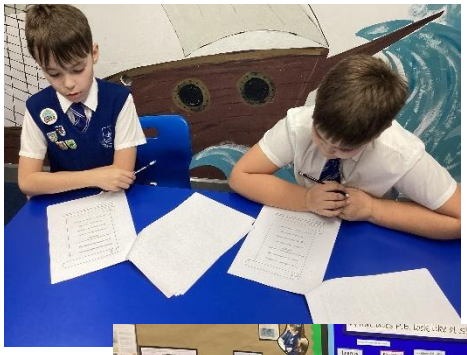
Ministers of the Word



On Friday 20th March, St Mary's School celebrated a very special occasion as a group of our children were commissioned as Ministers of the Word in a beautiful service led by Fr Stephen.

In front of the whole school community and their families, the children made heartfelt promises, committing themselves to serve God by sharing His Word with others. This meaningful moment marked the culmination of a five-week preparation programme led by Mrs Sewell, during which the children explored the importance of reverence, respect, and how to proclaim the Word of God with confidence and understanding.

Now fully prepared for their role, these children will serve as reading ministers during their class Masses and whole school liturgies, helping to bring Scripture to life for our community.











The School of Sanctuary Mass

Our school community gathered for a very special Mass to celebrate our commitment as a School of Sanctuary. We were honoured to welcome representatives from local Christian churches, neighbouring schools and parishioners as we came together in faith, unity and shared purpose.

The celebration was a powerful reminder of our call to love our neighbour and to stand in solidarity with refugees and families who have come to live in our town. Through prayer, scripture and reflection, we reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that our school is a place of welcome, safety and belonging for all.

As part of our celebration, our staff and families generously contributed to a food bank collection in support of those in need within our local community. The donations were presented and blessed during Mass before being delivered to the food bank afterwards.

We are incredibly proud of the compassion and generosity shown by our school community, living out the Gospel values in such a practical and meaningful way.









The Way of the Cross

The Mini Vinnies have attended church weekly during the season of Lent to participate in the Way of the Cross service, led by Fr Stephen and attended by parishioners to reflect and remember the events of Good Friday. After the last five weeks Father Stephen and the parishioners presented the children with a card and Easter egg as a well done for their commitment to living out their faith.









Lenten Liturgies

Throughout Lent we have invited you (our parents) into school to participate in a Lenten workshop with your child. We have had Lenten paper chains, prayer crosses, Easter Cards, stained glass window decorations made. Thank you for your support with this and if you were able to join us, we hope you enjoyed your time in school.









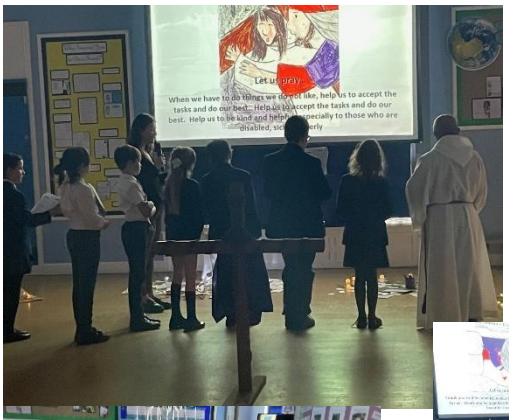






Stations of the Cross

On Thursday 19th March, we created our own reflections of Good Friday with each class making representations of the Stations of Cross to retell the story. Each class went into the hall to share and remind us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. If you, as parents, had the opportunity to join us after school, we hope you enjoyed our reflections. We had some parishioners from St. Mary's come and join us whilst our group who visited church for The Way of the Cross, led us in The Way of the Cross Service.















Easter Boxes

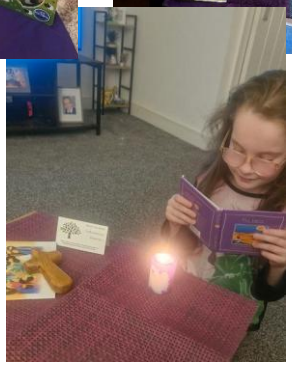
During Lent, we have had our Easter Mystery Boxes visiting families in each class. By sharing the Easter story, we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and, as a family, take time to stop and think about the true meaning of Easter. Inside the boxes: a holding cross, a leaflet, Easter book and candle were there for the child to set up in their own homes.













Catholic School Inspection

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support during our recent RE inspection. The inspection took place on 19th and 20th March, when we welcomed two visitors into school to observe and celebrate our Religious Education provision; this includes the Catholic life, RE curriculum and the collective worship we offer.

We are currently awaiting the final report, and we look forward to sharing the outcomes with both children and families as soon as it is available.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support—it is greatly appreciated.

Big Lent Walk

This Lent, our children took part in the Big Lent Walk in support of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). As a school community, the children walked 4km together, showing their commitment to helping those in need around the world.

We are incredibly grateful for any sponsorship you were able to give. All money raised will go directly to CAFOD to support vital projects providing food, clean water and support to vulnerable communities. Once all donations have been collected and counted, we will share the final total with you. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping our children to put their faith into action.





Wishing all our families a Happy Easter; we hope you have an enjoyable time, creating lovely family memories. We'll see you back in school on Monday 13th April.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

