Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been given a wonderful opportunity by our parish of St Mary's to fund the transport for a visit to Ladyewell in Preston, where there is a shrine dedicated to Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary. This visit will provide a meaningful experience for the children, allowing them time for reflection and an opportunity to embark on a spiritual journey.

Trip date: Friday 13th March 2026

About Ladyewell: The ancient shrine of Ladyewell lies at the end of a winding country lane, about a quarter of a mile beyond the beautiful Church of St Mary's, Fernyhalgh, where Mass will be celebrated. As pilgrims walk the final stretch of Fernyhalgh Lane, a white house can be glimpsed through the trees before reaching Ladyewell House (1685), the well itself, and its picturesque grounds.

The well is located to the right of the garden entrance, with water available directly from the well for those unable to use the steps. Nearby is the covered prayer chapel, Stella Maris, where candles may be lit, along with an additional candle stand overlooking the well.

Within the gardens is the English Martyrs Chapel, an ideal space for pilgrimages, and behind it, in the wooded area, are the Stations of the Cross, surrounded by spring bulbs and bluebells. The gardens also provide many quiet places for prayer and reflection.

There is **no** cost for this trip. However, if children wish to light a candle, we ask that they bring a small donation. It is important that we support our churches, particularly those that rely on donations to maintain these beautiful surroundings, preserve their history, and continue to provide valuable teaching opportunities.

The trip will take place during the school day and will include lunchtime. Children who receive free school meals will be provided with a school packed lunch. You are also welcome to send a packed lunch from home. If your child usually has school dinners and you would like them to receive a school packed lunch on this day, please inform the office, so it can be included in our order.

Yours sincerely, KS2 Team.

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