



Sacred Heart RC Primary School

The Sacred Heart Standard

WESTHOUGHTON

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Executive Headteacher: Mr. M Johnson | Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. S Bridge

Friday 21st March 2025

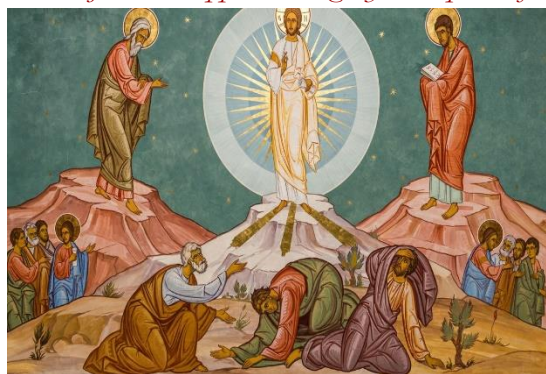
Dear parents and families,

LISTEN TO HIM!

The Sacred Heart Standard

On Monday, our Like Jesus Gospel Celebration of the Word focused on the Transfiguration. We heard about an amazing thing that happened to Jesus, which showed the disciples just how important He was. A great change came over Him. We thought about the changes we can make during Lent.

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.



Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said.

As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen. (Luke 9:28b-36)

Jesus is changed. And everything changes for the disciples too. After all, they know now that Jesus really is the Son of God. The disciples see Jesus in all his glory. It can bring us joy when we see someone who is able to be the best they can be. Someone who is not just surviving and meeting their basic needs, but someone who is thriving and is filled with hope for the future. Through our prayers this Lent, we can hope for wonderful changes. We can ask God to help us to act differently, to make the world a fairer place, and to treat others as we would wish to be treated. Together we can try to build a world that is changed for the better, a world which reflects the glory of God.

In this gospel, God also asks us to listen to his Son, who calls us to **love one another**. Do you think you could listen to God and Jesus a bit more this Lent? How do you think we can best listen to Jesus and ask him for help?

The disciples thought perhaps they should stay on the mountain and worship Jesus, but Jesus took them back down. In the same way, our faith is not something just for church, but it is something that we have to live out every day in all that we do.

Our questions this week: **What do you think you can do to show love in the coming week?**

What will you do to try and live more as God asks you to? How will you listen and change your life and our world for the better?

God of light, you sent your Son Jesus to show us how to live. Help us to make a change in our world, so that all people may live free from poverty and hunger. Amen.



This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Lent. Father will wear a purple coloured chasuble. That is why our newsletter heading is in purple.

The Sacred Heart Standard

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



MASS TIMES: Note that during school term time, Friday morning Mass is at 10am. Children's Liturgy of the Word is on Sunday, 10am Mass. All are welcome! During Lent, Stations of the Cross are every Friday at 7:00pm.

The reading for this Sunday can be found on the [Wednesday Word](#)

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

8 LORD STREET + WESTHOUGHTON + BOLTON + BL5 3SE

Rev Fr Christopher Dawson JCL + 01942 812174

A Parish in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Salford + Registered Charity No. 250037

MASS TIMES

Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri: 9:00am

Sat: 6:00pm (Vigil Mass)

Sun: 10:00am

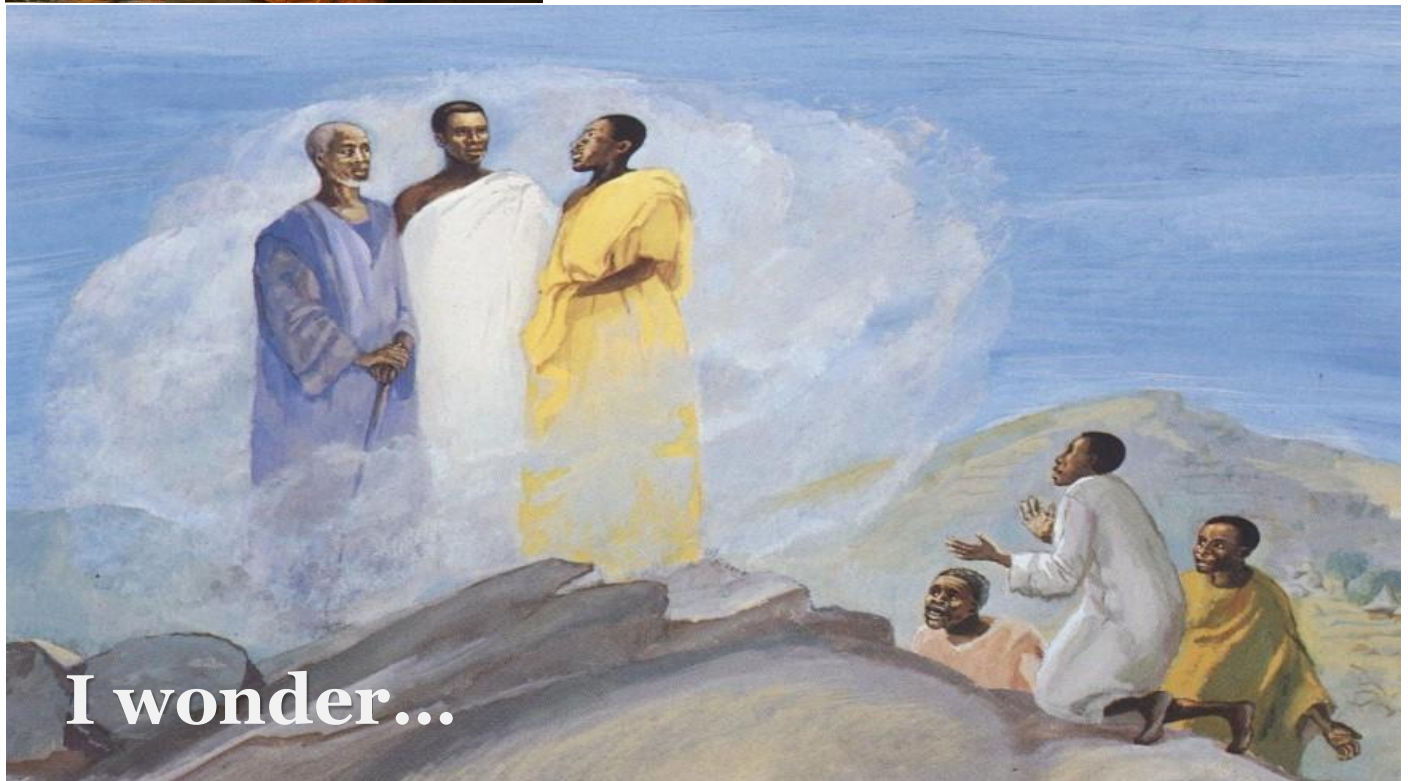
Holy Days: 7:00pm (Vigil) | 10:00am

Confessions: Sat (5:30pm before Vigil Mass)

Note that weekday Mass times are subject to change – please see times advertised on Parish Bulletin or posted in the Narthex window.



WONDER QUESTION: This week, we wondered about Peter who was so happy at what was happening that he wanted it to last – that is why he wanted to build tents so that the time would last. How did they recognise Moses, representing the Law, and Elijah, representing the Prophets. Jesus' friends must have been confused at what was happening, but they were not afraid. How would we feel if we had been there at the Transfiguration?



LET US PRAY: We pray for the world's leaders: that God may guide them to make wise decisions for the good of all people in the world. We pray for all people who face droughts and who struggle to get enough to eat. Together, with God's help, may we change our world so that everyone may thrive and be filled with hope. We pray for Pope Francis. Grant him healing and peace. We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may take the time to listen to what God asks of us and act to change our lives and our world for the better. God our Father, help us to see your Son in all people and to treat them as we would wish to be treated ourselves. Help us to listen and to live our lives as you ask us to. Amen. We continue to pray: **Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions... love one another. So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.**



“Where are you?” (Gen 3:9)

Lenten Term

“Where is your brother?” (Gen 4:9)

UIΘGD

So that in all things God may be glorified...



Like Jesus...

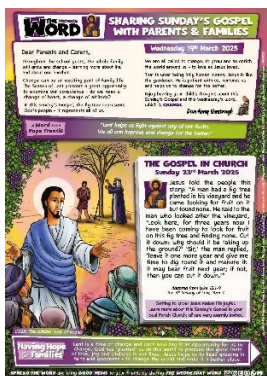
LEARN | LOVE | LEAD
LOVE ONE ANOTHER



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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CHAPLAINCY NEWSLETTER: Mrs Doodson, our lay chaplain, [has written to all families](#). Her newsletter introduces Lenten Term stay and pray opportunities for families and parishioners, which are every Thursday morning during Lent, from 8:30am, in the Croi. All are welcome.



THE WEDNESDAY WORD: You can enjoy the latest edition of the Wednesday Word as a family by [following this link](#).



TEN:TEN RESOURCES: Click here for the [March newsletter](#).

CHURCH BULLETIN: Our parish bulletin can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/parish-bulletin-social-media/>

MARCH ONLINE SAFETY: <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/online-safety/>

OTHER LETTERS ISSUED OVER THE LAST WEEK:

Most updates are via our App. Please ensure you check the app regularly.

- [Letter to Class 2B families – 21/03/2025](#)
- <https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/sacred-heart-standard/>

MARK 10 MISSION: [Episode 22: Jesus is always with you – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#): In the Gospel, Jesus takes three of his friends up a high mountain to pray. There he is transfigured, meaning his face and clothes become dazzling white. Greg helps us to reflect on this wonderful moment and how we are invited to have our own mountaintop encounter with Jesus each and every time we pray. Jesus wants us to experience the same joy and peace his friends did at the Transfiguration. We enter into his presence as we pray and the sing 'Better in His Presence' with Joe from @OneHopeProject. Find out more about Mary's Meals at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>



THE MISSION

ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE



Go back to the mountaintop in prayer. You could do this by finding some quiet space away from the noise and busyness of the world and picture Jesus shining in front of you. You might choose to prayerfully create some artwork of the transfiguration and show what you think Jesus looks like shining in glory.

Remember to keep fasting for Mary's Meals too!







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UIOGD - SCHOOL PRAYER: Our exercise books all have the Benedictine mission, UIOGD, on them. UIOGD is an acronym for the Latin phrase, Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus, which means 'so that in all things God may be glorified'. It's the basic mission of Benedictine spirituality.

Our school prayer now has an extra 15 words: **So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.** This will help us remember why we have UIOGD on our books, and reminds us that all we do is an opportunity to be sacred...

<https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/prayer/>



We gather...

Jesus lives in our school:
in our minds and words and actions...
Love one another!

So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You...

 **Gather**

UIOGD
So that in all things God may be glorified...

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME KEY DATES:

Friday 11th April, 3pm: Parents' Session – Communion

Three weekends for First Eucharist: 26th / 27th April, 3rd / 4th May, 10th / 11th May 2025

Sunday 8th June, 10am: Celebration Mass.

BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS: Congratulations to all who celebrated their Baptism Birthday this week. Please remind your child when it is the anniversary of their baptism.



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FORD CASTLE – Y5 RESIDENTIAL: Final arrangements for our Y5 pilgrimage residential to Ford Castle & the Holy Island of Lindisfarne are now being made. Balances should now have been paid, via School Money, as we have made final payments to PGL. Note that unpaid balances will forfeit the place and deposits are non-refundable. If there is any issue, please make an appointment to speak to our senior pastoral lead, Mr Dootson. Children are asked, by PGL, to bring a sleeping bag / pillow or equivalent, with them to the Castle. They will sleep inside this on bunk beds.

All activities require long sleeves. Whilst there is no specific packing list, we suggest warm clothes and comfortable shoes/trainers, enough for change of clothing if it is wet, and a bin bag to put any wet things in inside suitcases. Note that mobile phones, electronic devices etc. are not allowed to be taken on the trip. No aerosol sprays are allowed. Children may bring spending money, which they remain responsible for keeping. Please ensure any medication is packed in bags. A form is on the Parent App for all parents to complete – regardless of if your child has medication. If any medical needs change, please inform the school office prior to departure. It is essential that this information is completely up to date as we depart. The highest standards of behaviour are expected from all children during our stay.

We will depart school by 9:30am on Wednesday 9th April, and will break our journey with stops at Durham Cathedral and the Angel of the North. Children should bring a packed lunch for the journey (the school kitchen will provide a packed lunch for those on school meals). We aim to be back at school for 6:30pm on Friday 11th April – the estimated return time will be confirmed via the school app as we journey back.

CARITAS PLEDGE - YOUNG PARENTS APPEAL: One of our Caritas Jubilee Hope pledges is to support the **Young Parents accommodation** offered by Caritas Diocese of Salford. Please send in any donations that would support young mums and dads and their babies – for example, nappies and toiletries, dummies, wipes, baby food, baby clothes, etc. The crib collection area is located next to our pastoral room. **There will be a non-uniform day on the feast of the Assumption, next Tuesday, 25th March – in exchange for donations for the appeal.**

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service/young-parents-accommodation-blackburn/>

The Young Parents' Accommodation provides high-quality, safe, supported accommodation for young parents and their children, at a time in their life when they are vulnerable and need a period of stability. The Caritas team helps them prepare for independent living, providing a safe, nurturing environment where young mothers and fathers can develop parenting skills to enable their babies to thrive. While the team predominantly supports young women aged 18-30 years and their babies up to the age of two years, they also are able to provide safe refuge for single fathers and young couples in the family room.

The support provided enables young families to develop confidence and their abilities, with Caritas working



alongside them so they can transform their lives with dignity. Caritas work closely with partners across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, including local authorities, voluntary and statutory bodies and regularly contribute to safeguarding assessments to ensure children are protected. Working with others in this way ensures a strong multi-agency approach, helping ensure a comprehensive, safe and effective service that can have a huge impact on the lives of the families. The centre's work seeks to help the young parents and their families to move on from temporary accommodation to safe, secure permanent homes in their community, ready for independent living.



WELCOME MRS ALTHAM: Last week we welcomed Mrs J. Altham, our new school business manager. Mrs Altham joins us with many years of experience as a business manager, the last 13 at St Mary & St Benedict RC Primary School, Bamber Bridge.



LIKE JESUS AWARDS: Congratulations to those awarded certificates this week!



Pope Francis in prayer after concelebrating the Eucharist yesterday morning...



Light your class candle for Pope Francis

PRAYERS: In our Celebration of the Word, we placed the lit candle before Pope Francis and prayed for him during this time of illness and recovery. Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers.



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ST PATRICK'S DAY – MONDAY 17TH MARCH: Thank you to all joined in with our St Patrick's Day celebration on Monday. Thanks also for donations of Easter eggs in readiness for our Easter raffle on 15th April. Tickets will go on sale from Monday 31st March.



Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise.



WELCOME BACK! On Monday, we welcomed back Mrs Wroe from maternity leave. Mrs Wroe will take over the teaching of Class 2B following the departure of Miss Brown at the end of this term. [A letter was issued earlier today to 2B parents.](#)





HIKE TO THE PIKE THIS PALM SUNDAY – THE CAFOD LENT WALK:

This year, we are taking part in The Big Lent Walk and raising money for Cafod. Our Hike to the Pike will take place on Palm Sunday, 13th April, at 2:00pm. All are welcome to join us - the more the merrier! Please, if you are able to, donate to our just giving page: <https://donate.justgiving.com/fundraising/httpswwwsacred-heartboltonschuk/donation-amount>



SAVE THE DATE: To mark the end of our “Assessment Week” we have organised a School Disco with DJ Danny on 15th May! Payments will soon be taken via School Money or children can pay cash on the door. A snack and drinks will be included, just like last time.

Drop off point: Main office.

Collection point: Y4 cloakroom door near the workshop.



RHUBARB! Our site team have rebuilt the rhubarb bed in our Room2Grow farmyard. We will soon be planting up the allotment beds.

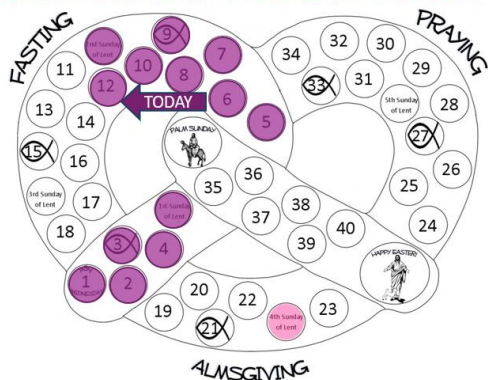




Lenten Term

- Remember to stay OPEN for Lent!

LENTEN CALENDAR: THE SALT OF THE EARTH



LENT RETREAT: All classes are taking part in our Lenten retreat, with Dan & Emily. Each day we mark our prayer off on the chart.

<https://onelifemusic.thinkific.com/courses/open-for-lent-2025>



ST JOSEPH'S DAY – WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH: The original name of our school and parish was Sacred Heart of Jesus & St Joseph. We celebrated the Solemnity of St Joseph this Wednesday with prayer and consideration of the example that St Joseph gives to us all. **St Joseph... Pray for us.**



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ST JOSEPH'S PENNY LENTEN COLLECTION: All children have been given a Lenten collection box. This is part of our shared commitment to Fast, Pray & Give during Lent. Please return the box after Easter.

It costs £12,000 per day to provide the level of service and support being delivered in Caritas projects across Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

This means that everyone who needs it is able to access urgent practical help required, as well as any advice and support that will help them for the long term. Every single donation matters because it means nobody is turned away or left behind.

These are just some examples of how your donation could be

used to provide critical support – right now – or help someone begin to transform their own life with dignity.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Our children have contributed to a special edition of The Bolton News, which is published next Tuesday.

£35

could provide low energy lightbulbs for a home to help someone's finances

£85

could provide a monthly travel pass to help someone who is homeless as they start volunteering, employment or to access support

£350

could provide everything needed for a raised allotment bed or plot in our community allotment

£1,500

could provide a room for a year for someone, preventing them becoming homeless



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

THANK YOU to all who embrace our now established **UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE** strategy.

UNITE are informal gatherings for parents, senior leaders and year group teachers – we explore how to unite to ensure your child is happy, progresses well and enjoys learning. School curriculum and homework expectations are shared and explained.

UNITE letters for the Spring Candlemas & Lenten Terms are below:

<https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/unite/>

ACHIEVE are monthly drop-in days (with drinks and biscuits) where you can share concerns or gain clarity on matters relating to your child's welfare and progress with our SEND, Safeguarding and Pastoral leads. Anyone is welcome – appointments for **ACHIEVE** can be made via the main office or by emailing achieve@sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk. Of course, the first point of contact for day-to-day matters is always your child's teacher, and Mr Dootson, our senior pastoral lead, is always available to speak to parents. Our March achieve date is **Wednesday 26th March 2025**.

<https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/achieve/>

CELEBRATE are those regular opportunities to share in your child's learning and progress in a range of ways. As well as class-led Friday morning prayer (class assemblies) we celebrate musical achievement every half term in special recitals. Sporting and artistic celebrations will also take place throughout the year. Look out for dates on our newsletters and social media – add them to your diary and join us to **CELEBRATE** together... [Our revised Annual Plan of Provision is on the school website.](#)

<https://www.sacred-heart.bolton.sch.uk/celebrate/>

Lenten half term:

Friday morning prayer 9:05am, school hall:		Mass
21 st March 2025: Y4 & Y5 - Led by Lay Chaplain - St Oscar Romero (24 th)		21 st March 2025: 10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y6
28 th March 2025: RB – Sacred Heart of Jesus		28 th March 2025: 10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Reception
4 th April 2025: Y2 & Y3 - Led by Lay Chaplain – Stations of Light		4 th April 2025: 10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y1
11 th April 2025: 3C - St Marianne Cope		11 th April 2025: 10:00-11:00am: Mass at Church – Y2
Sacrament of Reconciliation:	DATE	YEAR GROUP
	21 st March 2025	1:15-3:30pm: Y6 Reconciliation (Croí Ró Naofa Íosa)
	28 th March 2025	1:15-3:30pm: Catch-up Reconciliation (Croí Ró Naofa Íosa)

Mon 31st March 2025, 2pm - YR: The Proud Tree | Monday 7th April, 2pm - Music Recital | Monday 14th April, 1:30pm - Passion @ Sacred Heart.



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.**

ORDO FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

SPRING TERM WEEK 12:

Liturgical Week: THIRD WEEK OF LENT

A Theme for the Week: Giving Time to God

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments: Women: The Needy and Hungry of the World:

Date	Saints, Feasts and Special Days		Notes	Ideas
Monday 24 th March	Lent Weekday			
Tuesday 25 th March	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	✠	This feast comes exactly 9 months before Christmas, and celebrates the moment when Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary. Jesus and Mary both said "Yes" to God's plan to save the world.	Talk about how to give ourselves in service to God's plan for us and for the world.
Wednesday 26 th March	Lent Weekday			
	Khordad Sal (Zoroastrianism)	𐬔𐬀𐬎𐬌	Khordad Sal is the birthday of Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrians all over the world celebrate the day in a great glamour. Parties are held and special prayers are offered throughout the entire day. Clean homes, new clothes, fragrant flowers and delicious meals, all form part of the rituals.	
Thursday 27 th March	Lent Weekday			
Friday 28 th March	Lent Weekday			
	Lent Weekday			
Saturday 29 th March	New Year [Hindu]	ॐ	January 1st is the first date of the modern Gregorian calendar. However, in Hinduism, the new year is not celebrated on January 1st but is observed on this, the first date of Chaitra Shukla, according to Hindu traditions.	
	Eid al-Fitr [Muslim]	☾	This is one of the most important Islamic holy days, a big meal is enjoyed to mark the end of Ramadan – a month of hard fasting – and celebrations go on for 3 days.	
Sunday 30 th March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT "Laetare" Sunday Mothering Sunday	✠	"Laetare" is the Latin for "rejoice" or "be glad": just over half way through Lent we have this Sunday to remind us that, even though Lent is a time of fasting and penance, it is also joyful! The priest might wear Rose coloured vestments today – one of only two days when this colour can be worn. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32: 'Your brother was dead, and is alive.'	

THEME FOR THE WEEK: GIVING TIME TO GOD (Mass/Liturgy/Prayer Resources)

Bible Passages

Isaiah 55:10-11 – God Hears Our Prayers

The Lord says this: "My word is like the snow and the rain that come down from the sky to water the earth. They make the crops grow and provide seed for planting and food to eat. So also will be the word that I speak—it will not fail to do what I plan for it: it will do everything I send it to do."

Psalm 138

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
I sing praise to you before the gods.
I face your holy Temple,
bow down, and praise your name
because of your constant love and faithfulness,
because you have shown that your name and your
commands are supreme.

You answered me when I called to you:
with your strength you strengthened me.
All the kings in the world will praise you, Lord,
because they have heard your promises.
They will sing about what you have done
and about your great glory.

Even though you are so high above,
you care for the lowly,
and the proud cannot hide from you.
When I am surrounded by troubles,
you keep me safe.

You will do everything you have promised:
Lord, your love is eternal.
Complete the work that you have begun.

Psalm 34

I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me:
he freed me from all my fears.
The oppressed look to him and are glad:
they will never be disappointed.
The helpless call to him, and he answers:
he saves them from all their troubles.

His angel guards those who honour the Lord
and rescues them from danger.

Find out for yourself how good the Lord is.
Happy are those who find safety with him.

Come, my young friends, and listen to me,
and I will teach you to honour the Lord.
Turn away from evil and do good:
strive for peace with all your heart.

The righteous call to the Lord, and he listens:
he rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to those who are discouraged:
he saves those who have lost all hope.

Matthew 6:7-15 – How to Pray

Jesus said: "When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honoured: may your Kingdom come: may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us. Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.'

Prayers

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God, you want to be close to us, to listen to our prayers and to guide us: you sent Jesus to teach us how to pray. Help us to make time to sit quietly with you, opening our minds and hearts to your presence.

May you be people of prayer, always finding time to be with God, to share your worries and your joys, and to receive God's comfort and help.

When we are worried or afraid – help us to pray!
When we are glad and rejoicing – help us to pray!
When we are lost or confused – help us to pray!

The LORD is compassionate and gracious.

Next Sunday's Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling. "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than I can eat, and here I am about to starve! I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son: treat me as one of your hired workers."' So he got up and started back to his father. He was still a long way from home when his father saw him: his heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' But the father called to his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive: he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST WEEK: Keep an eye on our social media at: <https://www.facebook.com/TheJourneyMatters/> to keep up with images from our learning journey...



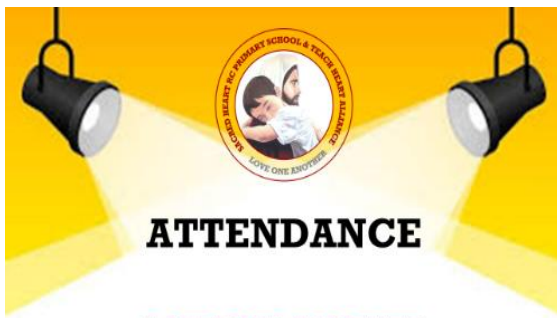
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SHEEPFOLD: Our sheepfold chapel now has a planting bed. If you have any plants, cuttings or seeds that could help get the garden started, please send them in. The inside of the sheepfold is a calm and beautiful space for prayer.





Class	%
Attendance	10 th – 14 th
	March 2025
Whole School	96.8
RB	98
RS	95.7
1C	93
1P	95.2
2B	98.6
2D	96
3C	96.7
3E	93.5
4F	94.7
4W	97.7
5A	99.3
5D	98.7
6B	98.6
6BT	98.8

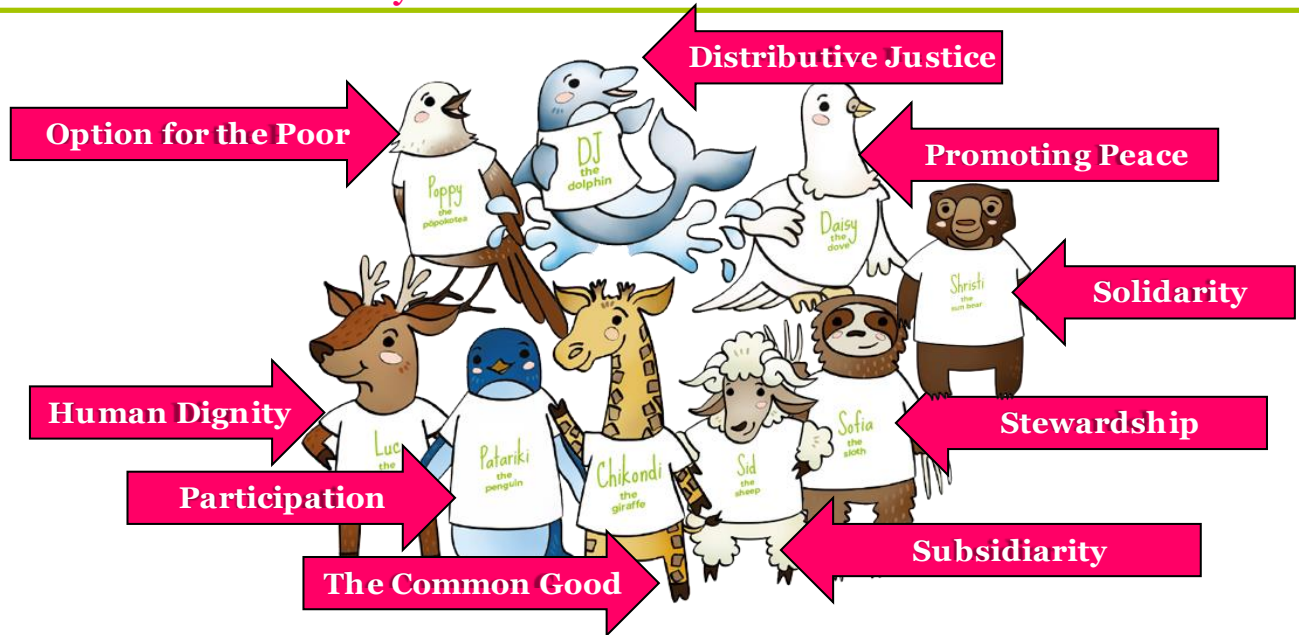
ATTENDANCE: The latest National attendance statistics can be found at: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/pupil-attendance-in-schools>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING:

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Catholic Social Teaching:

Can you remember who looks after which theme?



HUMAN DIGNITY:

This half term we focus on solidarity...

Loving God,
We believe that we are one big human family.
Help us to reach out to people who are suffering or sad, showing them the love you have shown to us.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer



Showing we care
Solidarity



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

Jesus lives in our school: in our minds and words and actions... Love one another!
 So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.

ROTARY ART COMPETITION WINNERS! Congratulations to our winning entrants to the recent Rotary Club art competition who were presented with their certificates at the Library last weekend, and with £100 for school resources.



AND FINALLY: Our huge congratulations go to Mrs Bridge. On Tuesday this week, Sophie was interviewed for the role of Headteacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Brindle. We knew she would be a superb candidate, and their governors agreed and after a rigorous process, they offered Mrs Bridge the headship post, starting in September 2025. Mrs Bridge first joined us as a final placement trainee teacher in Spring 2011, and joined our team in September 2011, making significant contribution to pupil progress, Maths and other areas of our strategy, becoming our Deputy Headteacher in September 2020. Whilst we will miss her energy and contribution, it is our duty to form and grow leaders who will become future headteachers across the system – this secures Catholic schools for future generations of children. We are very proud of Mrs Bridge's achievement and know you will congratulate her too!

Thank you for your continued support and trust as we walk together.

M Johnson

Mr M Johnson
Executive Headteacher

B Furey

Mrs B Furey
Director of Teach Heart Alliance

S Bridge

Mrs S Bridge
Deputy Headteacher

I would like to invite you, today, to join me in praising the Lord, who never abandons us and who, in times of sorrow, places people beside us who reflect a ray of His love. I thank you all for your prayers, and I thank those who assist me with such dedication.

Pope Francis, Twitter @ Pontifex, 16th March 2025



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.**

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

WORD OF THE WEEK

FASTING

PRAYER

Picture in your mind Jesus shining on the mountaintop. Place yourself there with him. Is there a prayer you would like to share with Jesus?

Spend some quiet time with Jesus in this place of peace and joy.

As you slowly read or listen to the Gospel, which line stands out? Highlight it in the text. Pray about how God may be speaking to you through this line?

Wonder Questions

How do you think Peter felt as he looked at Jesus shining?

Why did Jesus choose to show just three of his friends this moment?

MISSION

Go back to the mountaintop in prayer. You could do this by finding some quiet space away from the noise and busyness of the world and picture Jesus shining in front of you. You might choose to prayerfully create some artwork of the transfiguration and show what you think Jesus looks like shining in glory.

Remember to keep fasting for **Mary's Meals** too!



COLOUR





Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout the school years, the whole family will grow and change – learning more about life and about one another.

Change can be an exciting part of family life. The Season of Lent presents a great opportunity to examine our conscience – do we need a change of heart, a change of attitude?

In this Sunday's Gospel, the fig tree represents God's people – it represents all of us.

Wednesday 19th March 2025

We are all called to change: to grow and so enrich the world around us – to love as Jesus loved.

That is what being fully human means! Jesus is like the gardener. He is patient with us, nurtures us and helps us to change for the better.

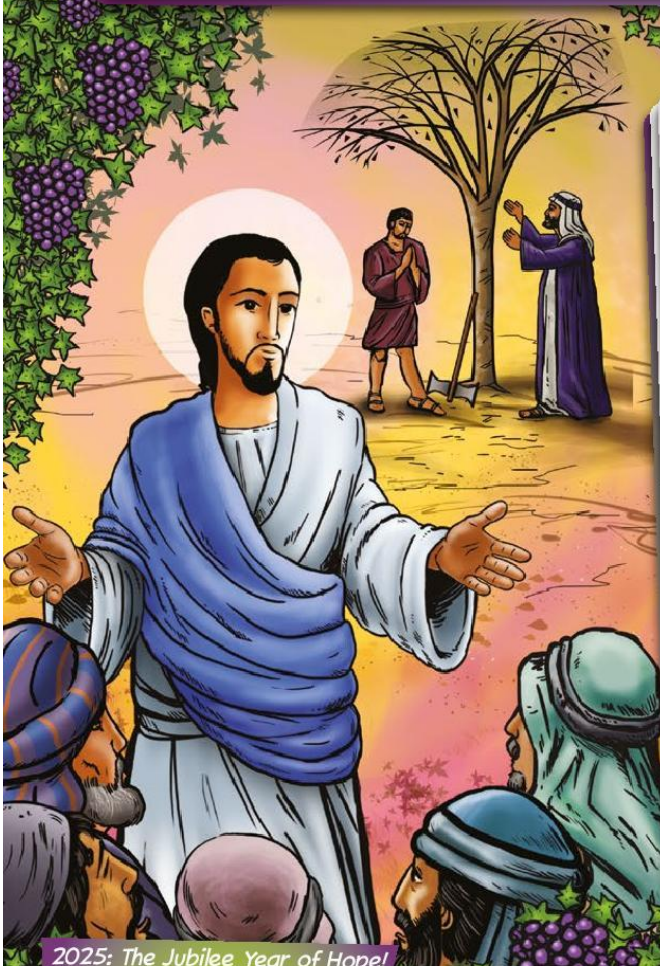
Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **CHANGE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

"Lent helps us fight against any of our faults.
We all can improve and change for the better."



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 23rd March 2025



Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, 'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Adapted from Luke 13:1-9
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your
local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope
in our Families

Lent is a time of change and each new day is an opportunity for us to change. God has 'planted' us on this earth to produce the good fruits of love, joy and kindness in our lives. Jesus helps us to keep growing in faith and goodness – to change the world and make it a better place.

SPREAD THE WORD and bring GOOD NEWS to your friends by sharing THE WEDNESDAY WORD





Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



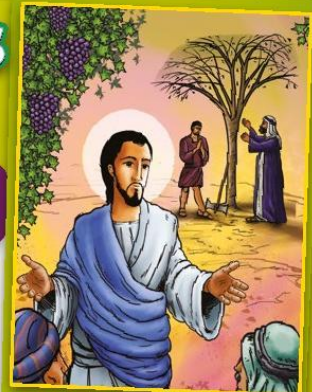
1

READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

One day Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard which was taking up space and not producing fruit. So he said to the gardener, 'For three years I have been coming to look for fruit on this tree and finding none. Let's chop it down!' The gardener replied, 'Sir, let's leave it for another year. I'll help it to grow and produce fruit.'"

What was wrong with the fig tree?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

2

SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." *St John Henry Newman*

CHANGE



Ask your child what the word 'change' means to them. As a family, share any positive changes which have recently taken place at home, at school or within the community. Let your child know about at least one way in which they have changed for the better and grown in goodness over the past months (e.g. in behaviour, in attitude, in helpfulness). How does your child think that changing in that way has helped them? How has it helped the family or their friends?



Each of you say something about yourself that you would like to change this Lent - and say why. Perhaps it is: trying to listen better at school; trying to follow Jesus more closely; being more patient; helping out more at home; always remembering to say your daily prayers. How can you make that change? Do you need anyone's help? Are there any other ways to make a change for the better this Lent? You may also like to choose something new to do together that will make life better for the family.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your patient care for us. Show us where we need to **change** - to grow more in our love for you and for each other. Amen.

FINDING THREE

P E G N A H C Y R O P
E C U D O R P E T D G
M H T I M E N W R A V
G A H N G E H A E M I
F N V M D W Y C E P N
R G A R D E N E R R T
U E A T N R E N W O R
I G V I N E Y A R D E
T Y V U E E M I T U W
G T U R F V V M I C N
T H T F R U O W N E R

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

☒ **TREE**
☒ **VINEYARD**
☐ **OWNER**
☐ **GARDENER**
☐ **TIME**
☐ **CHANGE**
☐ **PRODUCE**
☐ **FRUIT**

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **b c d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

cfbrudit bledacve yebcard gbrowdc

The gardener replied, 'Sir, let's _____ it for another _____ . I'll help it to _____ and produce _____ .'

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus cares for us, just like the gardener cares for the tree. Listening and acting upon what our parents, teachers and others tell us about God, helps us to keep growing into the best people we can be.



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



More about the Catholic Faith: wednesdayword.org & cbcew.org.uk



UNITE | ACHIEVE | CELEBRATE

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So that, in all things that we think, say and do, God may be glorified.