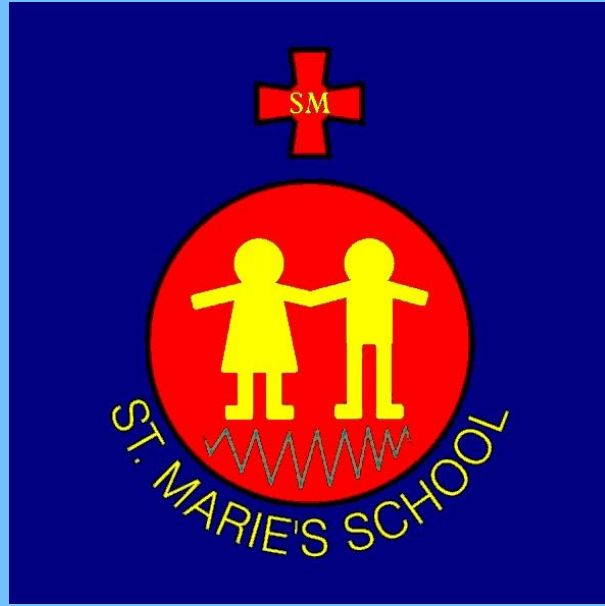




A year in the Catholic Life of St. Marie's School

September 2025 – July 2026



Our Newsletter is shared with parents and families each week. It is sent out electronically to all.

Each week it contains the following related to the Catholic Life of our school.

Our School Vision Statement

Through working together, loving each other,
and always doing our best, at St Marie's we will
all become the amazing, unique individuals God
wants us to be.

PRAYER FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Loving God,

Thank You for the gift of a new school year.

We place our school, our pupils, our staff, and our families into Your loving care.

Bless all the learning, laughter, and growing that will happen in the months ahead.

We thank You especially for our new pre-school.

May it be a place filled with joy, kindness, and curiosity.

Bless the youngest members of our school family as they begin their journey with us.

Be with all who teach and all who learn.

Give us patience, wisdom, and a heart open to others.

Help us to support one another and walk in Your light every day.

We trust that You are with us, now and always.

Amen.



September

This week also marked a special moment in the life of our school as we shared in Fr Paddy's final school Mass as parish priest of St Vincent's, Crookes. We are very grateful for his many years of support and care for our school and its families. It was a moving and joyful celebration.



COMMON GOOD- SCHOOL COUNCIL

Today our School Council met to talk about which charities we will support this year. The children came up with a list of worthy causes and will now ask their classmates for their opinions and ideas.

This links closely to our Catholic Social Teaching, where we are called to help those in need and to work together for the common good.

The School Council will meet again next week to share their class feedback and make the final decision.

#WeLoveEachOther

October



'LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME'

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Ralph to our school to bless the preschool. He was joined by a selection of children from different classes for a wonderful liturgy, during which Bishop Ralph blessed both the children and the preschool.

Afterwards, the children from each class came to say hello to Bishop Ralph and received a special blessing from him. It was a truly joyful and memorable occasion for our school community.

We are reminded of the words of Jesus:

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

(Matthew 19:14)



LITTLE WAY WEEK

This week we have been celebrating **Little Way Week** in school. Little Way Week is inspired by **St Thérèse of Lisieux**, the patron of mission. As a child, St Thérèse dreamed of being a missionary. As she grew older, she realised that most of us are not called to make big, dramatic gestures. Instead, we can share God's love through **small, loving actions** every day.

Throughout the week, we have been thinking about the 'little ways' we can show kindness and help those around us.

In **Year 1**, the children learned about St Thérèse and her '*Little Way*'. They discovered that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. The children tried to follow her example by helping each other in simple ways – tidying the classroom without being asked, sharing their things, and speaking kind words to friends who were feeling sad. These small acts of love made the classroom a happier and more caring place, just as St Thérèse taught.

As part of **Little Way Week, Year 2** were busy showing appreciation for the dedicated members of our school community by writing thoughtful **thank-you cards**. These special notes were created for our office staff, cleaners, caretaker, headteacher and others who work tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly. The children's kind words and colourful messages were a lovely way to recognise the hard work and dedication of our school community, and they were deeply appreciated by the staff who received them, bringing smiles and warm moments to their day.

In **Year 3**, the children completed their '**Good Deed** Bingo charts. Each good deed they completed was one of their own '*little ways*' of helping others in school. These acts of kindness showed that even small gestures can make a big difference to those around us.

In **Year 4**, the children had a special visit from **Father Cooke**, who came to talk about Little Way Week and the life of St Thérèse. Father Cooke shared how simple acts of kindness and love can change the lives of others.

After his visit, the children reflected on how they could follow St Thérèse's example. Each child wrote on a heart-shaped card either a 'little way' they planned to do this week or a short prayer to St Thérèse. These beautiful hearts are now displayed in the classroom as a reminder that even the smallest actions, when done with love, can be powerful.

"St Thérèse, Flower of Jesus, fill our hearts with your pure love of God. Ask God to grant the favours we place with confidence in your hands."



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

On Tuesday afternoon, the School Council welcomed Olivia from **St Luke's Hospice**. The children listened carefully as Olivia shared about the important care work the hospice does. They asked thoughtful questions about the charity and talked about ways our **St Marie's community** can help through fundraising.

At the next meeting, the School Council will decide which charities we will support this year — and we'll let you know first!

In doing this work of charity, we are living out **Catholic Social Teaching**: caring for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, and working for justice in our world. Catholic Social Teaching holds that every person has dignity (because we're made in God's image), and that we must love and respect each other. resources.catholicaoc.org+2caritas.org+2

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” – 1 Peter 4:10

Let us pray for those supported by St Luke's Hospice, and may our actions show God's love and mercy in our community.



CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

In October, we embrace the beautiful tradition of honouring Our Lady. While May is known as 'The Month of Our Lady', October is a wonderful time to deepen our devotion by praying the Rosary with our children.

Our classes will be dedicating time to pray the Rosary together in school throughout October.

Let's make this month a special time of prayer and reflection, growing closer to Our Lady and deepening our faith as a school community.



YEAR 3 BECOME MINIVINNIES

On Thursday, Father Henry visited Year 3 and led a special Commissioning Ceremony as they officially became Mini Vinnies. He reminded the children that God calls each of us to be saints in our own special way.

The children proudly said "I do" to the Mini Vinnies promises, then received their badge and bookmark. Father Henry kindly blessed the badges before everyone joined in singing the Mini Vinnies song to end the ceremony.

Year 3 are now excited to get started with their "See, Think, Do" mission. Keep an eye out for their Mini Vinnies work coming soon!



YEAR 6 SHINE BRIGHTLY AND PROUD

On Tuesday evening, our Year 6 children were fantastic ambassadors for the school. They took a major part in a special Mass at St Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield, attended by Directors of Education from all the Catholic dioceses in England and Wales. The Mass was hosted by the Diocese of Hallam.

The children led the singing, did the readings, and served on the altar. They were calm, respectful, and prayerful throughout.

Mr Alan Dewhurst, Acting Director of Schools for the Hallam Diocese, said:

"The singing was beautiful, and several people said how moving it was. They also spoke with great praise for the readers and altar servers. Bishop Marcus Stock, the Bishop of Leeds, was very impressed. Congratulations to all involved!"

Many others who were there also said how impressed they were by the children's excellent behaviour, lovely singing, and clear reading.

A big thank you to all the staff who helped and supported the children. We are very proud of everyone who took part.

#WeWalkWithJesus



Year 6 with Bishop Marcus Stock

ST CLARE'S TRUST MASS- PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Today, our Year 6 children returned to St Marie's Cathedral to take part in the St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust Mass.

The cathedral was full, with over 400 children from almost every school in the Trust. It was a joyful and prayerful celebration, with beautiful music, readings, and reflections.

The theme of the Mass was "Pilgrims of Hope," marking the Year of Jubilee.

The children sang with great enthusiasm and showed wonderful respect throughout. Two of our pupils took part in the entrance procession, carrying a special symbol of hope on behalf of our school — a picture of our pre-school children with Bishop Ralph. It was a reminder that hope is like our youngest children in school, growing in the light of Jesus.

Well done Year 6 and a big thank you to all the staff who helped prepare and supported the children at the Mass.

#WeWalkWithJesus



FATHER LEE VISITS YEAR 2

On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome Fr. Lee, the new parish priest at St Vincent's, into our school community. He spent time with our Year 2 children to help introduce their new topic of Baptism.

Father Lee shared engaging stories and explained the special meaning behind important symbols such as the baptismal candle and holy water. The children were fascinated and asked thoughtful questions, showing real curiosity about the sacrament.

It was a joy to have him with us, and we are very grateful for the time he gave. We look forward to building strong links with him as part of our school and parish community.



ALL SOULS MASS

On Tuesday, our school gathered together for a special Mass for the Faithful Departed, celebrated by Fr Cooke. This All Souls Mass was a time for us to remember and pray for all those who have died, trusting that they are now at peace with God.

Fr. John led a wonderful and reflective service, helping us to think about God's promise of eternal life. The children sang beautifully, read clearly and contributed with great respect.

Jesus reminds us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25)

This message of hope reminds us that love never ends, and that those we remember live on in God's care.

After Mass, Fr Cooke congratulated Arianna (Year 5), Pietro (Year 2), and Matteo (Reception), who recently travelled to Rome on a special pilgrimage during the *Holy Year 2025*.

As part of their journey, they visited the four major basilicas of Rome — St Peter's, St John Lateran, St Mary Major, and St Paul Outside the Walls — passing through the Holy Doors at each church. Pilgrims who do this can receive an official certificate, called a *Testimonium*, which marks their spiritual participation in the Jubilee Year.

The children are proudly pictured with their certificates and Fr Cooke. Well done also to Marco, their younger brother, who joined them on this wonderful pilgrimage of faith.

#WeWalkWithJesus



A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE

In our Catholic tradition, November holds a special significance as a time to remember and honour those who have departed from this world and are now with our Lord.

During our upcoming half-term break, we observe two important days. On 1st November, we celebrate All Saints' Day, dedicated to recognising all the saints in Heaven who have faithfully served God. The following day, 2nd November, is All Souls' Day, a day devoted to praying for the souls of the departed.

We encourage you, both as families and individuals, to take time this month to remember your loved ones and those in your community who have passed away. Let this be an opportunity to renew our love and remembrance for them.

Our Year 6 pupils have been selling poppies in school this week and will continue to do so during the first week back after the half-term break. We will, of course, observe our own minute's silence on **Tuesday, 11th November**, to honour those who have sacrificed their lives in service to others.

We invite you to join us in daily prayer:

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

"I will be with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:20

#WeWalkWithJesus



THE POWER OF GOOD

Next week at our school we will be marking Anti-Bullying Week 2025, which runs from Monday 10 to Friday 14 November.

The theme this year is "Power for Good" — encouraging children to use their own power to speak out, support others and build a kinder community.

Bullying affects many young people each year. Silence allows it to grow. This week is about empowering everyone — pupils, staff and families — to use their voice and actions for good.

Our link to Catholic Social Teaching

As a Catholic school, we recognise that each person is made in the image of God and has dignity. One of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching is the common good — the idea that we are part of a community and that our actions should help each other, not harm.

By choosing to use our power for good — to be kind, to stand up for someone, to build each other up — we are living out this belief in practice.

We will begin the week with a special assembly led by Mr Fernandes on Monday, exploring how we can each play our part in making our school a safe, respectful place where everyone's dignity is valued.

Thank you for your support and for reinforcing these values at home. If you would like any further information or want to talk about how we support children with bullying concerns, please do get in touch.

#WeLoveEachOther

NEXT WEEK AT OUR SCHOOL

**ANTI-BULLYING
WEEK 2025**

Monday 10 to Friday 14 November

**POWER
FOR GOOD**



THEME THIS YEAR:

View more
by scrolling

CATHOLIC LIFE AWARD!

We are delighted to announce that the first winner of the *Fr Paddy Catholic Life Award* is **Elle** in Year 6.

Elle has been recognised for her kindness, friendship and patience towards her classmates, especially welcoming new children to our school. She always puts the needs of others before her own, showing a caring and generous heart.

Elle is often seen with a smile, doing the little things well and with dignity and humility. She is a wonderful example of living out our Catholic Social Teaching — showing love and respect for every person and working for the common good.

Well done, Elle! We are very proud of you.

#WeWalkWithJesus



PARISH SCHOOL MASSES

Children from St. Marie's will be leading Mass in our School Parishes this term and in spring.

Our first Mass will be on **Sunday 23rd November at St Francis' Church at 11 am.**

All children are very welcome to come and take part, and children from any parish are also invited to join us. Nearer the time, we will gather the children in school to allocate readings and other roles. The children will also be leading a hymn after Communion.

Dates for our other parish Masses are still to be confirmed, and we will share these as soon as they are arranged.

Please contact Miss Healey khealy@st-maries.sheffield.sch.uk if your child is able to attend so we can organise the roles between the children.

#WeWalkWithJesus

TRAVELLING NATIVITY

The liturgical season of Advent starts this weekend when we begin a period of JOYFUL WAITING for the second coming of Christ and for the celebration of Christmas.

Today, we will begin sending home the Travelling Cribs. The bags will be sent home to each family in our school. The youngest sibling will receive the bag and should return it to class after one night at home. In the bag there is a set of Nativity pieces for you to place, a candle for you to light and a suggestion of some prayers you might wish to say. There is also a book in the bag for you to record what you have done with your family. This could be writing, a photo or drawing or a prayer. If you have any photos you would like to share from the travelling Nativity being at your home please send them to khealy@st-maries.sheffield.sch.uk for us to share in the next newsletter and on our website.

Next week, we will be having a special Advent Liturgy in school on Tuesday 2nd December at 11am, when Fr. Cooke will come to join us and bless our advent wreaths.

Dear Jesus,

You entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most.

Amen.

'Be on your guard. Keep awake.' Mark 13:33-37

#WeWalkWithJesus



December

LEADING IN FAITH AND JOY

Last Sunday, children from St. Marie's School took part in the Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. They helped in the entrance procession by carrying candles, and some of the children read the First Reading, Psalm, and Second Reading. Others read the bidding prayers beautifully.

After Communion, the children sang *"Come on everybody and clap your hands"* with great joy and energy. It was lovely to see children from every class joining in so enthusiastically.

The parishioners were very impressed and said how well the children represented our school.

Thank you to all the children who came, their families, the HSA for running the cake stall afterwards, Fr. Keven, and all the kind helpers from St. Francis' Parish.

#WeWalkWithJesus



THE TUB OF TOGETHERNESS CHALLENGE!

Today, our School Council met with Mr Fernandes, and everyone agreed that our school would support St Wilfrid's Centre this Advent.

As we discussed our plans, some of our Catholic Social Teaching friends helped guide our thinking:

- **Poppy the pōpokotea**, who reminds us of the *Preferential Option for the Poor*, encouraged us to think first about those who need help the most — especially the people supported by St Wilfrid's Centre.
- **Luc the deer**, our symbol of *Human Dignity*, helped us remember that every person is special, loved by God, and deserves to feel safe, valued, and cared for.
- **Chikondi the giraffe**, who represents *The Common Good*, lifted our eyes to see how our whole school community can work together for the good of others.

St Wilfrid's Centre is a special place in Sheffield that helps homeless, vulnerable, and lonely adults. It offers food, care, friendship, and a place to feel safe and welcome. The centre helps people feel valued and supports them in building a better life.

Why are we helping?

As a Catholic school, we believe in loving our neighbour and helping those in need. This is part of Catholic Social Teaching, which reminds us to:

- care for the poor and vulnerable,
- treat everyone with dignity,
- and show kindness and solidarity as one human family.

Helping others is one of the best ways we can live like Jesus.

The Tub of Togetherness Challenge

Each class will have a collection tub, and our challenge is to fill them with useful items for St Wilfrid's Centre. Please bring in donations during December. Here are some ideas:

- Tins of rice pudding
- Shampoo
- Tins of custard
- Packets of biscuits
- Tins of soup
- Hot chocolate
- Tins of stew or casserole
- Tins of mixed vegetables
- Tins of potatoes
- Pot noodles
- Cup-a-soups
- Chocolate bars
- Washing-up liquid
- Men's roll-on deodorant



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

— *Matthew 25:35-36*

Let's make this Advent a season of giving, kindness, and love.

Together — with the help of Poppy, Luc, and Chikondi — we can make a real difference.

#WeWalkWithJesus

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

On Tuesday, we welcomed Fr. Cooke to school for a very special **Advent Liturgy**. It was a beautiful and meaningful occasion as we gathered together to reflect on the season of Advent.

Fr. Cooke led us in prayer and blessed our Advent wreaths, reminding us of the hope and light that Christmas brings.

#WeWalkWithJesus



HOMEMADE CRIBS LIGHT THE WAY!

On Monday, we held our much-loved Nativity Light Trail. The hall was beautifully transformed into an illuminated pathway for the children to explore.

At the start of the trail, we were delighted to welcome Joe from the Bethlehem Care Trust, who showcased an impressive collection of crib sets from around the world. The trail then featured a stunning display of homemade cribs crafted by our children, leading to our outdoor crib scene at the school entrance. Here, each class gathered in prayer and lit the Advent Wreath, marking this special moment of our Advent preparations.

This year, we saw 27 homemade cribs, created with extraordinary creativity and a wide variety of materials. Many children, with help from home (thank you!), created their own Nativity sets using cardboard, clay, fabric, or recycled materials. There was a prize for the most eco-friendly design, and every child who entered received a chocolate treat.

Fr. Cooke joined the celebration and awarded special prizes to some of the standout entries. Thanks to the generosity of those who took part, the school raised £84 for the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.

A huge well done to all the children who participated—you impressed us all with your incredible efforts!

Thank you to all the families who took part.

#WeWalkWithJesus



OUR LITTLE STARS SHINE BRIGHTLY

This week, the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 delighted families with their wonderful Nativity performances.

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, parents and carers were treated to three very special shows. Reception performed *Going on a Baby Hunt*, a joyful and imaginative retelling of the Christmas story. Year 1 followed with *The Grumpy Innkeeper*, which had everyone smiling and laughing. Finally, Year 2 brought the traditional Nativity story to life with confidence and care.

The children sang beautifully, danced with enthusiasm, and spoke their lines clearly and proudly. Their hard work and excitement truly shone through.

A big thank you goes to all the staff who supported the children in preparing for their performances, and to parents for helping with costumes and practising songs at home. We are also grateful to everyone who came along to watch and celebrate with us.



GIVING WITH LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS

As we come to the end of our school term and the season of Advent, we would like to say a **huge thank you** to all our families for your wonderful support with our donations for St Wilfrid's Centre.

Your generosity has been truly inspiring.

Today, Mr Fernandes, along with two of our School Council members, Nathania and Rory, delivered all of our donations to St Wilfrid's. They were warmly welcomed and told just how much these gifts will help people in need this winter. They were even given a special tour of the St Wilfrid's workshop by Keith, learning more about the amazing work done to support others.

Thank you for helping us live out our Catholic faith in such a real and practical way.

This act of kindness is a beautiful example of Catholic Social Teaching, especially the call to love our neighbour, to support the poor and vulnerable, and to promote the dignity of every person. Together, we are being the hands and feet of Jesus in our city.

As it says in scripture:

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." – 1 John 3:18

Let us carry this message into Christmas — a season of hope and light — knowing that we have made a difference to others.

#WeWalkWithJesus



A JOYFUL EVENING OF CAROLS

Well done to all the children who took part in the **Notre Dame Carol Service** at **St Vincent's Church** on **Tuesday evening**. Their singing was both beautiful and prayerful, filling the church with the light and hope of Christmas.

The children represented St Marie's with pride and sang with such care and joy. Many people commented on how moving the service was — and how special it was to hear young voices praising God together in such a peaceful and holy setting.

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children, and a special thank you to **Mrs Twomey** for all her hard work in preparing them for the event.

It was a lovely reminder of the power of music to bring us together as one community in faith.

#WeWorkTogether



January

EPIPHANY MASS CELEBRATION

On Tuesday, the school community came together to celebrate a special Epiphany Mass. It was a joy to welcome Fr. Lee, who celebrated his very first Mass with us at school. The children joined in beautifully with the singing and responses and listened with care to Fr. Lee and the readings.

Several pupils helped lead the Mass by reading, serving on the altar, operating the projector, and bringing forward the Offertory gifts—they all did a wonderful job.

Fr. Lee reminded everyone that we are like the Three Wise Men. Just as they followed the star to Jesus and brought Him gifts, we are reminded that Jesus came for everyone in the world, and that each of us has gifts to share with one another.

This message links to Catholic Social Teaching, especially the theme of “Human Dignity” and “Solidarity.” Every person is a gift, and we are called to treat each other with love and kindness, sharing our talents for the good of all.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” – Romans 12:6

And just like the Wise Men, we are called to offer what we have to God and to one another.

#WeWalkWithJesus

A great start to the new term!



CHALKING THE DOOR – AN EPIPHANY TRADITION

This week, Year 3 learned about a special Christian tradition called Chalking the Door, which is often carried out during the time of Epiphany.

After the Epiphany Mass on Tuesday morning, Fr. Lee kindly blessed the chalk that was used in the afternoon. This tradition helps Christians remember the visit of the Wise Men—Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar—who followed the star to find baby Jesus.

A special message was written in chalk above the doors:

20 + C + M + B + 26

This marks the year and the initials of the Wise Men. It also stands for the Latin phrase:

"Christus Mansionem Benedicat", meaning "Christ bless this house."

Year 3 chose to mark both their **classroom door** and the **main school entrance**, saying together:

"Christ bless this school" and "God is welcome here."

It was a thoughtful way to begin the new year, reminding us that Jesus is with us in our school, our homes, and our hearts.

#WeWalkWithJesus



A SPECIAL VISIT FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

Our Year 5 children had a very special visit from Fr Henry this week. He spoke to them about the Our Father, helping the children to understand what each line means and why it is important.

He also talked about his day-to-day life as a priest and answered many thoughtful questions from the children. They were particularly interested to hear about his work in hospitals and were fascinated to learn that he was "on call" that day with the NHS. The children were amazed that he could be phoned in the middle of the night to go and be with a patient if he was needed.

The children listened beautifully throughout the session and asked some excellent questions. It was a calm, respectful and engaging visit that the children clearly enjoyed.

#WeWalkWithJesus



YEAR 6 VISIT FROM FR. JOHN

This week, Fr. John visited Year 6 to talk about the different Sacraments. The children asked some thoughtful questions, which really impressed him.

Fr. John explained the Sacrament of Holy Orders and also demonstrated and explained the Sacrament of the Sick, helping the children to understand both more clearly.

Thank you to Fr. John for taking the time to visit us.

#WeWalkWithJesus



February

YEAR 2 ENJOY A VISIT FROM FATHER HENRY

Father Henry visited Year 2 this week to share the story and meaning of Candlemas. The children were absolutely wonderful throughout his visit, listening carefully and showing great respect. They asked thoughtful, reflective questions that impressed Father Henry and demonstrated their growing understanding of the feast. Father Henry commented on how engaged and curious the children were, a real credit to themselves and the school. Well done, Year 2!

#WeWalkWithJesus



LENT AT ST MARIE'S – WE WALK WITH JESUS

We begin our Lenten journey next week on **Ash Wednesday**. Please check the times at your parish church and, if you can, take your child to receive their ashes. Ash Wednesday reminds us to turn back to God and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Lent is a special time of reflection and preparation before Easter. It is a season of prayer, giving and fasting as we prepare to celebrate the risen Lord. At St Marie's, we see Lent as a very important and holy time, as we grow closer to Jesus and try to live more like Him.

As we begin Lent, we invite you to think about small changes you can make at home as a family. Simple acts of kindness, extra time for prayer, or giving something up can make a big difference. During Lent, we will be supporting those less fortunate than ourselves through CAFOD and the Good Shepherd Appeal, which helps local charities and families in need across our diocese.

St Marie's Lenten Walks 2026

We are excited to begin our **St Marie's Lenten Walks 2026**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to walk together in faith, reflect on our journey with Christ, and raise money for the Good Shepherd Appeal.

All parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to join us. Children may take part in as many walks as they wish.

Lenten Walks Schedule

- **Friday 27th February** – Walking from St Francis (8:00am) to school
- **Friday 6th March** – Walking from St Vincent's (8:00am) to school
- **Friday 13th March** – Walking from St William's (8:00am) to school
- **Friday 20th March** – Walking from St John's (8:30am) to school
- **Friday 27th March** – Walking from Holy Family (7:30am) and St Marie's Cathedral (8:30am) to school

CATHOLIC LIFE AWARD!

We are delighted to announce that the second winner of the Fr Paddy Catholic Life Award is Noah in Year 5.

Noah has been recognised for always helping others and putting the needs of his friends first. He looks out for everyone and is always ready to offer support, encouragement and kindness.

He comes to school each day with a big smile on his face and a positive attitude. Noah leads by example and shows what it means to care for others and work for the common good.

He is a wonderful role model and truly lives out our Catholic Social Teaching by showing love, fairness and respect to everyone around him.

Well done, Noah! We are very proud of you.

#WeWalkWithJesus



CAFOD Lenten Fast Day – Thursday 19th March

On Thursday 19th March, we will mark CAFOD Family Fast Day in school with our 'Give It Up Challenge'.

Children can choose a simple lunch of homemade soup, bread and fruit for £3.00. All money raised will support CAFOD's vital work helping communities around the world.

Parents and grandparents are warmly invited to join us from 11:30am. We will let you know when your child will be having their soup so you can join them.

All Donations can be made through ParentPay and this will go live next half term. Please keep an eye out for this.

This Lent, let us walk together in faith, strengthen our community, and support those most in need.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

#WeWalkWithJesus

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

During Lent, we are thinking about forgiveness and saying sorry. Lent is a special time when we try to grow closer to God. We think about our actions and try to make better choices.

This month, we are focusing on the *Act of Contrition*. This is a special prayer we say when we are sorry for our sins. It helps us to tell God we are sorry and that we want to try again.

We will be praying this version together in school:

O my God, because you are so good,

I am very sorry that I have sinned against you,

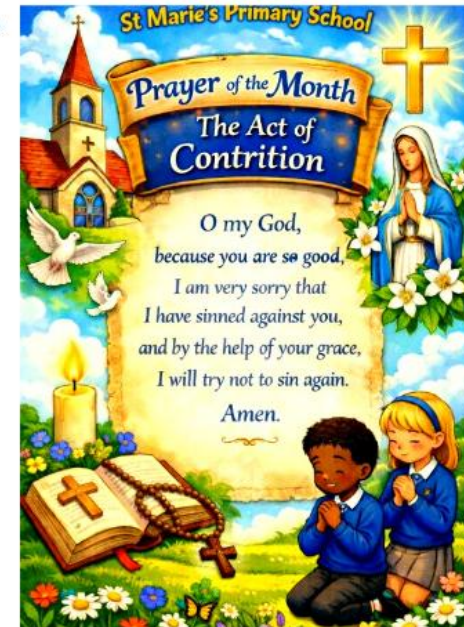
and by the help of your grace,

I will try not to sin again.

Amen.

Please practise this prayer at home with your child. Praying together is a lovely way to grow in faith during Lent.

#WeWalkWithJesus



LENT AT ST MARIE'S – WE WALK WITH JESUS

Thank you to all the children and families who joined us for our first Lenten Walk from St Francis. It was a wonderful way to begin our journey together in faith during this special season of Lent.

We started with the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi, beautifully read by Harriet and Ostin from Year 6. Their reverent and thoughtful reading helped us to reflect on being instruments of peace, love and forgiveness in our daily lives.

We then enjoyed a lovely walk down the hill to school, walking together in prayer and fellowship. On arrival, the children were warmly welcomed with hot buttered toast as a small reward for their efforts — very well deserved!

Lent is a time for prayer, sacrifice and giving. By walking together, we are reminded that our faith is a shared journey. Each small step we take — whether through kindness, generosity, or quiet prayer — helps us grow closer to Jesus and to one another.

Well done to everyone who took part. Your enthusiasm and commitment were a wonderful example of living out our faith in action.

We look forward to seeing many of you next Friday at 8:00am as we walk from St Vincent's to school. All parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to join us as we continue our Lenten journey together.

Lenten Walks Schedule

- Friday 6th March – Walking from St Vincent's (8:00am) to school
- Friday 13th March – Walking from St William's (8:00am) to school
- Friday 20th March – Walking from St John's (8:30am) to school
- Friday 27th March – Walking from Holy Family (7:30am) and St Marie's Cathedral



Y3 MINI VINNIES PANCAKE POP-UP CAFÉ

Today, the Year 3 Mini Vinnies opened their Pop-Up Pancake Café. The children worked brilliantly as a team to make sure the café ran smoothly.

We had welcomers on the door who showed our customers to their tables. In the classroom, the order-taking and drinks team welcomed visitors and took their orders. The pancake team made sure there were enough hot and cold pancakes ready, while the toppings team carefully prepared each plate.

Once everyone had finished, the washing and drying team cleared the tables so we could reset the café for our next visitors.

We are proud to share that we raised over £90 for the Good Shepherd Appeal. A huge thank you to all of Year 3. Everyone showed fantastic teamwork, collaboration and problem-solving skills to make the Pop-Up Pancake Café a great success.

Well done, Year 3!

#WeWalkWithJesus

Click here for more information about the [Good Shepherd Charity](#)



FATHER LEE'S VISIT TO YEAR 4

On Friday, Year 4 were delighted to welcome Father Lee into school. His visit offered the children a reflective and thoughtful start to their Lenten journey.

Father Lee spoke to the class about the seasons of the Church, helping them understand how each season guides us through different parts of the Christian story. He focused especially on Lent, explaining its meaning and why it is such an important time in the Church calendar.

The children listened carefully as Father Lee retold the story of Jesus spending 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. This story helped the children think about their own experiences of challenge and growth.

Father Lee also invited Year 4 to reflect on the ways we might not feel completely free, perhaps when we are unkind, make poor choices or hold onto things we know we should let go of. He encouraged everyone to think about Lent as a journey: a time to become freer, kinder and closer to God.

The session ended with a quiet moment of prayer and personal reflection. Year 4 left feeling inspired, thoughtful, and ready to make the most of their Lenten journey.

We are very grateful to Father Lee for his time and for helping our children get ready to make the most of their Lenten journey.



LENT AT ST MARIE'S – WE WALK WITH JESUS

Our second Lenten Walk took place this morning, beginning at St Vincent's. Thank you to all the children and families who joined us so early to continue this special journey through Lent together.

Fr Lee kindly started our walk with a prayer and blessing, helping us to reflect on the meaning of Lent and asking God to guide us safely on our journey to school. It was a lovely moment to pause together in faith before setting off.

Although the weather was a little dull and drizzly, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits! The children walked with great enthusiasm and showed wonderful determination as we made our way to school together.

These walks are a lovely opportunity for our school community to pray, reflect and support one another during this important season in the Church's year.

Thank you again to everyone who joined us this morning.

We look forward to seeing many of you next Friday at 8:00am as we walk from William's to school. All parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to join us as we continue our Lenten journey together.

Lenten Walks Schedule

- Friday 13th March – Walking from St William's (8:00am) to school
- Friday 20th March – Walking from St John's (8:30am) to school
- Friday 27th March – Walking from Holy Family (7:30am) and St Marie's Cathedral (8:30am) to school

To help us plan safely, please complete the attendance form to let us know if your child will be taking part. We will also need parent and family volunteers to walk with us. If you are able to help, please indicate this on the form. Your support is greatly appreciated. [Sign up here.](#)



LENT AT ST MARIE'S – WE WALK WITH JESUS

Our third Lenten Walk took place this morning, beginning at St William's, where we were warmly welcomed by Fr John. Thankfully, the rain from yesterday had passed and we were greeted by beautiful blue skies as we gathered to begin our walk.



It was an especially meaningful morning as the children had the opportunity to present Fr John with a card and small gift to celebrate his 25th Anniversary of Ordination, which he will mark on 17th March. With Fr John also preparing to retire after Easter, it was a wonderful moment for the children to show their appreciation and gratitude for his many years of faithful service to the Church and to our community.

Fr John's vocation and dedication are a powerful reminder of what it means to serve God and others with faith, generosity and love. It was lovely for our school community to share in this special moment with him during our Lenten journey.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the walk this morning.

We look forward to welcoming you next Friday at 8:30am, when our next Lenten Walk will begin from St John's, Ranmoor.

All parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to join us as we continue our Lenten journey together.

Lenten Walks Schedule

- **Friday 20th March** – Walking from St John's (8:30am) to school
- **Friday 27th March** – Walking from Holy Family (7:30am) and St Marie's Cathedral (8:30am) to school

It was a cloudy and cold start to our **fourth Lenten Walk** today as we made the short journey from **St John's, Ranmoor** to school. Despite the chilly weather, it was wonderful to see so many families come together once again in faith and fellowship.

As we continue our Lenten journey, moments like these remind us of the importance of prayer, reflection and walking together as a community of faith.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the walk this morning.

We look forward to welcoming you next **Friday** for our **final Lenten Walk**, with two starting points:

- **7:30am** (an early start) from **Holy Family**
- **8:30am** from **St Marie's Cathedral**

All parents, carers and grandparents are warmly invited to join us as we continue our Lenten journey together.

Lenten Walks Schedule

- **Friday 27th March** – Walking from Holy Family (7:30am) and St Marie's Cathedral (8:30am) to school

To help us plan safely, please complete the attendance form to let us know if your child will be taking part. We will also need parent and family volunteers to walk with us. If you are able to help, please indicate this on the form. Your support is greatly appreciated. [Sign up here.](#)

All sponsorship money raised will go to the Good Shepherd Appeal to support people in need in our local community.

All Donations can be made through ParentPay.

This Lent, let us walk together in faith, strengthen our community, and support those most in need.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



YEAR 1'S LENTENTALK

On Tuesday, Father Lee came to visit Year 1 and spent some special time talking with the children about Lent. He explained how Jesus went into the desert for forty days, where He prayed, showed great strength, and trusted God even when things were difficult. Father Lee encouraged the children to think about how they could be a little more like Jesus during Lent by making good choices, being kind to others, helping at home and taking time to pray.

The children listened carefully and showed great interest in what Father Lee was saying. They asked thoughtful questions about the desert, about how Jesus felt, and about what they could do during Lent to grow closer to God. It was a lovely visit, and the children came away inspired to try their best to follow Jesus' example.

#WeWalkWithJesus



HOLY WEEK 2026- JOURNEYING THROUGH THE PASSION OF CHRIST

We will be holding special Holy Week Celebrations of the Word each day to help the children reflect on the events leading up to Good Friday.

Our KS2 classes will lead the whole school in prayer, and we warmly invite families to join us in these meaningful reflections.

Schedule of Holy Week Celebrations of the Word:

- Monday 30th March - Palm Sunday - Year 3 (2:30pm)
- Tuesday 31st March - The Last Supper - Year 4 (2:30pm)
- Wednesday 1st April - The Garden of Gethsemane and Sentencing to Death - Year 5 (10:00am)
- Thursday 2nd April - Stations of the Cross - Year 6 (10:00am)

We look forward to coming together as a school community to reflect on the significance of this important week in our faith.



CONGRATULATIONSTO FR. JOHN

We offer our warmest congratulations to Fr John Cook as he celebrated his 25th Anniversary of Ordination on 17th March, St Patrick's Day.

On Tuesday evening, some staff and families from St Marie's attended his special Mass to give thanks for his many years of faithful service. It was a joyful and prayerful celebration, and a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation.

We thank Fr John for his dedication, guidance and commitment to our parish and school communities over the years. We are truly grateful for all that he has done and the difference he has made in so many lives.

We keep Fr John in our prayers and wish him every blessing on this special milestone.

#WeLoveEachOther



CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY- 'GIVE IT UP CHALLENGE!'

On Thursday, we hosted our "Give It Up" Lenten challenge in support of CAFOD. In the morning, many of our Year 3 Mini Vinnies came to help prepare the vegetables. Our fantastic peelers and choppers made sure we had plenty of ingredients ready for the soup.



A big thank you to all the children and staff who helped make the day such a success. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an amazing £557 for CAFOD.

Our Catholic Social Teaching principle of the week is "Preferential Option for the Poor." Today, we were able to truly live out this principle.

Poppy the Popokotea will be very proud of the children.

Poppy says:

"Jesus wants us to help people who need it most. No one should be left out."

All Donations can be made through ParentPay.

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

#WeWalkWithJesus



Mr Fernandes then worked his magic, turning them into a delicious soup. A number of children said, *"This is the best soup I have ever had!"*

It was also lovely to see so many parents and grandparents join us for lunch. We served over 150 soups on the day!

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event.



LENT AT ST MARIE'S – WE WALK WITH JESUS

Today, we completed our final Lenten walk from our furthest parish, Holy Family. It was a cold and drizzly start, but we began with prayer, joined by Fr Henry, before setting off together.

We walked through Norfolk Park, past the Cholera Monument, through the station and on to St Marie's Cathedral. There, we took time for quiet reflection and prayer before continuing our journey back through the city to school.

It was a lovely morning of prayer, reflection and togetherness. The children showed great respect and positivity throughout, and it was wonderful to see our school community walking together in faith.

Thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who joined us and supported the walk. Moments like these remind us how important it is to pray, reflect and walk together as a community of faith.

All sponsorship money raised will go to the Good Shepherd Appeal to support people in need in our local community.

All Donations can be made through ParentPay.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

#WeWalkWithJesus



WALKING WITH JESUS

We are very proud to share that Brendan in Year 1 will be going on a special pilgrimage to Walsingham.

During his journey, Brendan and the other pilgrims will be giving out crosses to people they meet along the way. This is a lovely way to share God's love with others.

Brendan and his family have already started this by kindly bringing in crosses to share with his classmates. What a thoughtful and generous act!

We are very proud of you, Brendan, and we can't wait to hear all about your pilgrimage when you return.

Let us keep Brendan and his family in our prayers:

Dear Jesus,

Guide my steps,

keep me safe,

fill my heart with joy,

and help me share Your love

wherever I go.

Amen.

#WeWalkWithJesus



April

WALKING WITH JESUS THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a very special time in our school as we journeyed through Holy Week together. Each class helped us to reflect on an important part of Jesus' story, reminding us of His love, courage and sacrifice. Thank you to all the families who joined us – it meant a great deal to share these moments together.

Monday – Year 3: Palm Sunday Year 3 began the week by telling the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem. The children shared the joy of the crowd as they welcomed Him with palm branches and praise. Their singing lifted everyone's spirits and helped us to remember this joyful beginning to Holy Week.

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9)



Tuesday – Year 4: The Last Supper

Year 4 helped us reflect on the Last Supper and how Jesus showed love and service to His disciples. Through their words and actions, they reminded us how we are called to care for one another.

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." (John 13:15)



Wednesday – Year 5: The Garden of Gethsemane

Year 5 shared the quiet and powerful moment when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. They helped us think about trust in God, even in difficult times, and the events that led to Jesus' arrest.

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)



Thursday – Year 6: The Stations of the Cross

On Holy Thursday, Year 6 led us through the Stations of the Cross in a very moving and respectful way. They helped us remember the journey Jesus took and the great love shown through His suffering and death on the cross.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

We are incredibly proud of all the children for the reverence and care they showed throughout the week. A big thank you to Mrs Pritchett and all the class teachers for supporting the children in preparing such thoughtful and prayerful celebrations.

#WeWalkWithJesus



As we now enter Good Friday and look towards Easter, we invite you to take a little quiet time together as a family to pray and reflect.

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

We encourage you to continue supporting your child's faith by taking part in services at your local church during this special time.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 20th April, when we will celebrate the joy of the Resurrection together.

God bless,

Mr Fernandes

Headteacher

#WeWalkWithJesus

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

This month, our Prayer of the Month is **The Creed**.

A creed means "*I believe*". It is a special prayer where we say what we believe as Catholics. It reminds us of our faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

In school, we are learning and singing a version of the Creed together. The children have really been enjoying this and are growing in confidence as they sing and pray.

Please ask your child to share the song with you and practise it at home as a family.

You can listen to the version we use in school [here](#).

Words of the Creed (sung version)

Do you believe in God the Father?

Yes Lord I believe!

Who made the earth and all we see

Yes Lord I believe!

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Yes Lord I believe!

God's only son born of Mary

Yes Lord I believe!



May

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH IN ACTION

During Lent, our school community came together to support others in need, raising an amazing £557.

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome Jenny Seymour from CAFOD, who led a special assembly explaining how our donations will help families access fresh, clean water.

This is a wonderful example of Catholic Social Teaching in action, especially the call to support the dignity of every person and care for those most in need.

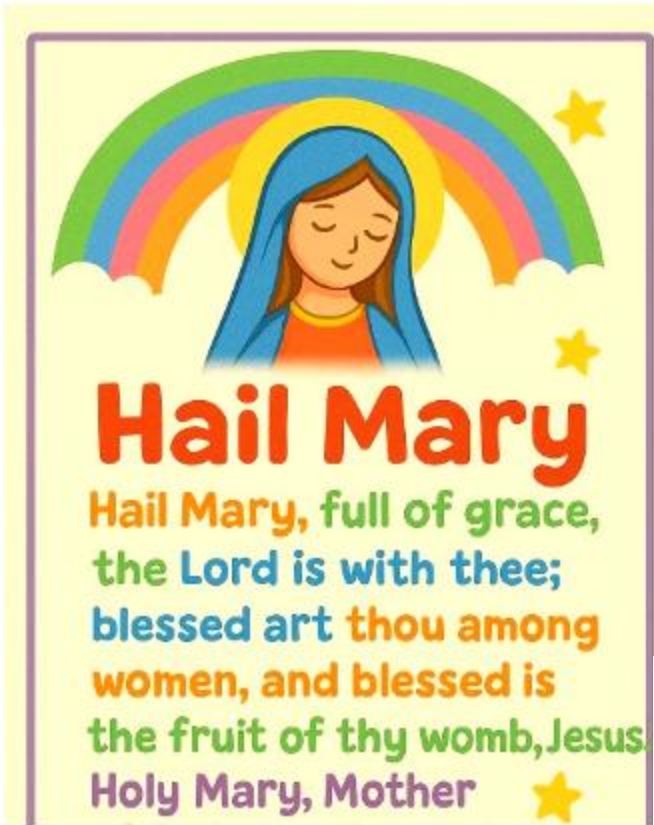
By working together, we are living out our faith and making a real difference in the world.

Well done to everyone for your generosity and kindness.

#WeWalkWithJesus



Our prayer of the month for May is Hail Mary.



In the Catholic Church, May is traditionally known as the Month of Mary, a special time to honour Mary, the mother of Jesus. Catholics remember her faith, kindness, and example of saying “yes” to God. Many people pray the Rosary or offer flowers in her honour during this month. May is also a time when Catholics ask Mary to pray for them and to help them grow closer to Jesus through prayer and love for others.

During May each class will go out to crown Mary at the front of school. We are also learning the Hail Mary in sign language. Keep an eye out for photos to see how we get on.

#WeWalkWithJesus



It was the turn of Year 2 today to crown Mary. The children took part beautifully and showed great respect as they honoured Mary during this special celebration. They prayed and crowned Mary as a sign of their love and devotion. Thank you Year 2.

#WeWalkWithJesus



Year 5 have had a wonderful creative opportunity recently, working with Adrija's mum, Nisha, on an art project. Nisha, who specialises in beautiful dot mandala designs, introduced the children to the technique of painting with dots to create stunning symmetrical artwork.

For the last few weeks, the children have developed their skills by experimenting with a range of tools to produce patterns using different sized dots. They have also explored how their artwork might link to mindfulness and 'prayer in action', reflecting on how each individual dot can represent a thought or intention.

The classroom atmosphere has been calm and focused, with the children showing great care and patience, learning that dot mandala art is as much about the process as it is about the finished piece. Watch this space for their final pieces!

#WeWalkWithJesus

ASCENSION MASS WITH FR LEE

On Thursday, we welcomed Fr Lee into school to celebrate our Ascension Mass with us. It was a lovely and prayerful celebration, filled with beautiful singing. The children listened carefully to Fr Lee's homily and answered his questions with great knowledge and confidence. We were very proud of the thoughtful way they took part in the Mass.

Ascension Day reminds us of Jesus returning to the Father and His promise to always be with us.

"Go and make disciples of all nations... and surely I am with you always." Matthew 28:19-20

Thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who joined us for this special celebration.

#WeWalkWithJesus



EXPLORING OUR FAITH IN YEAR 6

On Tuesday, Fr Lee visited the Year 6 class for a special faith discussion. The children explored the meaning of the Ascension in greater depth and shared some thoughtful ideas and questions.

Fr Lee also spoke to the children about Eucharistic miracles and the life of Carlo Acutis, a young person who used his love of technology to share his faith with others. The pupils were very interested to learn about his devotion to the Eucharist and how he inspired many people through his faith and kindness.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Year 6 to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith and reflect on how they can follow Jesus in their own lives.

#WeWalkWithJesus

Today, the Year 4 children took part in a beautiful Crowning of Mary liturgy. Together, they listened to the Bible passage of the Annunciation, reflecting on the moment the angel Gabriel visited Mary.

Y4 spent time thinking about why Mary is so important and how her trust, courage and love continue to inspire us today. The children then crowned Mary with her beautiful floral crown.

To conclude, Y4 all joined together in saying the Hail Mary, with some of the children also trying to sign along.

#WeWalkWithJesus



YEAR 1'S CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ANIMALS

Year 1 has been gifted an incredibly thoughtful set of Catholic Social Teaching animals. Each animal represents one of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching, helping the children explore important values such as dignity, justice, peace, care for creation, and the importance of community in a way that feels meaningful and memorable.

Brendan's mum, Mrs Ryan, kindly found each one for us and we can't wait to use them in class to support discussion, reflection, and learning. They are already a treasured resource – thank you.

#WeWalkWithJesus



On Monday, Y3 visited the statue of Mary to crown her. A group of children had prepared the crown of flowers before the class went out. During their prayers to Mary, Y3 thought about her importance to our school and our Catholic Faith. Y3 also carefully looked at our statue and thought about how many children would have walked past Mary – they children learned the statue had come from the old St. Marie's School, Edmund Road. The children said the Hail Mary and practiced our prayer of the month with sign language.



June



The start of June saw many of our Y3 children make their First Holy Communion in our Parish Churches. It was a wonderful celebration for the children celebrated with their families, friends and staff from our school.



Reception went on a visit to St. Vincent's Church. They joined parishioners for Mass in the morning and then carouselled around different activities. They had the chance to help with the garden outside and to be with Fr. Lee who showed them some key parts of Mass and the Church. The children were able to dress up and practice parts of the Mass. It was a great day!

CELEBRATING TOGETHER IN FAITH

On Thursday 25th June, we were delighted to welcome all our First Holy Communion children to celebrate Mass with us. While the children had already made their First Holy Communion in their own parishes, this was a special occasion as it was the first time they received the Eucharist together as a school community.

Thank you to all the children and their families who joined us. It was a wonderful celebration as we gave thanks for the children who made their First Holy Communion this year.

A special thank you to Fr. Craig, who celebrated Mass with us. We are very grateful to him for leading us in such a joyful celebration. We look forward to seeing him again as part of our school and parish family.



July

The Y6 children went on pilgrimage on Tuesday 14th July to Padley. They joined other children from across the Hallam Diocese to gather for the Sheffield Schools Annual Pilgrimage. Our Y6 helped lead the Mass with reading and singing.



ST WILLIAM'S PARISH MASS

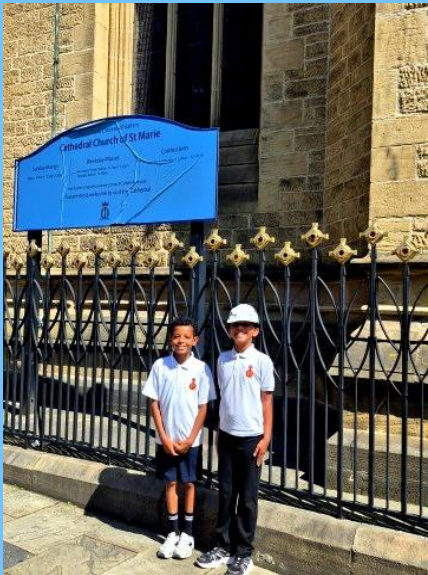
On Sunday 13th July, children from St. Marie's helped to lead the 9.30am Mass at St. William's Parish.

The children read the First and Second Reading and the Bidding Prayers. They also took up the Offertory gifts and sang and signed Be Still for the Presence of the Lord.

The children were wonderful ambassadors for our school. They read clearly and confidently, so everyone could hear them. After Mass, many members of the congregation told us how much they enjoyed the children's reading and singing.

Well done to all the children who took part. Thank you to parents and families for coming along to support them too.

#WeWalkWithJesus



BISHOP RALPH'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

On Friday 10th July, Noah and Nathania proudly represented St. Marie's at Bishop Ralph's Golden Jubilee Mass, celebrating 50 years of his priestly ministry.

It was a very special and memorable occasion. Noah enjoyed seeing the different bishops and watching Bishop Ralph concelebrate the Mass. We were also excited to see Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Nathania enjoyed meeting pupils from many other schools who had come to celebrate together. During the Mass, Bishop Ralph thanked everyone for their support and reminded us of the words of Pope St John Paul II when he visited England in 1982:

"You are the Church of today and the hope of tomorrow."

It was a wonderful day, and we were proud to represent our school at this joyful celebration.

July



On Wednesday 15th July, Fr. Lee joined us at St. John's Church to celebrate our Leavers Mass. The Y6 children lead our final Mass of the year beautifully with clear reading and wonderful singing.

