

St Mary's New Mills Catholic Life and Mission



NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2 2023

Seasonal Reflection

As we get set for Christmas. There is the shopping to do, the presents to buy and wrap. The cards to write and deliver. The turkey and trimmings to cook. Our minds are running at a million miles an hour as we get caught up in the festivities. During Advent we are preparing, this isn't just a time to prepare by decorating, shopping and listening to your favourite Christmas song or watching your favourite Christmas movie. These are all important and enjoyable things to do. However, Advent should be a time of preparing a space in your heart and home for Jesus. I urge you pause, reset and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. God loves us so much that he sent His Son down for us, not as a strong warrior to teach using force but as a small vulnerable, dependent baby. There is a lesson there for us all. To be like the baby Jesus and depend on God fully. I want to wish you all happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for 2024.

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Mini Vinnies

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President
Isaac



Vice President
Frankie



Secretary
Patrick



Treasurer
Jacob



Communications
Officer
Oscar



Mini Vinnies

We have been very busy in Mini Vinnies this half term. We have held our elections for the leadership team and we have already started our first project. The children decided that they wanted to support Refugees. Mrs Hodgson spoke to someone at her church that supports refugees locally and found out what they needed. We then made posters to start our collection. We have been blown away by the generosity of our school family who have been very kind with their donations.



Faith In Action

Year 5 have been working hard to think about what Faith means to them and how they can share their Faith with others. They have been thinking about Saints that have shown their Faith. We have looked at Oscar Romero's bravery to stand up for what he believed in and Blessed Carlo Acutis who showed us that it does not matter if you are a young or old you can do Gods work on Earth.

We are going to start thinking about how we can put our Faith Into Action after the Christmas Holidays.



Catholic Social Teaching Mission Day

CAFOD
Just one world

On Thursday 16th November we were joined by Will from CAFOD to have a Mission Day based on Catholic Social Teaching. Will explained that the easiest way to explain what Catholic Social Teaching is to say that it growing to be more like Jesus. The children the had the chance to look at two strands of Catholic Social teaching throughout the day; Family and Community and Preferential Option for the Poor. We then came together as a school family for a closing Liturgical prayer where each class had planned something.



"My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! Luke 1:46-48"

Reconciliation Service Class 3 and 4

On Thursday 30th November Fr Emmanuel joined us for our KS2 reconciliation service. He was really impressed with the children's respectful attitude to this wonderfully spiritual service. Children used shells covered in sand to depict their sins and water to wash the sand away like God washing our sins away in Confession



Christmas Liturgies from home

If you are looking for a way to spend some time in prayer with your family this festive period. The Mark Ten Mission produce some lovely resources and prayers for you to follow at home. The website is, <https://www.themark10mission.co.uk/>

THE MARK 10
Mission

Nativities

The stars have been out this half term with amazing performances from all our children. This started on Monday 11th December with Class 1 and 2 shining in our KS1 Nativity. Our youngest members of our School family retold the story of the Birth of Jesus with an amazing performance of 'Hey Ewe!' The children sang their hearts out and delivered the message so clearly for all to hear.

This was followed by the KS2 performance of 'Don't be Afraid' on Wednesday 13th December. KS2 led the Nativity story with confidence and style with some amazing singing and acting and even a stunning solo or two. We are very proud of all of children for beautifully helping us to prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas and for giving us time to pause and reflect on the true reason for the season.

"He said to them in reply, 'Whoever has two tunics should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.'"

St John the Baptist Luke 3:11

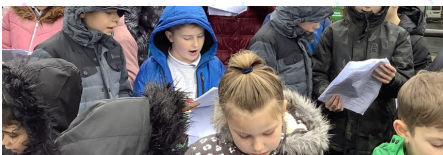




Carol Singing in the Community

Class 3 and 4 didn't let the rain dampen their spirits as they went Carol Singing on Main Street in New Mills on Thursday 14th December. As we left school the rain was falling but as the children sang their hearts out the rain stopped so to did a nice crowd of families, friends and those doing their shopping.

In the afternoon Year 6 visited a local care home, Jubilee Day Care Centre, to spread some Christmas cheer to the residents. The residents loved having the children joining them and loved to have a little sing-a-long.



"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

St Ralph Sherwin Feast Day

On the 1st December we celebrated the Feast of the Trust patron St Ralph Sherwin. We enjoyed times of prayer and reflection with the recorded Liturgical Prayer from Kevin and Jamie and a whole school Liturgical Prayer lead by Dan. The children then enjoyed activities about how we can live out the Trusts mission statement in our daily lives. They also had the chance to think about how to become a saint.



Christmas Mass Times

Mass of Christmas Eve for families:
 Saturday 24th December 6pm **New Mills**
 Mass of Christmas Night Saturday 24th
 December 9pm **Marple Bridge**
 Mass of Christmas Day Sunday 25th
 December 9:30 **New Mills**
 Mass of Christmas Day Sunday 25th
 December 11:30 **Marple Bridge**



Wishing you a happy and Holy Christmas from all
 of us at St Mary's!

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest things right, and doing all for love."

St Therese of Lisieux

