

St Mary's New Mills Catholic Life and Mission



NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2 2024

Seasonal Reflection

As we get ready for Christmas and all the business that is involved with buying presents, food shopping and delivering cards we find ourselves stressing throughout the whole of Advent and not preparing a space in our hearts for the coming of Jesus. As I was reflecting on the season of Advent I am reminded of something a priest once said to me, *"The first Christmas was simple, it doesn't matter if yours is too."* What he meant by this was that we all get stressed out during Advent about making Christmas perfect but the first Christmas did not have all the rushing around and stress it was just peaceful and calm. I urge you to 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 2025.

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Mini Vinnie

Class three have been thinking about those that they are worried about this half term as we plan for our first project in the new year. They are all massively eager and looking forward to the chance to help those that are less fortunate than ourselves. We have continued to focus on who St Vincent De Paul was and why it is important that we should follow in his footsteps.

Dan asked all the children why we do what we do, there were some lovely answers linked to our Catholic Social Teaching Principles but Dan kept asking "But why?" until all the children could say confidently that we do what we do to be more like Jesus.



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. We have also been looking at ways that Aid to the Church in Need put their faith into action. We are focusing on ACN as all of Year 5 are going to become ACN Apostles as part of their work with Dan for Faith in Action. We are going to start thinking about how we can put our Faith Into Action after the Christmas Holidays.



Creation Mission Day

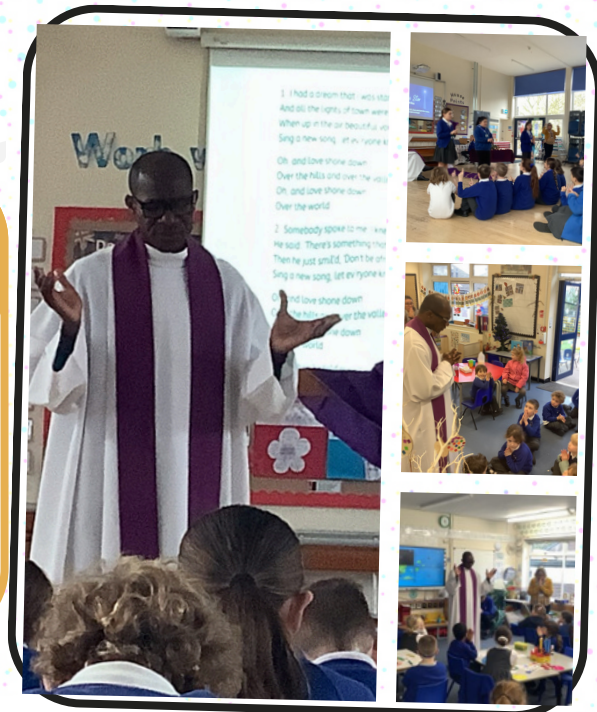
On Thursday 14th November as a school we took part in our first mission day of the year focusing on Creation with the link to the first branch of our RE curriculum and our Catholic Social Teaching Principles. All the children had a great day doing lots of different activities from Truth Finders to Bug hotels and everything in between.



"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 12th December we welcomed Fr Emmanuel into school to lead us in our Follow the Star KS2 Reconciliation service. Mary's Missionaries supported him beautifully. Fr Emmanuel then went around to class 1 and class 2 to offer them a beautiful Christmas Blessing for all the children, staff and their families.



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 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 'Miracle in Town!' The children sang their hearts out and delivered the message so clearly for all to hear.

This was followed by the KS2 performance of 'Bethlehem the Musical'. 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 went Carol Singing on Main Street in New Mills on Thursday 12th December. The children sang their hearts out in aid to raise money for Aid to the Church in Need, we received great support from the local community and raised over £40.

That morning some of Class 3 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.

Class 3 continued their carol singing by visiting the residents at Watford House to spread Christmas cheer.

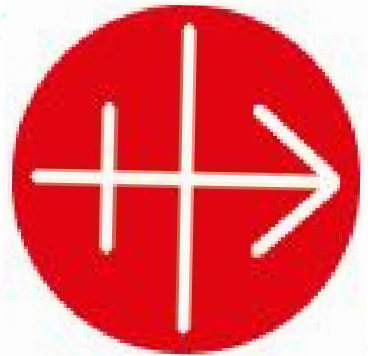


"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Aid to the Church in Need

This term we have begun to support the Pope's charity Aid to the Church in Need. This is an international charity that supports Christians around the world in places where they do not have the freedom of religion that we have here. I am pleased to announce that so far this term we have raised £104.57 which is a huge amount of money. We have raised this by carol singing in the community and commemorating Red Wednesday in school. We will continue to support ACN in the weeks and months to come.



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Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

Carols at 5-30 p.m. at [New Mills](#)

Followed by Family Mass at 6-00 p.m. [New Mills](#)

Christmas Vigil Mass at 8-00 p.m. at [Marple Bridge](#)

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

Mass 9-30 a.m. at [New Mills](#)

Mass 11-30 a.m. at [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

