

St Mary's New Mills Catholic Life and Mission



NEWSLETTER

ADVENT 2 2025

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 and all your families and friends a happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing for 2026.

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Mini Vinnies

Class three have been thinking about those that are less fortunate than us, with a particular focus on those that are in hospitals and care homes. The children came up with ideas of who they would like to help and then we had a vote and the most popular one was those in hospital. Dan then met with the leadership team to come up with some ideas for what we could do to support those in hospitals. Dan was very impressed with all the amazing ideas that the team came up with. We then took these ideas back to the class and agreed that our first task was going to be to create Christmas Cards for the residents at Watford House Care Home. We will deliver these cards when we go Carol Singing. The next thing they would like to do is to host a cake sale to raise money to support local hospitals. A very busy half term ahead.



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, St Carlo Acutis sharing his faith through technology, St Pier Georgio Frassatti sharing his faith with his friends and St Teresa of Calcutta who teaches us to do the little things with great love. We have also been looking at ways that Aid to the Church in Need put their faith into action. We had a session where the children thought about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and wrote poems and prayers which we recorded and formed part of the **Red Wednesday** Live Stream.

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



ADVENTure Mission Day

On Thursday 4th December we took part in our first Mission Day of the academic year, the focus of this day was ADVENTure thinking about what Advent is and how we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and when he will come again. All the children did different activities linked to the theme of Advent, they created advent wreaths, Christmas Cards for those in local community and were Scripture Detectives.



"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 18th December all the children in KS2 joined parish Mass and stayed for our Advent Reconciliation Service led by Marys Missionaries. All the children had the opportunity to think about times when they had not been the best version of themselves and perform a symbolic cleansing of their sins, while Fr Greg heard individual confessions.



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/>

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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 'Midwife Crisis!' The children sang their hearts out and delivered the message so clearly for all to hear.

This was followed by the KS2 performance of 'It's Chriiistmas!'. 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 11th December to spread a bit of Christmas cheer to the community.

Class 3 visited a local care home, Watford House, 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

Advent Service

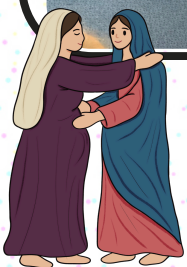
On the afternoon of Thursday 18th December the whole school went down to Church for our annual Advent Service for the parish and families. The children shared the story of the First Christmas and sang some beautiful carols with a couple of songs from their recent nativities. All the children read and sang beautifully and we even had some very brave soloists who spread some Christmas cheer on a very wet day in New Mills.



Luce visits New Mills



On Thursday 11th December Luce, the Jubilee mascot, came to visit St Mary's New Mills. All the classes completed activities about Luce and being a pilgrim of hope. The children also had chance to think about how they can be pilgrims of hope this jubilee year and going forward.



For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." Luke 1:44-46

Altar Servers

This half term Dan has been working with 3 pupils in year 4 to train them to become Altar Servers. This is a very special ministry for Children, who have made their First Holy Communion, as it gives them the opportunity to be of service to their parish community and also put their faith into action.



Christmas Mass Times

New Mills-

Christmas Eve 6pm.
Christmas Day 9.30am

Marple Bridge.-

Christmas Eve 8pm.
Christmas Day 11.30am



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

