

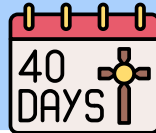
# St Mary's New Mills Catholic Life and Mission



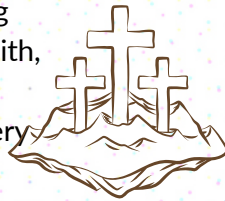
## NEWSLETTER

LENT 2026

### Lenten Reflection From Dan



As we come to the end season of Lent we take some time to reflect on our lives and how we can become the best versions of ourselves. Lent unlike Advent is a more personal journey with Christ, we journey with Jesus into the wilderness of our souls with the aim of growing our personal relationship with God. It is important to recognise that we are all human, and like Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden we get tempted by all sorts of things, but God loves us completely. Lent is a time of penance and growing closer to God. It can be meaningful to connect your plans for Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving (3 Pillars of Lent) to the virtues of faith, hope, and love which the guide the purpose behind our Lenten sacrifices and challenges. I wish you a very happy and Holy Easter when it arrives.



### What's In This Month's Issue?

- Reflection from Dan
- Jubilee Mission Day
- Stations of the Cross
- Reconciliation
- Mini Vinnies
- Faith in Action
- Easter Mass Times
- Catholic School inspection
- CAFOD Big Lent Walk

### Mini Vinnies

Our Mini Vinnies recently led a successful cake sale in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities, linked to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. This was a charity they chose after voting to support children in hospital.

They organised and advertised the event, which took place on the afternoon of Thursday 12th February, welcoming parents and members of the community. The cake sale was a fantastic success, raising well over £100 to support this important cause.





## Faith In Action

Our Year 5 Faith in Action group have been working hard to plan and establish their own projects to support younger pupils. Their groups are now up and running, offering activities such as mindfulness colouring, Bible story time, drama, maths support, and drawing.

These initiatives are entirely pupil-led, with children generating the ideas, planning sessions, and organising resources themselves. The project began with pupils writing letters to Mrs Chapman and class teachers to request permission to work with different year groups. We are incredibly proud of their initiative, leadership, and commitment to serving others within our school community.



## Jubilee Mission Day

Our most recent Mission Day was a joyful celebration focused on the theme of hope, inspired by the Jubilee Year 2025. Pupils explored how to live as “pilgrims of hope” through scripture, creative activities, and reflection.

Throughout the day, children recognised their gifts and how they can share hope with others. We ended with a beautiful pupil-led Celebration of the Word, bringing the whole school together in prayer and song.



“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 26th March all the children in KS2 joined parish Mass and stayed for our Lent 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, leave all these things at the foot of the cross and perform a symbolic cleansing of their sins.



## Easter Celebrations of the Word from home

If you are looking for a way to spend some time in prayer with your family this holiday 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/>



## Stations of the Cross

On Thursday 12th March, we held a special Stations of the Cross, led for the first time by children from every class. Each class took responsibility for different stations, with Class 1 leading the first three, Class 2 the next three, and Classes 3 and 4 leading four stations each. All pupils were involved, demonstrating confidence and reverence throughout. We were delighted by the wonderful turnout of parents, making it a truly prayerful and memorable occasion for our whole school community.

“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.’”

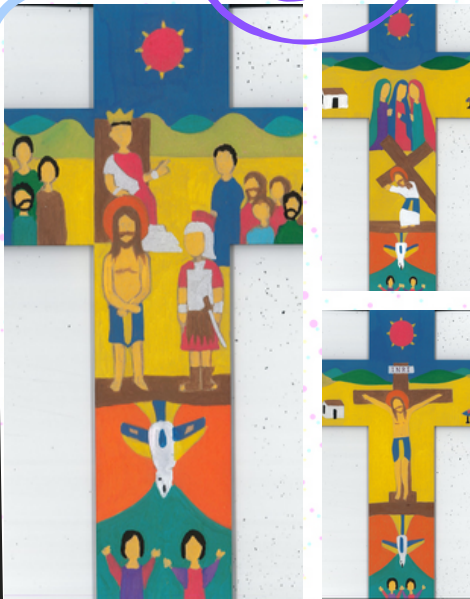
St John the Baptist Luke 3:11





## New Stations of the Cross for Church

Mrs Reynolds and Class 4 have been working extremely hard to create new Stations of the Cross for our parish church, the Annunciation. Inspired by the life and witness of Oscar Romero and the vibrant El Salvadorian crosses, the children have produced thoughtful and meaningful artwork. Their creations beautifully reflect faith, culture, and a deep understanding of the significance of the Stations of the Cross.



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

*Blessed Teresa of Calcutta*

# Catholic School Inspection

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
INSPECTORATE

At the end of January, we welcomed two inspectors for our Catholic Schools Inspection. We are delighted to share that the school has been judged Outstanding in all three areas: Catholic Life, Religious Education, and Collective Worship.

The report recognises the strength of our Catholic ethos and the dedication of our whole community. Inspectors praised the inspirational leadership, high-quality Religious Education, and the strong commitment of staff to the school's mission. They also highlighted our pupils' exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm for leadership, and active participation in prayer and liturgy, alongside the invaluable support provided by our teaching assistants.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement, which reflects the shared commitment of staff, pupils, and families to living out our faith each day.



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*

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk

On Monday 23rd March, Mrs Chapman, Mary's Missionaries, and members of the parish took part in the Big Lent Walk. Together, they walked through the countryside while prayerfully reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. It was a meaningful opportunity to journey in faith, bringing our community together in prayer and reflection during this Lenten season.



## Holy Week Mass Times

In Holy Week, the following services will take place across our churches:

- Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm – New Mills and Chapel
- Good Friday: 3:00pm – Buxton and Marple Bridge
- Easter Vigil: (Holy Saturday) 7:00pm – Buxton and Marple Bridge
- Easter Sunday: Chapel 9am, New Mills 9.30, Buxton 11am, Marple Bridge 11:15am

Wishing you a happy and Holy Easter 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

