



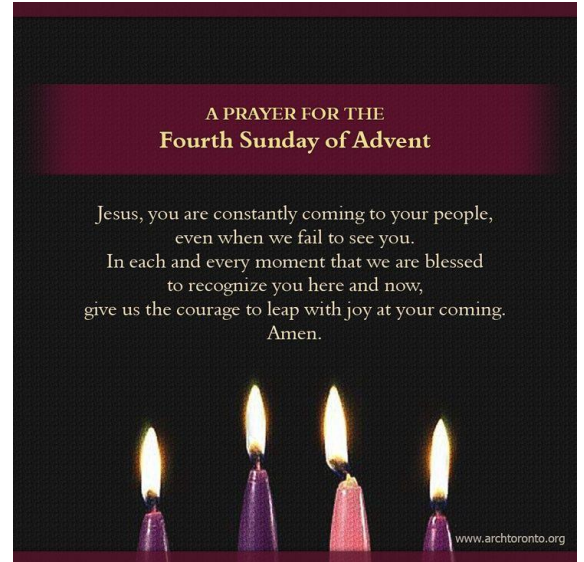
## Reflection

This Sunday we hear that the angel Gabriel comes to tell Mary that she will have a very special baby, that he will be the Son of God and will be called Jesus.

Mary was frightened at first. Her life was going to change forever. But she trusted in God and said "yes" to all that God asked of her.

God wants us all to be his messengers in the world. To share the message that God loves everyone and that we are all part of one global family.

Christmas is nearly here. Spend some time today remembering why Christmas is so special. That we are celebrating God's love for us which he showed by sending his Son Jesus to live among us.



## Merry Christmas

All the staff at St Mary's would like to say a huge thank you for your kind gifts and all your support over the autumn term especially over the last few very busy weeks. It has been lovely to so many of our families at the nativities, carol service and the Christmas fair. We wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. We will look forward to seeing you in 2024! School reopens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

## Catholic life of the school

Part of our mission as a Catholic school is to promote the common good, we want our children to be proactive in supporting those in need.

Pope Francis said, "Solidarity is a word that is not always liked; [...] but it is a word that expresses much more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It is thinking and acting in terms of community, of prioritising the lives of all over the appropriation of goods by a few."

St Mary's have definitely thought and acted in terms of community this half term raising money and bringing donations for so many different people.



- Advent Calendar appeal – 113 chocolate advent calendars were donated to the SVP foodbank.
- Refugee presents – Over 150 presents were collected for refugee children.
- Cards for refugees – the children made over 180 Christmas cards for refugees.
- Christmas jumper day raised £144.35 for Save the Children.

## NEWSLETTER – 22 December 2023

- Donations to St George's Crypt at the nativities and carol service £218.11
- Odd Socks day for Anti Bullying Alliance £154.22
- Christmas fair £787.60
- Reindeer Run for St George's Crypt £1564.38
- Apostleship of the Sea – Over 70 woolly hats packed and given to sailors on the HMS Bravery and Amadeus Gold.

A huge thank you to TFF for their donation of bottles for the Christmas fair raffle and to all our families for supporting the worthy charities above and our school. It is appreciated.



### Reindeer Run



The children were brilliant in our first reindeer run to raise money for St George's Crypt. They looked brilliant, got some exercise, cheered each other on, had a great time and also raised a huge amount of money for a local charity so once again, thank you!



### Class assembly time change

Please note the change in times for class assemblies next half term. A number of parents have asked if these can be brought forward so we will trial having them at 9.05. Thank you for your feedback!

### Carol service

A huge thank you to all the staff and children in Key Stage 2 for a magical, joyous carol service, led by Year 5, on Monday night. It really was beautiful.



### Staffing news

Mrs Polzin is due to have her second baby in May but has very kindly ensured her due date is after the Year 6 SATs. We wish her all the best at this exciting time. Mrs Robertshaw will teach in Year 6, 4 days a week until summer. Due to this change in staffing from May half term, Mrs Ellis will teach Year 5 full time until summer and Mrs Harrison will teach Year 4, 4 days a week.

We have appointed a new teacher to replace Miss Roberts in Year 2 after February half term, we are just awaiting references to be final but look forward to welcoming Miss Michelet as the new Year 2 teacher after the February half term. As Miss Roberts will finish at half term, Year 2 parent's evening will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 3.40 – 6.10pm.

## NEWSLETTER – 22 December 2023

### PE days

There are some changes to PE days after the holidays so please check below.

Year group	PE day from January 2024
Reception	Monday and Thursday
Year 1	Monday and Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday (swimming) and Wednesday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Friday
Year 6	Friday



### Top Tips for setting up parental controls on new devices

Please see attached the latest Wake Up Wednesday guide from National Online Safety to support parents with setting up parental controls on new devices.

### Clubs for Spring term

A parent suggested it would be useful to be able to look at the clubs in advance of the club enrolment going live. A further club letter will be sent out on 8<sup>th</sup> January but please discuss with your child if there is a club they would be interested in attending.

Day	Club	Time	Led by	Kit Required	Year group for	Group Limit	Cost
Monday	Mindful Colouring	12.20 – 12.50	Mrs Hurley		Y3 & Y4	20	
Monday	Purple Mash	12.20 – 12.50	Mr Waddington		Y1 & Y2	30	
Monday	Art Club	3.20 – 4.15	Mrs Harrison		Y5 & Y6	15	£5 per term
Monday	Choir	3.20 – 4.00	Mrs Ellis		Y4, Y5, Y6	25	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>3.20 – 4.25</b>	<b>MVMNT</b>		<b>YR, Y1, Y2</b>		<b>07856 936034</b>
Tuesday	Lego	12.20 – 12.50	Miss M Roberts		Y3 & Y4	16	
Wednesday	Cosy Readers KS1	12.20 – 12.50	Mrs Robertshaw		YR, Y1, Y2	15	
Wednesday	Girls Football	12.40 – 1.10	<b>MVMNT</b>	PE kit	Y5 & Y6		No Charge and book via school from 8.1.24
Wednesday	Netball Commencing 24.1.24	3.20 – 4.40	Mrs Pounder	PE kit	Y5 & Y6	20	£2.25 per week
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Gymnastics</b>	<b>3.20 – 4.25</b>	<b>MVMNT</b>		<b>Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6</b>		<b>07856 936034</b>
Thursday	Sign Language	12.20 – 12.50	Mrs Polzin		Y5 & Y6	20	
Thursday	Cosy Readers KS2	12.20 – 12.50	Mrs Wray		Y3 & Y4	20	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>3.20 – 4.25</b>	<b>MVMNT</b>		<b>Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6</b>		<b>07856 936034</b>



## NEWSLETTER – 22 December 2023

### Open Classrooms

You may have already seen the dates for open classrooms in September but please see on the dates below. We are inviting all parents to come into their child's class to work alongside your child to learn about an area of their curriculum. We hope you're able to join us. These sessions are 9-10am and wherever possible, younger siblings should not be brought.

### Busy Autumn term

We are very proud of the work we do in school of enriching the curriculum with visitors and trips, promoting the Catholic life of the school and the involvement of parents. Please see below for an overview of autumn term. We thank all our teachers for their dedication and going above and beyond their remit and thank the PTA for supporting the financial cost of trips and events and all the parents who are able to contribute towards the cost of the enrichment activities.

	Educational Visits	Catholic Life	Events	In school visitors	Parental Involvement	Clubs
<b>Autumn term</b>	Year 4 trip – Nell Bank Year 1 class trip – Harlow Carr Year 6 Residential – Peat Rigg Year 3 trip – Skelton Grange Year 2 – Yorkshire Sculpture Park	Year 6 Saint's Day - St Teresa of Calcutta Mission Statement Day Family Mass in church x 2 Year 3 and Year 6 Mass in church Rosary Day SVP foodbank tin drive Harvest Festival Year 4 and Year 1 Mass in church Chocolate advent calendar appeal Whole school Mass led by Year 5 Odd Socks Day Open the Book Woolly Hat Appeal Refugee Christmas presents Refugee Christmas cards Year 3 and Year 4 Advent workshop Year 4 Rewind to Christmas Year 5 and Year 6 Advent workshop Year 6 lead Jesse Tree worship Reception Advent workshop Year 1 and Year 2 nativity Year 4 lead Jesse Tree worship Reception nativity Key Stage 2 Carol Service led by Year 5 Year 1 and Year 2 Advent workshop Year 3 lead Jesse Tree worship Whole School Mass led by Year 4 Carols in the hall Blessing – Advent wreaths	Macmillan Coffee Morning Whole school 'Ready Steady Read' sponsored read Year 3 class assembly Year 4 class assembly Year 6 class assembly Antbullying Week Northern Arts club performance History enquiry day Pantomime Christmas Jumper Day Reindeer Run for St George's Crypt Aim high day Y5 Cross country Y3-Y6 Y5 Be creative at SMM Y6 rugby sessions with Yarnbury Choir visits – Bedford Court Choir at Horsforth Light switch Football matches Y6 visit Bedford Court Mini Vinnies at Horsforth remembrance service	Science dome for Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 Year 6 Leeds United Primary Choices Dance workshop Year 6 Rail Safety Open the Book	PTA welcome disco Year group curriculum parent meeting via Zoom Reception phonics workshop for parents Reception stay and play session Parents Evening PTA fireworks display Year 1 Phonics screening check meeting Open Day for new Reception Reception maths parent meeting Year 4 Multiplication Check parent meeting Christmas Fair	Northern Arts dance Mindful colouring Ipad Art Lego Coding Cosy reading Girls football Netball Choir Gymnastics Football

**Headteacher Awards**

Reception – Xavier M & Thomas EN

Year 1 – Jack W & Jacob M

Year 2 – Maisie D & Freddie S

Year 3 – Aiden K & Ruby T

Year 4 – Malachy G & Ben W

Year 5 – Alex T & Genevieve D'A

Year 6 – Fabio Z & Coen M

**Virtue Awards – Patience**

Reception – Susie T

Year 1 – Jude Mc

Year 2 – Harrison S

Year 3 – Noah C

Year 4 – Thomas R

Year 5 – Kelly I

Year 6 – Robin B

**Dates**

Please note changes or additions in red. \*denotes parents welcome

**January**

Monday	8		School opens
Friday	12	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Year 6*
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>Year 3 start swimming</b>
Tuesday	16	9.00am	Year 6 open classroom*
Wednesday	17	9.00am	Year 1 open classroom*
Thursday	18	<b>9.05am</b>	Year 2 class assembly*
Tuesday	23	9am	Year 3 open classroom*
Wednesday	24	9am	Year 4 open classroom*
Thursday	25		Open the Book
Friday	26	9.30am	Year 3 and Reception Mass in church*
Tuesday	30	9am	Year 2 open classroom*
Tuesday	30		Year 3 trip
Wednesday	31	9am	Year 5 open classroom*
Wednesday	31		Year 3 Class Saint Day – St John Bosco

**February**

Thursday	1	<b>9.05am</b>	Year 1 class assembly*
W/B	5		Year 5 Bikeability
<b>Monday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Year 5 residential parent meeting via Zoom*</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.40 – 6.10pm</b>	<b>Year 2 parent's evening*</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.40 – 6.10pm</b>	<b>Year 2 parent's evening*</b>
Thursday	8	<b>9.05am</b>	Reception and Year 6 class assembly*
Friday	9	2.00pm	Reception stay and play*
Friday	9		School closes
Sunday	18	11.00am	Family Mass*
Monday	19		School opens
Friday	29		Open the Book



## Parish News

### Mass times over the Christmas period

#### **Christmas Eve (Sunday) (Fulfilling the Christmas Day obligation)**

- 4.00pm St. Mary's Carols from 3.30pm
- 5.30pm Holy Name
- 6.00pm Assumption Carols from 5.30pm

#### **Christmas Day (Monday)**

- 10.00am Holy Name Carols from 9.30am
- 10.00am St. Mary's

#### **Tuesday 26th St Stephen – Feast**

- 11.00am Holy Name

#### **Wednesday 27th St John – Feast**

- 10.00am St Mary's

#### **Thursday 28th The Holy Innocents – Feast**

- Noon Holy Name

#### **Friday 29th St Thomas Becket – Feast**

- 10.00am St Mary's

#### **Saturday 30th**

- 10.00am Holy Name
- 10.00am St Mary's

## CRIB COLLECTION

In all 3 churches you will see a collection box by the cribs. There is an option to donate via the DONA machines too. This year's donations will support the work of the Friends of the Holy Land. For more information: [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/christmas](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/christmas)

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Many thanks to everyone who has donated funds, flowers, plants, and their time to help decorate all our churches for the festive period. They all look beautiful.

## SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Vigil)

Holy Name	6.30pm
St. Mary's	8.15am
Holy Name	9.00am
Assumption	9.45am
St Mary's	11.00am
Holy Name	11.15am