



Reflection



This Sunday Jesus tells a story about a tree that did not bear any fruit and all the things that the gardener planned to try to make it grow better.

People need the right conditions to live their lives well too. Everyone needs enough food and water to stay healthy and strong.

How we treat other people can help them to grow and develop or stop them from doing so. We all have a responsibility to look after each other: our friends, our family and even people that we haven't met around the world.

The fig tree in Jesus' story is supposed to share its fruit with the man who planted it, but it is not doing what it is supposed to. Sometimes we are a bit like the fig tree. We do not share as well as we could. The gardener is like Jesus. The gardener gives the fig tree another chance and gives it all the things it needs to live. Jesus is always ready to forgive us when we have done something wrong. And Jesus shows us how we should live our lives.

God gives us the chance to change, to share what we have and to do all that we can to make sure that all people have the things that they need to live. What will you do this Lent, to help make a change to our world and the way food systems work so that everyone has their fair share of food?

Prayer: Forgiving God, we thank you for the love and care that you show for us all. Help us to grow in that love, and to do all that we can to help each other to live free from poverty and hunger. Amen.

CAFOD walk against Hunger

This Lent, CAFOD is asking us to Walk Against Hunger, in solidarity with the 200 million children in our world whose lives are at risk because of malnutrition. Every little step can make a big difference. More information can be found here <https://walk.cafod.org.uk>

Lent Charity Appeal

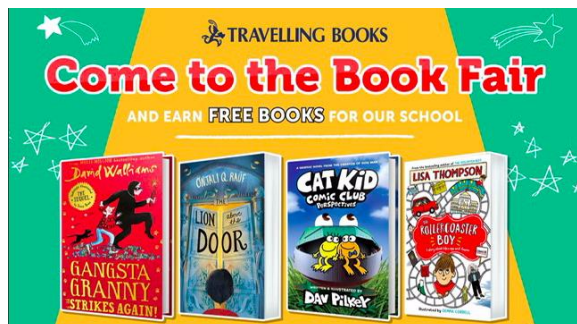
We have been so well supported by all our families as we raise money for different charities over Lent.

We received £170 for Cafod through our non uniform day and £117 for the KS2 family fast day for soup and a roll.

Thank you to all those who donated £1 for Comic Relief today for non uniform.

Huge thanks to all who came to the Good Shepherd Fundraiser today or sent money into school to buy or play games. All the money goes toward Catholic Care and will be very gratefully received.

Our last request is for Easter Eggs for the SVP. These were very well received by the children who received these through the SVP foodbank last year. The cut off date for donations of Easter Eggs is **Monday 28 March**. Thank you for all your support with our almsgiving this Lent.



Book fair

The Travelling Book Fair will be in school from 16th March to 21st March 8.30 – 8.50am and 3.15 – 3.45pm. For every book that is bought, school gets a percentage of the money to spend on new books so please visit the book fair. Each class will get the opportunity to visit during the school day.

Staffing

Mrs Beirne will be leaving St Mary's at Easter after nearly 9 years, following her successful appointment as Assistant Headteacher at St Paulinus. Mrs Beirne came to us as an NQT and has taught many of the children in school in Reception, Year 4 and currently Year 2. She has been a wonderful RE lead and has impacted not only the teaching of RE throughout school but also the Catholic Life of the school. She will be missed but we are very proud of her, as she takes the next step in her leadership journey and wish her the best of luck.

Easter Workshops

Our Easter Workshops start next week. This is a time to create some Easter crafts with your child. To ensure there is room to move around the classrooms, please can one family member attend per child and wherever possible, please do not bring younger children.

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|-----------|----|--------|------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 23 | 2.00pm | Year 1 and Year 2 Easter Workshop* |
| Thursday | 24 | 2.00pm | Year 3 and Year 4 Easter Workshop* |
| Thursday | 31 | 2.00pm | Year 5 and Year 6 Easter Workshop* |

Parents Evening

Parents Evening for all classes but Year 3 is on Tuesday 29 March and Thursday 31 March in the school hall. The booking system will open at 7.30am on Monday 21 March and will close at 9am on Friday 25 March. Please visit <https://stmaryshorsforth.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointment. Books will be available to look at in the classrooms including Year 3's. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating your child's progress.



Busy weeks

It always seems to be busy in school but there has been an awful lot happening in school over the last 2 weeks. Year 5 Residential, music assembly, Year 2 class assembly, library trip for Reception, Year 3 class assembly, Book Fair, Year 6 Reconciliation, Buddy Lunch, Family Fast Day and Y4 able writers day to name but a few plus lots of learning.

Please follow us on Twitter to see all the exciting things we do.

Curriculum

We have been working on developing a one page guide to our curriculum at St Mary's. If you would like to see it, please [use this link](#).

NEWSLETTER – 18 March 2022

Mental health

We have developed a mental health and wellbeing strategy for St Mary's following completion of the Mental Health Lead training. Please see on our website or via this [link](#) to find out more about how we support children and staff's mental health at St Mary's.

Awards

Headteacher Awards

Reception – Noah H & Freddie S
Year 1 – Jesse Mc & Alice M
Year 2 – Lucas C & Ronan C
Year 3 – Edith O'D & Arthur T
Year 4 – Bay W & Jennifer Q
Year 5 – Isaac P & Martha F
All of Year 5
Year 6 – Aisling H & Thomas P

Virtue Awards

Reception – Ella L
Year 1 – Ned D
Year 2 – Florence D
Year 3 – Henry B
Year 4 – Coen Murray
Year 5 – Zemira Y
Year 6 – Scarlett K

Diary Dates

*denotes parents welcome

March

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|---------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| Saturday | 19 | | Year 5 class Saint – Feast day of St Joseph |
| Monday | 21 | | Last day of Book Fair 8.30 - 8.50 and 3.15 - 3.45 |
| Tuesday | 22 | 9.30am | Y6 VE day celebration* |
| Tuesday | 22 | 2.00pm | Reception Easter Workshop* |
| Wednesday | 23 | 2.00pm | Year 1 and Year 2 Easter Workshop* |
| Thursday | 24 | 9.15am | Year 1 class assembly* |
| Thursday | 24 | 2.00pm | Year 3 and Year 4 Easter Workshop* |
| Friday | 25 | 2.30pm | Mother's Day assembly* |
| Monday | 28 | 2.00pm | Year 3 and Year 4 Easter production* |
| Monday | 28 | | Last day for donations for Easter Eggs for SVP foodbank |
| Tuesday | 29 | | Stations of the Cross activity day |
| Tuesday | 29 | 4.00 – 6.30pm | Parents Evening* |
| Wednesday | 30 | | Stations of the Cross activity day |
| Thursday | 31 | 9.30am | Whole school Mass led by Year 5* |
| Thursday | 31 | 2.00pm | Year 5 and Year 6 Easter Workshop* |
| Thursday | 31 | 4.00 – 6.30pm | Parents Evening* |



April

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| Friday | 1 | 2.30pm | Stations of the cross |
| Friday | 1 | | Finish for Easter holidays |
| Tuesday | 19 | 8.55am | School reopens for summer 1 |
| Friday | 22 | 9.30am | Whole school Mass led by Year 3* |
| Saturday | 23 | | Year 4 class Saint – Feast Day of St George |
| Wednesday | 27 | | Year 6 to church |

Parish news

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

The Stations of the Cross once a week: every Thursday at Assumption at 10am, after Mass; every Friday at Holy Name 5.30pm, followed by Mass; every Wednesday at St Mary's at 7.00pm, followed by Mass. NB: No stations at the Assumption on Thursday 24th March Week 4 (Wed 23rd & Fri 25th) Holy Name & St Mary's Catholic teachers Week 5 (Wed 30th, Thurs 31st & Fri 1st Apr) SVP & Live Simply Group Week 6 (Wed 6th, Thurs 7th & Fri 8th) Readers We shall use "St Alphonsus of Liguori Stations of the Cross. Copies are available in church at a cost of £4 each. Penitential services in preparation for Easter Church of Assumption on Tues 22nd March, 6pm. Remember, you can make a private confession arrangement if the need arises. Contact any of your priests. Everyone is welcome.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Volunteers are needed for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday 14th April, 7.30pm at St. Mary's and 8.00pm at Holy Name. Twelve parishioners from each church community are asked to represent the Apostles by symbolically having one foot 'washed'. If you feel you could help by doing this, please contact Amanda or Su in the Parish Offices.

Watching with Our Lord

will take place until 10.30pm at St. Mary's & midnight at Holy Name, providing several people can guarantee to watch for allotted times. Please sign the sheet at the back of church to pledge some of your time. Parishioners at Holy Name are asked to bring in plants to decorate our altar of repose. Please bring them to the presbytery by lunchtime on the Wednesday of Holy Week, and collect them on Good Friday.

Catholic Care

Thank you to all who have expressed an interest in supporting Ukrainian refugees. Catholic Care has updated information on the options available on their website should you wish to support.

<https://www.catholic-care.org.uk/>

SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Vigil)

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| 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 |