



St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter.

Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge

Monday 6th January 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. ANTHONY'S

On behalf of all the staff at St. Anthony's School, we want to wish you a very happy new year. We hope you had a restful Christmas as we prepare for the coming term.

In this update, you will find details of Religious Education, Catholic Life and Prayer at St. Anthony's School.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Changes to the curriculum.

The Religious Education curriculum for Catholic schools is changing.

Over the coming months, the children will be working to a new set of topics and objectives as laid down by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in what is known as the Religious Education Directory (RED).

The title of the RED is ***To Know you More Clearly.***

The RED is already in place in the Early Years classes.

You will now start to see these changes take place throughout the school beginning with Year 1.

Each term is divided into 6 branches.

Branch 1 September to October Half Term <i>Creation and Covenant</i>	Branch 2 October to Christmas <i>Prophecy and Promise</i>
Branch 3 January to February Half Term <i>Galilee to Jerusalem</i>	Branch 4 February Half Term to Easter <i>Desert to Garden</i>
Branch 5 Easter to May Half Term <i>To the ends of the Earth</i>	Branch 6 May Half Term to the end of the school year <i>Dialogue and Encounter</i>

By September 2026, all year groups will be working to the new Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

CATHOLIC LIFE

FOODBANK

We continue to invite donations to Watford Foodbank. You will find our boxes outside the Early Years building, Front Office and St. Francis Building on the last Thursday of each month.

PARISH LINKS

Please see the link to this week's Newsletter from Holy Rood Church.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2025/01/Newsletter-05.01.2025-1.pdf>

Please use the link to visit the site of St. Bede's Church in Croxley.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/>

PRAYER LIFE

In the chapel for the month of January, we will be using the Holy Name of Jesus as a focus for prayer and reflection.

This week we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. It commemorates the visit of the Magi to Jesus. The word "Epiphany" literally means "to show" or "manifestation" when Jesus was shown to the Wise Men.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

January 6th Feast of the Epiphany (Celebrated at Mass on Sunday 5th)

January 12th Baptism of Our Lord

LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

White and Gold until the Baptism of Our Lord.

CONGRATULTIONS!

Well done to Cheryl in Year 2 and Maya in Year 6 for their Christmas card designs which were put forward for the annual Diocesan Competition. Both girls' cards were shortlisted in the final choices.

Maya's design was also used for the cover of the Mini Vinnie Carol Service programme.



By Cheryl



By Maya

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



The launch date for the Jubilee Year of Hope is Friday 24th January.

We will mark this launch with special activities in classes.

What is the Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to “rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world”.

JUBILEE PRAYER

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.*

Amen.

Official prayer from Pope Francis for the Jubilee year 2025, "Pilgrims of hope"

LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK

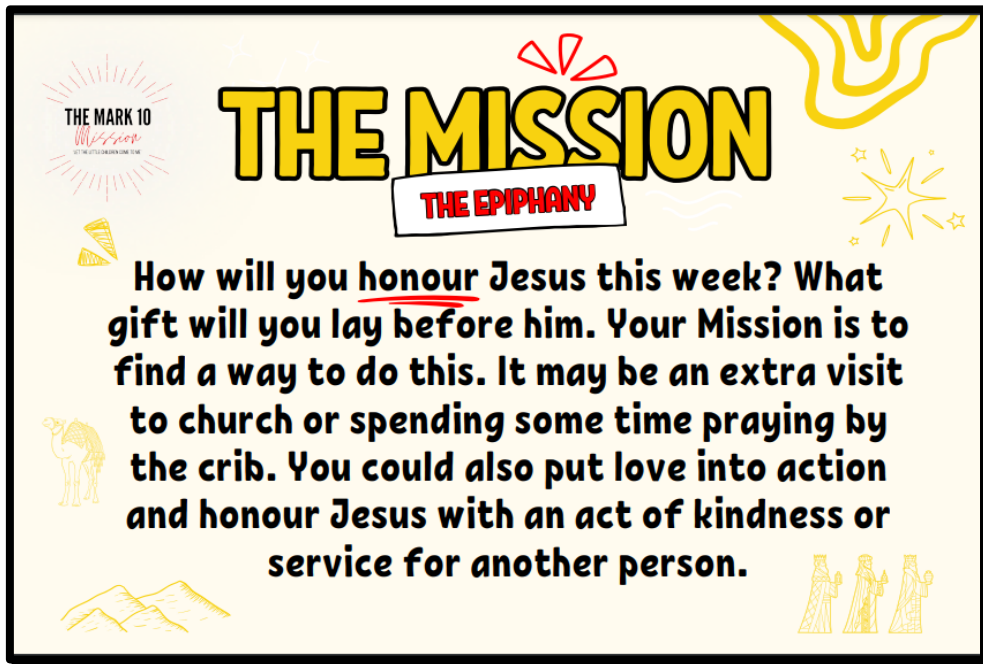


CONNECT and BE ACTIVE

It's the beginning of the long month of January! This challenge is one to last the whole month as we invite you to look after yourself by being active every day. During the week, it could be a run around the playground or field. At the weekend, a walk with members of your family. Being active makes you feel a lot better.

Also, think about making others feel better by writing them a kind note. Using a small slip of paper, write something positive about that person which will make them happy this winter.

Mark Ten Mission

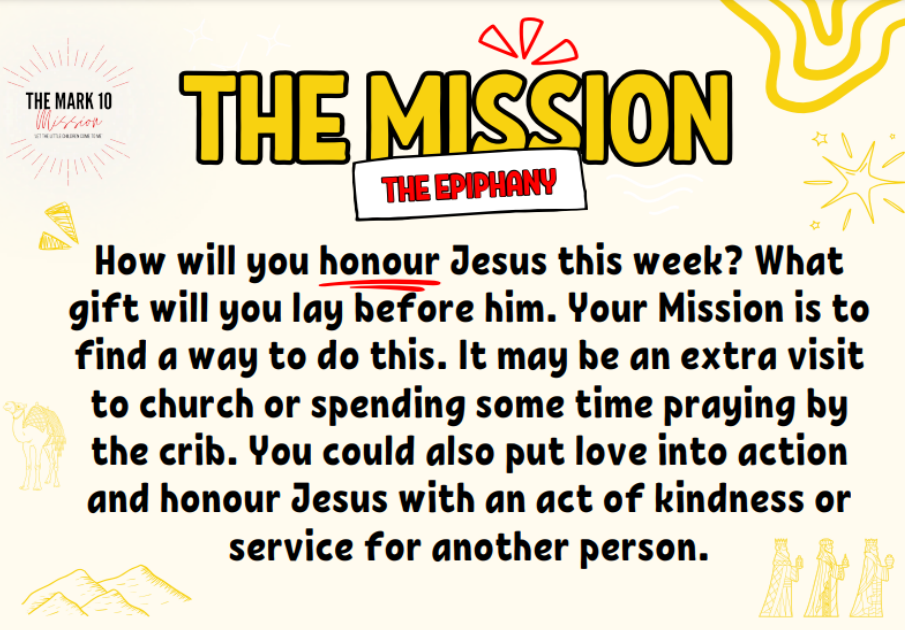


THE MARK 10
WINTER
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF DURHAM

THE MISSION

THE EPIPHANY

How will you honour Jesus this week? What gift will you lay before him. Your Mission is to find a way to do this. It may be an extra visit to church or spending some time praying by the crib. You could also put love into action and honour Jesus with an act of kindness or service for another person.



MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

WORD OF THE WEEK

EPIPHANY

PRAYER

If you were by the crib of the baby Jesus, what prayer would you make?

As you slowly read or listen to the Gospel, which line stands out? Highlight it in the text. Pray about how God may be speaking to you through this line?

Wonder Questions

What do you think Mary thought at the Epiphany?

What gift would you bring to Jesus?

MISSION

How will you honour Jesus this week? What gift will you lay before him. Your Mark 10 Mission is to find a way to do this. It may be an extra visit to church or spending some time praying by the crib. You could also put love into action and honour Jesus with an act of kindness or service for another person.

COLOUR

