



St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter

Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge

Monday 3rd February 2025



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We have finally arrived at February after the long January winter.

Please find below our weekly update about Catholic Life at St. Anthony's including a Jubilee reflection and thoughts from Fr. Tim about Candlemas and about the work of the SVP.

CATHOLIC LIFE

FOODBANK DAY

Thank you if you were able to donate to the Watford Foodbank last Thursday. Please remember that donations take place on the last Thursday of each month when you can hand items into the boxes in the morning or afternoon.

PRAYER LIFE

Pope Francis has asked that the February prayer intention be for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



CHAPEL

In our chapel this month, our focus for prayer will be on the Holy Family.

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Sunday was the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Fr. Tim shares some thoughts about it below:

FROM FR. TIM

“Candlemas” is the traditional name given to Sunday’s feast because as early as the fifth century, the custom of celebrating this feast with lighted candles had developed. The lit candles symbolised Simeon’s prophecy that Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles.”

This Feast has also been referred to as the “Feast of the Holy Encounter” because God, in the Person of Jesus, encountered Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

Forty days after Christmas, marks the day that Mary and Joseph would have presented Jesus in the Temple. Though Mary was pure and free from sin from the moment of her conception and Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God did not need to be redeemed, Mary and Joseph fulfilled these ritual obligations.

At the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple. Remarkably, it is Simeon who was the first to proclaim Jesus as the Saviour of the World. He also prophesied that this salvation would be accomplished by a sword of sorrow that would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Anna, a prophetess, also came forward and “gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem”. Therefore, these ritual acts were also a moment in which Jesus’ divine mission was made manifest to the world.

As we celebrate Mary’s ritual purification and Jesus’ ritual redemption, we should see them as acts in which we are called to participate.

Fr Tim



PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/news/newsletters/>

PARISH LINK TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2025/01/NEWSLETTER-2025-2nd-February.pdf>

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

February 3rd St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

February 5th St. Agatha

February 8th St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita

LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Green for Ordinary Time

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE FEBRUARY REFLECTION

Open the Door to a Work of Art



Lord, each one of us is a work of art, beautifully designed and created by you. Bless all artists who use their gifts to create masterpieces of their own to share with others. May their work delight you and inspire others to do the same.

Open the doors of our heart.
Open the doors of welcome.
Open the doors of power.
Open the doors of our mind.
Open the doors to opportunity.
Amen.





FROM HOLY ROOD SVP

This Friday, Paul Montgomery and Julie Nunn from Holy Rood Parish SVP will be coming to school for the termly meeting to discuss projects and ideas for the children to get involved in.

During Lent, on March 14th, Paul's daughter Rebecca, a former pupil at St. Anthony's, will be visiting the school to speak to the children in her capacity as International Projects Manager for the SVP. We look forward to welcoming Rebecca back to St. Anthony's so that she can offer the children an insight into some of the work of the SVP.

THE WORK OF THE SVP

At the School Chaplaincy/Mini Vinnies mass and carol service last December, Fr. Tim used his homily to speak about the work of the SVP and Mini Vinnies:

Mission and charity are the driving force of the SVP and Mini Vinnies as it was the founder, St Vincent De Paul's charism. No matter what was on St Vincent's mind or whatever topic he was discussing, the theme of "the spirit" cropped up constantly in his teaching and in the experiences, he shared, witnessing to his spiritual and apostolic life.

St Vincent was absolutely convinced that nothing worthwhile could be achieved if one did not possess this missionary spirit. In this, he was one mind with Saint Paul, who wrote, "if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ" (Rome 8:9)

This conviction is shared by those in the SVP today. They carry on the good work of their founder throughout the world and I am yet, in my experience, not to find a SVP group in the parish and you dear Mini Vinnies share in that mission following in the spirit of St Vincent De Paul to preach the gospel by your acts of love and concern for the poor and vulnerable in our societies.

No matter how small or big your acts are, do them always with great love, to coin the phrase of St Teresa of Calcutta.



When we look closely at the words and the life of St Vincent, we will see that he emptied himself and clothed himself in humility following his greatest love, Jesus Christ.

Jesus, who continues to be close to those in need through his body, the church and his members like the SVP. May God bless all your efforts and may you one day join St Vincent in glorifying God in Heaven. Amen

Fr. Tim

MOSQUE VISIT

On Wednesday 26th February, Year 5 will be visiting Al Zahra Centre in Watford. Here they will listen to a talk about the mosque and the Islamic faith. Classes have visited the centre on many occasions, and it is an important opportunity for the children and staff to learn more about another faith tradition.

After the visit, the children will attend Midday Mass at Holy Rood Church.



LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



CONNECT / KEEP LEARNING

Ask somebody for help with something that you find difficult. If it is work in class or a friendship problem, you could ask an adult at school. You could also ask a family member.

Could you help someone else with a problem?



Mark Ten Mission



THE MISSION

THE PRESENTATION



Think about a time when you met Jesus. Maybe it was through a person who showed you great love. Perhaps it was at Mass or listening to a Bible reading and you knew that God was speaking the words to you. Maybe it was something that happened to you, something unexpected that showed God's love.

Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. One day in the future the Holy Spirit could prompt you to read it again and remember the truth that Jesus is with you.





STIA

THE MARK 10

Worship

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-32

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord') and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons'.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the Temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

'Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

HUMILITY

PRAYER

Write down the name of a person you would like God to bless with his love and protection

Spend some time in prayer presenting this person to God in your own words.

Describe a moment when you knew God was with you. Use more paper if needed.

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

How does it feel to be prompted by the Holy Spirit?

Have you experienced a moment where the Holy Spirit has prompted you?

MISSION

Think about a time when you met Jesus. Maybe it was through a person who showed you great love. Perhaps it was at Mass or listening to a Bible reading and you knew that God was speaking the words to you. Maybe it was in something that happened to you - something special or unexpected that told you that God loves you. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. One day in the future the Holy Spirit could prompt you to read it again and remember the truth that Jesus is with you.

COLOUR

