



St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter
Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge

Monday 3rd March 2025



POPE FRANCIS



All of us at St. Anthony's School continue to keep Pope Francis in our prayers and we will remember him in our liturgies and assemblies throughout the week.

CATHOLIC LIFE, PRAYER, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LENT BEGINS

We have arrived at March and the sunny weather forecast for the week suggests we are heading towards spring.

This week is Ash Wednesday when the season of Lent begins.

Over the course of the season, we will be carrying out several activities to support the children's understanding of this very important time in the year.

This update will outline how we plan to mark the season over the coming weeks.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Children will receive ashes on Wednesday.

Deacon Neville will lead a liturgy for the Key Stage 2 children on Wednesday morning.

Throughout the rest of the morning, the Early Years and Key Stage 1 children will also receive the ashes.

We will talk to the children about what it means to receive the ashes in the lead up to Wednesday.

CHAPEL

Our chapel will be open again on Thursday morning at 8.30 for those children and / or families who wish to spend a few minutes in quiet reflection. We will continue to open the chapel on Thursday mornings throughout Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our Year 5 children will be visiting St. Michael's and All Angels Church on two dates in March. This is part of their annual Lenten work on the Stations of the Cross.

Year 5 Lisbon will visit on Tuesday 11th March

Year 5 Padua will visit on Friday 21st March

HOLY ROOD SVP VISIT

We look forward to welcoming our friends from the Holy Rood SVP to talk to the Chaplaincy Team about their work in the parish. The Chaplaincy Team will then share what they have learned with their classmates.

This talk will take place on Friday morning.



FROM FR. TIM: REFLECTIONS AS WE BEGIN LENT

Begin Again.

The liturgical use of ashes originates in the Old Testament. Ashes symbolised mourning, humility and penance. Job repented in sackcloth and ashes, the prophet Daniel turned back to the Lord by earnest prayer, fasting and sitting in ashes and Jonah, after preaching repentances to the Ninevites, the king covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes and the populace were spared to God's wrath. Jesus also made reference to ashes. In reference to the towns that refused to repent of sin although they had witnessed miracles and heard the good news, our Lord said, "If the miracles worked in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes".

Over time, the use of ashes was adopted to mark the beginning of Lent and the ritual is found in the earliest editions of the Gregorian Sacramentary which dates back to at least the 8th century.

Around the year 1000 AD, an Anglo-Saxon priest named Aelfric preached: "We read in the books, both in the Old Law and in the New, that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast."

In our present liturgy, ashes are made from the palms of the previous year. The priest blesses them and imposes them on our foreheads, making the sign of the cross, saying, "Remember, that you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Repent and believe in the Gospel"

As we begin this holy season of Lent to prepare ourselves for Easter, let us keep in mind the significance of the ashes we have received, so that we may be ready to receive Him who suffered, died and rose for our salvation.

"Yet even now," says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:12-13)

Fr. Tim



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

Our theme for this term is *Community and Participation*.

On Tuesday we had an assembly and looked at the many ways the children of St. Anthony's are witnesses to community and participation in action.

FOODBANK

On the subject of community and participation, we want to thank you for your contributions to the Foodbank last Thursday. Every contribution makes a difference so please put **Thursday 27th March** into your diary for the next Foodbank donation opportunity at the school.

PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2025/02/Newsletter-02.03.2025.pdf>

PARISH LINK TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2025/02/NEWSLETTER-2025-2nd-March-.pdf>

PRAYER LIFE

ST. JOSEPH

As well as Lent, March is dedicated to St. Joseph and our chapel will reflect this in some of the displays and activities available for the children.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

We wish everyone at St. Anthony's community with Welsh roots and connections, all the very best for St. David's Day which took place on Saturday.

March 1st St. David Patron Saint of Wales

March 5th Ash Wednesday

March 7th Ss Perpetua and Felicity Martyrs



LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Green for Ordinary Time

Purple for Lent

JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE WEEKLY REFLECTION FOR MARCH

Open the door to serve one another



Let us Pray.

Father, You call us all to love our neighbour and serve one another. Bless all those who volunteer their time and talents to help those most in need. Show us all the path 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.



LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



GIVE

In the week that Lent begins, think about a Lenten promise. It might be to say a special prayer for someone every day. It might be to do one kind or helpful thing each day. It might be to learn one new thing every day during Lent.



Mark Ten Mission

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

WORD OF THE WEEK

PRAYER

PRAYER

God wants to help you know him more this Lent. Prayer is where we meet him in our hearts. Is there a prayer you can write asking God to help and guide you this Lent?

Read your prayer to God and spend some quiet time listening to his voice.

Wonder Questions

Why do you think the devil waited until the end of the forty days to test Jesus?
Where did Jesus' strength come from?

MISSION

Your Mission is to choose something to fast from that usually costs money to buy. This could be a particular food or another type of treat like a new game or something you collect. The money you save can be donated to Mary's Meals and help feed some of the world's hungriest children.

mary's meals

A simple solution to world hunger!



COLOUR