



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

Wednesday 19th March 2025



POPE FRANCIS



Last Thursday marked the 12th anniversary of Pope Francis' election. We continue to keep Pope Francis in our prayers at St. Anthony's. We have been encouraged by the recent news about his health and will think of him in our liturgies throughout the week.

CATHOLIC LIFE

LENT AT ST. ANTHONY'S

With last Monday being an INSET Day, it has been two weeks since our last RE newsletter.

We would like to share with you the activities we have been involved in over this period.



ASH WEDNESDAY

The children received ashes on Ash Wednesday when Deacon Neville led a special liturgy for the Key Stage 2 children.

Over the course of the day, our younger children from Early Years and Key Stage 1 received their ashes too.

MARCH 7th SVP VISIT



On Friday 7th March, we welcomed Paul, Julie, Gerry and Jim from the Holy Rood SVP to come and speak to our Chaplaincy Team about their work at a local level. Here is what members of the Chaplaincy Team said after the discussion:

The SVP help people who might be feeling lonely.

The SVP can help people get furniture and things for their homes.

The SVP can give their time to keep people company.

The SVP is friendly and welcoming.

MARCH 14th SVP VISIT

As part of our Lenten activities, International Projects Manager for Twinning, Rebecca Montgomery, came in to speak to Year 6 and the Chaplaincy Team about the work of the SVP on a global level. Rebecca is a former pupil of St. Anthony's and we are very proud of the difference she is trying to make for people around the world.

Here is what two pupils, Imogen and Adriano from Year 6, said after Rebecca's talk:



Rebecca spoke to us about the work the SVP does around the world.

England and Wales are twinned with six other countries. Rebecca spoke about what the SVP and Mini Vinnies do in those different countries. They include India, Sudan, South Sudan, Guyana, Grenada and Romania.

In one of the countries, SVP visitors go to caring centres to visit elderly people.

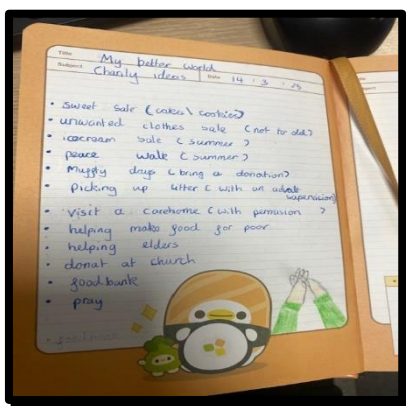
In Grenada, the water system is made up of large tanks and the rainwater is collected and filtered. Running water to their homes comes through a faucet. The SVP helps to organise this.

In one of the places, the SVP help to fund small boats go to different parts of the country which is made up of little islands within the area.

In Romania, a school which allows 40 Ukrainian children escape the war and gain an education is funded by the SVP. There have been enough funds to keep it running since Christmas but now those funds are running out and support is needed to keep it going from spring to summer.

Rebecca said that there are different ways we can help to raise funds to support the children and their families.

Imogen and Adriano from Year 6



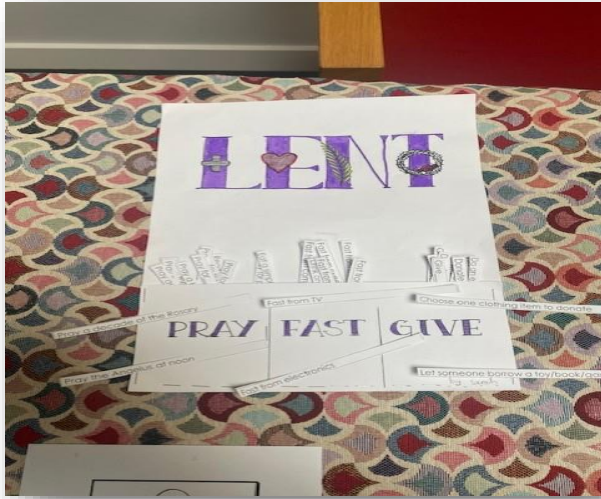
Members of the Year 4 Lisbon Chaplaincy Team, Serah and Abel, then spent Friday lunchtime in the chapel thinking of fundraising ideas and here is a picture of their ideas.

Raising funds for those children in Romania to help them continue their education will be on the agenda for our next Chaplaincy Team Meeting this week.



PRAYER LIFE

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 through the remainder of Lent.



Year 4 Lisbon Chaplaincy Team member, Serah, has been busy! Today she brought in a special Lent design she made containing ideas for prayer, fasting and giving. The design is made of three pockets containing practical ideas. In the fasting pocket, the ideas are not necessarily to do with food. Two of the ideas are about fasting from computer games or from the TV! Serah's design is now on display in the chapel.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our Year 5 Lisbon children visited St. Michael's and All Angels Church on March 11th. This was part of their annual Lenten work on the Stations of the Cross.

The work they produced was excellent. Their work in charcoal and clay will be displayed in the Year 5 and 6 corridor once it has been completed.

We would like to thank Martin and Gillian Heath from St. Michael's Church for making us feel so welcome on the day.

This Friday, 21st March, Year 5 Padua will be visiting St. Michael's for their Retreat Day.



FROM FR. TIM: REFLECTION DURING THE WEEK OF JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY

What is it that made Saint Joseph so great? He wasn't immaculately conceived as our Blessed Mother was. He was not divine like Jesus. But he was the head of the Holy Family, its guardian and its provider. He became the legal father of the Savior of the World and the spouse of the Mother of God.

But Joseph is not great only because he was given such incredible privileges. First and foremost, he was great because of the choices he made in life. Today's Gospel refers to him as a "righteous man" and as a man who "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Thus, his greatness is primarily on account of his moral righteousness and obedience to the will of God.

It's also clear that Joseph took his vocation seriously. Pope Saint John Paul II gave him the title "Guardian of the Redeemer."

His life was spent providing for them, protecting them and offering them a father's heart.

We all must seek to imitate Saint Joseph's virtues by protecting the presence of Christ within our own hearts, the hearts of our family and friends and in the world as a whole.

Pray to Saint Joseph, asking him to help you follow his example so that the hidden presence of our Lord in our lives will grow and come to full maturation.

Fr. Tim

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

FOODBANK

As part of our work towards community and participation, we want to remind you of your chance to contribute towards the Watford Foodbank next **Thursday 27th March**. Boxes will be available outside Early Years, the school office and the St. Francis Building on the Key Stage 2 playground.



PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2025/03/Newsletter-16.03.2025.pdf>

PARISH LINK TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2025/03/NEWSLETTER-2025-16th-March-1-1.pdf>

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

We wish everyone at St. Anthony's community of Irish heritage, all the very best for St. Patrick's Day which was on Monday.

March 17th St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland

March 19th St. Joseph

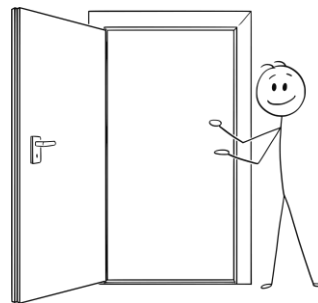
LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Purple for Lent

White for St. Joseph



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE WEEKLY REFLECTION FOR MARCH



The challenge. Look at opportunities to volunteer in school, in the local parish or in the community.

Can you give an hour of your time to volunteer and help others?

How many are in your class?

If you all did an hour volunteering how many hours could you achieve?



LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



TAKE NOTICE

Why not go to your local church and take notice of the Stations of the Cross? Perhaps say a prayer at each Station for the special people in your life.



SIA

Mark Ten Mission



THE MISSION

ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE



Go back to the mountaintop in prayer. You could do this by finding some quiet space away from the noise and busyness of the world and picture Jesus shining in front of you. You might choose to prayerfully create some artwork of the transfiguration and show what you think Jesus looks like shining in glory.



MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

WORD OF THE WEEK

FASTING

PRAYER

Picture in your mind Jesus shining on the mountaintop. Place yourself there with him. Is there a prayer you would like to share with Jesus?

Spend some quiet time with Jesus in this place of peace and joy.

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

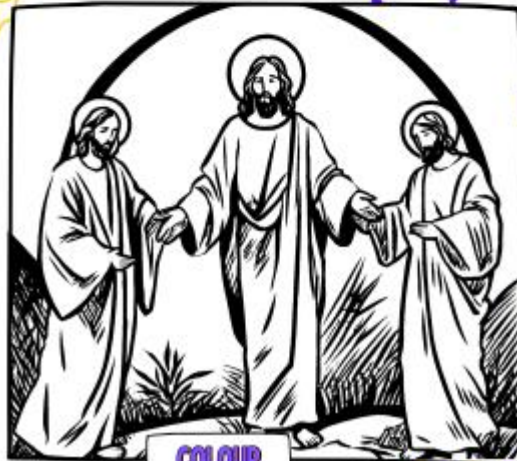
How do you think Peter felt as he looked at Jesus shining?

Why did Jesus choose to show just three of his friends this moment?

MISSION

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Remember to keep fasting for **Mary's Meals** too!



COLOUR