



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

Wednesday 1st October 2025



WELCOME ASSEMBLY

It was lovely to see so many parents of our new children starting St. Anthony's at our Welcome Assembly.

Some of our Year 6 children led the welcome by speaking about St. Anthony and how his spirit of learning, good works and prayer are lived out in the school.

We wish all our families many happy years at St. Anthony's.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OCTOBER 4th

This Saturday is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Anthony was part of the Franciscan Order and so his feast has special significance for our school.

A symbol of this was when the Key Stage 2 building was named after him at its official opening in 2014.

Our Year 2 children will be marking St. Francis' feast by doing special St. Francis activities on Friday.

Here is an outline of his life:

St. Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 or 1182 in Assisi, Italy, to a wealthy cloth merchant, and lived a comfortable life as a child, enjoying parties and fine clothes. As a young man, he fought in a war and was captured,



but after being released, he began having visions from God that changed his life. One vision told him to “repair my church,”. Francis eventually gave up all his money and belongings to live a simple life of poverty and prayer.

Francis became kind and gentle, especially toward those who were sick or poor, and he famously showed love to a leper by hugging him, even though others were afraid to go near. He started preaching about God’s love and living simply, and many people followed him, forming the Franciscan Order. He loved animals and nature, calling them his brothers and sisters. In 1224, he received the stigmata—the wounds of Jesus—and he died in 1226 at age 44. He was made a saint just two years later.

St. Anthony was a follower and close friend of St. Francis. Originally an Augustinian priest, Anthony joined the Franciscan Order in 1220, becoming one of Francis' followers known as the Friars Minor. Though their personal meetings were few, they shared a deep spiritual bond. St. Francis authorized Anthony to teach theology to the friars, reflecting Francis' trust in Anthony's wisdom. Anthony was known for his preaching, teaching, and care for the poor, continuing the mission started by Francis. Together, they represent two important saints of the Franciscan family, with Francis as the founder and Anthony as a key preacher and teacher within the order.

MISSION STATEMENT REVIEW

Please find below further comments about our Mission Statement, *We Grow and Learn with Jesus*, taken from our parent survey in July. We thought it would be good to include some each week in the opening term of the year to remind us of why this statement is central to everything we do at the school.

Following Jesus and his commandments is the best way to a happy life and peace in your heart.

It solidifies the values and beliefs we treasure and follow at home.



CATHOLIC LIFE

Watford Foodbank

Thank you very much for your September donations. These were collected by Year 6 Lorcan's gran and grandad on Friday morning who delivered the items to Watford Foodbank. Opportunities to donate and the collections will continue each of the last Thursdays of the month or term throughout the year.

CHAPLAINCY TEAM

Some of the Key Stage 2 children are now in the process of making their applications for the Chaplaincy Team. It is very encouraging to see the level of interest they are showing to be part of the group.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Creation and Covenant

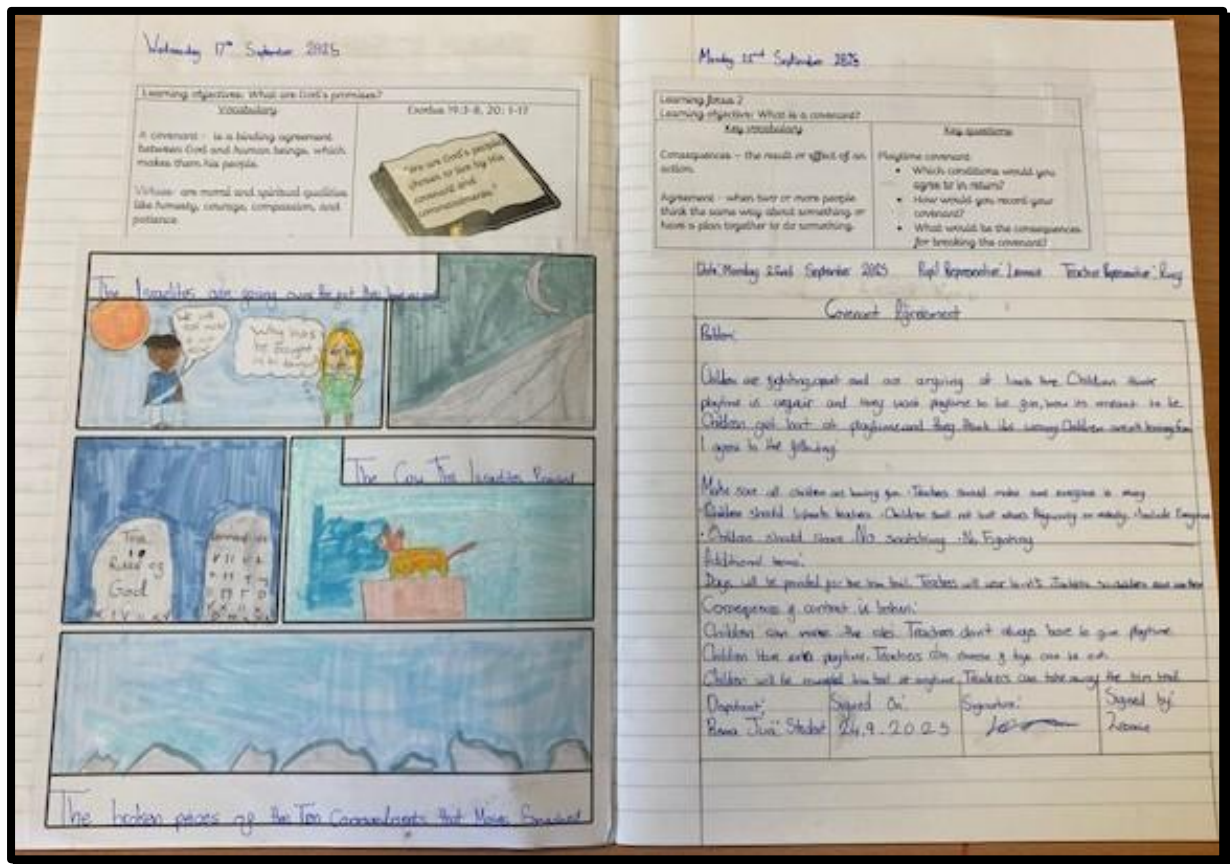
YEAR 5

This half term, the children are starting their studies on the new RE curriculum entitled, *To Know you More Dearly*. The curriculum is divided into 6 branches studied across the year.

The first branch is called Creation and Covenant which looks at how God is revealed through scripture, the beauty of the world and, most important, through Jesus.

Year 5 have been studying God's promises and covenant with His people.

Please see the picture of the sample work from Year 5 below:



PRAYER LIFE

September 29th to October 5th

Feast Days:

- 29 September — Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
- 30 September — St. Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church
- 1 October — St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Doctor
- 2 October — The Holy Guardian Angels
- 4 October — St. Francis of Assisi



Focus for Prayer Around the School

Our Early Years children will think about stories and prayers from saints' lives, quiet prayer time

Years 1 and 2 will focus on learning saints' virtues, class Rosary initiation

Years 3 to 6 will be reflecting on deeper Rosary prayers (joyful mysteries); saint reflections.

PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2025/09/Newsletter-28-09.2025.pdf>

PARISH LINKS TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2025/09/Newsletter-2025-28th-September-2.pdf>

LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Green for Ordinary Time

Lectionary Cycle

- Sunday — Year C
- Weekday — Cycle I

FROM Fr. TIM

Wednesday marks the beginning of October, the month of the Rosary. This week, Fr. Tim writes about its significance in our lives.

To nip a common misconception in the bud, the rosary is a deeply scriptural meditative prayer. Scriptural, in the sense that it follows the life of Mary and Jesus, i.e. the Gospels.

Although the rosary devotion spread during the Middle Ages through the likes of St Alvery, St Dominic and Pope Pius V, its origins date as far back as the third century when the Desert Fathers used stones and later knotted rope when praying the Our Father and the entirety of the psalms – 150!

Today, the rosary has developed into the recitation of five decades – prefaced by the Our Father and concluding with the Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer. The decade



consists of 10 Hail Mary's and each decade focuses on an important event in the life of Mary and Jesus. For example, the Nativity of our Lord, The Crucifixion and The Resurrection.

There are four mysteries of the rosary: Joyful (prayed on Mondays and Saturdays) Sorrowful (prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays) Glorious (prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays) and Luminous (prayed on Thursdays and instituted by Pope St John Paul II)

Each mystery contains five events on which to focus on – one decade for each event.

Personally, the rosary is similar to the Stations of the Cross, in that we walk with Jesus and Mary, meditating as we do on the history of salvation that Mary and Christ has won for us.

The Rosary is quite possibly the most powerful devotion in the Catholic Church and one would do well to pray this as often as possible. I recommend starting with a decade a day and increase this gradually as you become more familiar with it.

A helpful way to pray the rosary is to devote each decade for an intention: this can be anything from praying for friends, family, those who are ill or dying or even for more general things like before an exam or more serious issues like an end to war and the attainment of peace.

May our Lady inspire all those who read this to develop a love not only for her but for her Son to whom she always leads and for whom she has given her life when she said yes to God at the Annunciation.

Fr. Tim

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL FOOTBALL AND NETBALL TOURNAMENT

Our Year 6 children are excited about attending St. Michael's School on Friday for the annual Football and Netball Tournament. This competition has been running for over 30 years and is a highlight in the Year 6 calendar. We are ever grateful to the PE staff and students of St. Michael's for hosting the day and we wish the children well.



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



Let us pray. Bless those who have left their country for any reason.

May they find a welcome and support into their new home with love and warmth.

**Protect those who are away from friends and family,
and help them find a supportive community wherever they are.**

Amen



LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



TAKE NOTICE and GIVE

October is the month of the Holy Rosary.

Use this month to say a special prayer to Our Lady every day.



Mark Ten Mission

The Mark Ten Mission is a chance for us to reflect in a deeper way into a feast or celebration that is taking place on the liturgical calendar.

This week, we reflect on the month of the Holy Rosary.

THE MARK 10 MISSION

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

JOHN 2:1-11

At that time, there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

WORD OF THE WEEK

ROSARY

PRAYER

A FULL ROSARY IS FIVE DECADES. THINK OF FIVE DIFFERENT INTENTIONS (THINGS TO PRAY FOR). CHECK YOUR LIST BEFORE YOU PRAY EACH DECADE AND OFFER YOUR DECADE FOR THAT INTENTION.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

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 DOES JESUS THINK WHEN OUR LADY ASKS HIM FOR SOMETHING?

WHAT COULD OUR LADY BE SHOWING YOU THROUGH THE WORDS SHE SPEAKS TO THE SERVANTS?

MISSION

TAKE ON THE ROSARY CHALLENGE WITH US THIS OCTOBER. OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY AND YOU CAN JOIN THE MARK 10 MISSION ONLINE EACH WEEKDAY AS WE LEAD A DECADE OF THE ROSARY FROM ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL. YOU CAN TRACK YOUR PROGRESS USING OUR RECORD SHEET. THE CHALLENGE IS TO PRAY A DECADE EACH DAY UNTIL YOU COMPLETE ALL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY.

COLOUR



THE MISSION

THE ROSARY CHALLENGE

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