



St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter

Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge

Wednesday 28th January 2026

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY JANUARY 27TH



Yesterday, 27 January, was Holocaust Memorial Day, when people around the world paused to remember the six million Jewish people and all those who suffered and died under Nazi persecution and in more recent genocides. We are called to listen to the stories of those who were silenced, to stand firmly against hatred and discrimination, and to recognise the dignity of every person made in the image of God. In school this week, we invite our community to pray for peace, to challenge prejudice in all its forms, and to be courageous witnesses to justice and compassion in our everyday choices.

Yesterday, children around the school took part in activities to help mark this important day.

CATHOLIC LIFE



A reminder that tomorrow, the last Thursday of the month, is our Food Bank Donation Day.

The cold winter is a reminder to us that life can be very challenging for lots of people so your contribution DOES make a difference. If you can donate to the Watford Foodbank, please find our collection boxes in the following locations:



OUTSIDE THE EARLY YEARS BUILDING

OUTSIDE THE MAIN OFFICE

ON THE KEY STAGE 2 PLAYGROUND.

OUR SCHOOL CHAPEL

JANUARY: The Holy Name of Jesus

We continue to focus on the Holy Name of Jesus for our prayers and activities in the chapel. A steady number of the children use the chapel throughout the week for a time of peace and prayer during the busy day.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are delighted to be working with St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Watford again this year for Year 5's Stations of the Cross projects. Our Year 5 Lisbon class will be visiting there on February 24th and 5 Padua a week later, on March 3rd.

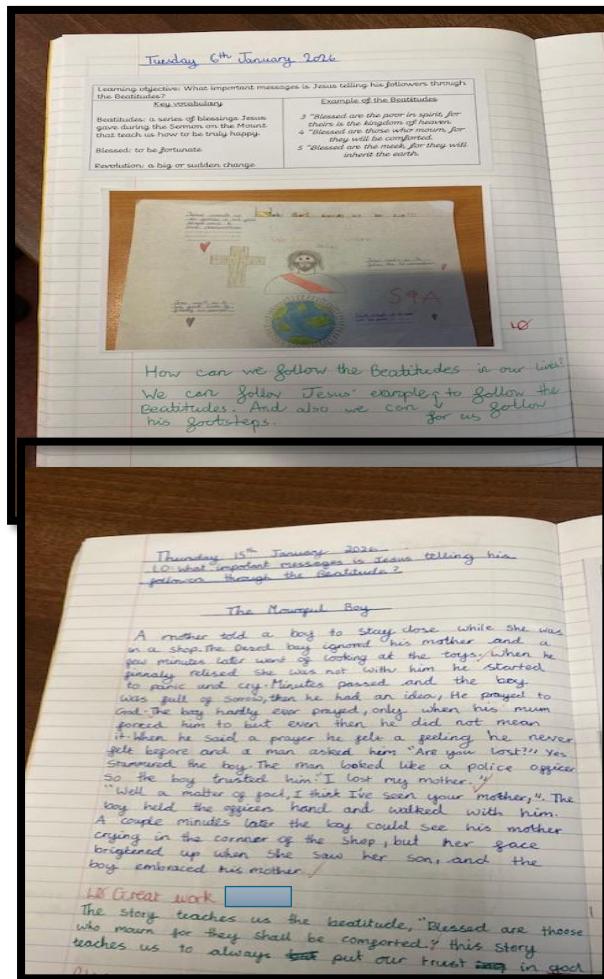
The visit involves prayer and mediation over the different stations and then the children use pastels and clay to design their own station. Each station will then be displayed in the Year 5 corridor throughout the rest of the year.



From Desert to Garden

Each topic of our Religious Education curriculum is called a branch. This term's branch is called *Desert to Garden*.

Please find below examples of work from Years 5. The children have been working on The Beatitudes.



The children are discovering how these "blessings" (like 'Blessed are the merciful' and 'Blessed are the peacemakers') show us the way to true happiness as disciples of Christ, building on the Ten Commandments.

Through discussions, role-plays and creative ideas, they are exploring how to live these virtues in school and home life. This means being kind, forgiving, and standing for justice. Ask your child what Beatitude speaks to them most! Well done, Year 5, for shining Christ's light.



PRAYER LIFE

Focus for Prayer Around the School

Our Early Years children; Short repeated Bible line with actions (e.g. “Jesus loves me”); picture Bible on prayer table.

Years 1 and 2: Class focus on “The Bible is God’s special book”; simple enthronement of the Bible in class; short Gospel each day with a one-line response prayer.

Years 3 to 6: Celebration of the Word highlighting Scripture: procession of the Bible, psalm response, short reflection by pupils; introduce regular use of the psalm or a short refrain.

PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If your child is in Year 3 or above and you would like them to make their First Holy Communion, please see the Holy Rood Newsletter in the link below.

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2026/01/Newsletter-25.01.26.pdf>

PARISH LINKS TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2026/01/20260125-NEWSLETTER-2026.pdf>

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday 25th January: Conversion of Saint Paul

Monday 26th January: Saints Timothy and Titus, bishops

Wednesday 28th January: Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church

Saturday 31st January: Saint John Bosco, priest.



SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Thomas Aquinas: January 28th

St Thomas Aquinas was born in Italy around 1225 and grew up loving God and learning from a young age. He joined the Dominican friars, studied with great teachers, and wrote books showing how faith and reason help us understand God better.

Called the "Angelic Doctor," he is patron of Catholic schools, students, and teachers because he taught that our minds are gifts from God—his key idea: "To love is to will the good of the other." Thomas died in 1274 at age 49, was made a saint in 1323, and still inspires us to ask big questions about faith with joy.

LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

In England & Wales, the colour is green throughout this Ordinary Time period, symbolising growth in faith.

White on feast/memorial days like 25 Jan (Conversion of St Paul),

26th January (Ss Timothy & Titus),

28th January (St Thomas Aquinas)

31st January (St John Bosco).

Sunday Mass Readings (25 Jan: 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A)

- 1st Reading: Isaiah 8:23–9:3 (light dawns on those in darkness).
- Psalm: Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 (R: The Lord is my light and my salvation).
- 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 (unity in Christ).
- Gospel: Mt 4:12-23 (or shorter: Mt 4:12-17) (Jesus calls disciples in Galilee).

Weekday Readings (Ordinary Time Week 3, Year II)



CATHOLIC LIFE

THANK YOU CORNER

We want to offer our heartfelt thanks to our parents and carers for all your goodwill and support. Children are at their best when we all work together and we are blest to have such a supportive parental community.

A Prayer for the Last Week of January

Loving God,

As January draws to a close, we thank you for the gift of this month and the saints who light our path, like St Thomas Aquinas with his wisdom and St John Bosco with his care for the young.

Bless our school community and fill our staff with the Holy Spirit, our children with joy in learning and our families with peace.

May the green of Ordinary Time help us grow in faith, united in Christ, ready for the wonders of February ahead.

We ask this through Jesus, our Light, who lives and reigns forever.

Amen.



LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



GIVE

Do something kind for someone in your class, school or family. Choose one person per day for the next week. How many kind acts can you manage?



Mark Ten Mission

Next week we celebrate the feast of The Presentation of the Lord or Candlemass. This week's Mark Ten Mission helps us to prepare for this important feast.

THE MARK 10 MISSION

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.'

AS YOU SLOWLY READ OR LISTEN TO THE SCRIPTURE, WHICH LINE STANDS OUT? HIGHLIGHT IT IN THE TEXT. PRAY ABOUT HOW GOD MAY BE SPEAKING TO YOU THROUGH THIS LINE?

WONDER QUESTIONS

HOW DID OUR LADY AND SAINT JOSEPH FEEL AS THEY HEARD SIMEON'S PRAYER?

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO SEE THE CHILD JESUS: GOD AS A BABY, JUST 40 DAYS OLD?

MISSION

SIMEON SENSED THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDING HIM AT THE START OF HIS DAY. HE KNEW THAT JESUS WAS CLOSE AND THAT HE COULD WELCOME HIM. YOUR MISSION IS TO WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AT THE START OF EACH DAY. AS SOON AS YOU WAKE UP, SAY A PRAYER INVITING JESUS TO WALK WITH YOU THROUGH YOUR DAY.

WORD OF THE WEEK

INSPIRATION

PRAYER

SIMEON SAYS A PRAYER DECLARING WHO JESUS IS. CAN YOU WRITE A SIMILAR PRAYER ABOUT JESUS?

JESUS, YOU ARE... _____

COLOUR



THE MISSION

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

SIMEON SENSED THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDING HIM AT THE START OF HIS DAY. HE KNEW THAT JESUS WAS CLOSE AND THAT HE COULD WELCOME HIM. YOUR MISSION IS TO WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR HEART AT THE START OF EACH DAY. AS SOON AS YOU WAKE UP, SAY A PRAYER INVITING JESUS TO WALK WITH YOU THROUGH YOUR DAY.

