



**St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter**  
**Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**CANDLEMAS FEBRUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Candlemas is the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, forty days after his birth, when Mary and Joseph brought him to be offered to God.

On this day Jesus is called the “light of the world”, and in church candles are blessed to remind us that Christ’s light shines in our darkness and that we are called to carry his light into the world.

**RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

Every year, the Church in England and Wales marks Racial Justice Sunday – a significant day of prayer when we remember that racism has no place in the Body of Christ and that every person is made in the image of God and is infinitely loved by Him.

This year’s theme is “Whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes, which reminds us that our love for God is shown in the way we treat our brothers and sisters of every race, language and culture.

As a Catholic school community, we are invited not only to pray for those who have suffered because of racism, but also to consistently reflect on our own words, actions and attitudes, so that our school is always a place where all feel welcome, respected and able to share their God-given gifts.

Our former school chaplain, Bishop Paul McAleenan, is a significant advocate because he is the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales’ Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, and consistently speaks out against racism in church and society.

Please click on the link below to see Bishop Paul’s message.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjbL7O7q1R4>



## **Prayer for Racial Justice**

***Father, you created each one of us in your own image.***

***Yet yours is a world made glorious by its rich diversity. This we sometimes misunderstand, sometimes fear.***

***Give us the patience to build on what unites us, to celebrate our differences and to learn from them.***

***Grant us the wisdom to recognise your Church, beyond the walls of a building, reaching out across all communities, countries and cultures.***

***Give us the courage to offer refuge to those in need, to challenge prejudice and seek justice for all.***

***Help us see that you created us in your image.***

***Neighbour or stranger, always our brother or sister.***

***Amen.***

## **CATHOLIC LIFE**



Thank you for your recent donations to the foodbank. All items will be collected by the foodbank volunteers and will make a huge difference to someone's life.

## **OUR SCHOOL CHAPEL**

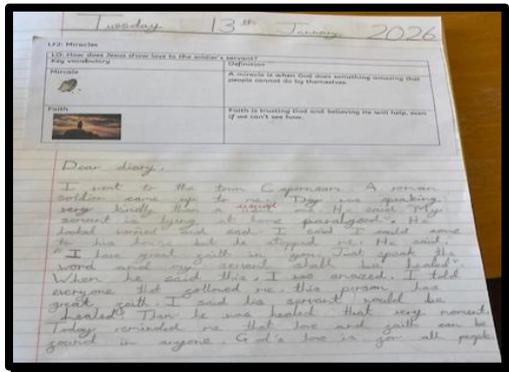
### **EARLY FEBRUARY: The Holy Family**

Every time we start a new month, we change the focus for prayer in our chapel. For the first part of February, we will be focusing on the Holy Family. We think of the love they had for God and each other. We try, therefore, to make our homes and St. Anthony's like Nazareth: places of kindness, prayer and support.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### From Desert to Garden



Last week we showed you examples of work from Year 5. This week, we are pleased to give examples of work from Year 3.



The focus of their lessons has been on the acts and parables of Jesus. In the first piece of work, we look at how Jesus displayed love for the soldier's servant. In the second piece, we look at the parable of the sower.

## PRAYER LIFE

### Focus for Prayer Around the School

Our Early Years children; Candlemas story; "Jesus is our light".

Years 1 and 2: Class liturgy with candles: Simeon and Anna meet Jesus; children share ways they can "shine" for others at school; make paper candles with simple prayers.

Years 3 to 6: Whole class or phase Celebration of the Word: procession with candles, reflection on Jesus as light in dark times; mission to be light in specific school situations (inclusion, playground, noticing the lonely).



## 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-01.02.26.pdf>

## PARISH LINKS TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2026/01/20260201-NEWSLETTER-2026.pdf>

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Saint Brigid of Ireland

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Saint Blaise, Bishop and martyr

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February – Saint Joan of Valois

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Saint Agatha, martyr

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February- St. Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Saint Colette

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### **St. Agatha: Feast Day February 5<sup>th</sup>**

*St Agatha lived in Sicily around 1,800 years ago and chose as a young girl to dedicate her life to God and helping others, even when it was hard. Born to a wealthy family, she used her gifts for prayer and kindness, becoming a model of strong faith and pure heart.*

*She is patron saint of Catholic schools, nurses, and fire-fighters, protecting those who care for others and keep us safe. Her symbols, like veiled bread and lamps, remind us of God's light and nourishment in tough times.*

***Let's pray: Saint Agatha, help us be brave in our faith, kind to those in need, and shining lights like you. Amen.***



## Readings at Mass and Liturgical Colours

Date	1st Reading	Psalms	Gospel	Liturgical Colour
Mon 2 Feb	Mal 3:1-4	23:7-10ab, 11 (R: v.10)	Lk 2:22-40	White
Tue 3 Feb	Heb 12:1-4	124:1b-8 (R: v.8)	Mk 5:21-43	Green
Wed 4 Feb	Heb 12:17-20, 28-13:4	47:2-4, 6-9 (R: v.9)	Mk 6:1-6	Green
Thu 5 Feb	Heb 13:1-8	26:1-10abc, 11-13 (R: v.8)	Mk 6:7-13	Red
Fri 6 Feb	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21	22:1-5 (R: v.22)	Mk 6:30-35	Red
Sat 7 Feb	1 Kgs 3:4-13	Ps 119:9-14 (R: v.12)	Mk 6:30-34	Green

## CATHOLIC LIFE

### THANK YOU CORNER

We thank all the members of Holy Rood SVP Society who do so much for our parish and school.

During Lent, we look forward to welcoming them to meet our Chaplaincy Team to talk about their work and share ways we can support them.



## Prayer for the week of Candlemas

Loving God,

On this feast of Candlemas we thank you for Jesus, the Light of the World, presented in the temple and revealed as our salvation.

Bless our school this week with the joy of his light. May our children shine with kindness, our teachers guide with wisdom, and our families walk in peace.

Help us carry Christ's light into February, growing in faith like candles burning bright.

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

Amen.

## 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

This week we look at Jesus' words about being quiet lights that shine by doing acts of goodwill in our everyday lives.

**THE MARK 10 MISSION**

# MISSION FILE

**GOSPEL**      **MATTHEW 5:13-16**

**At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.**

**'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'**

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

## DIVERSITY

**PRAYER**

WHAT ARE THREE WAYS YOU CAN BE SALT AND LIGHT THIS WEEK?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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**

WHO DO YOU THINK JESUS IS PERSONALLY INVITING YOU TO SHARE YOUR LIGHT WITH? WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES?

JESUS SAYS "IF SALT LOSES ITS TASTE, HOW CAN IT BE RESTORED?" WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S TEACHING YOU HERE?

**MISSION**

JESUS SAID "YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH, YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." YOUR MISSION IS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT TO THOSE AROUND YOU, ENRICHING AND BRIGHTENING THEIR LIVES. TO DO THIS, SHARE AN ENCOURAGING COMPLIMENT WITH SOMEONE EACH DAY THIS WEEK. YOU COULD TELL THEM SOMETHING YOU THINK THEY ARE GOOD AT OR A THING THEY DO WHICH MAKES YOU HAPPY. GIVE IT A TRY THIS WEEK AND ENJOY SHARING THE LIGHT OF JESUS.

**COLOUR**



**STIA**

# THE MISSION

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

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