



St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter
Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge
Thursday 19th March 2026



To all those of Irish heritage in St. Anthony's community, we hope you had a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Patrick, Ireland's beloved patron saint, lived in the 5th century and is celebrated on March 17th for bringing Christianity to the Emerald Isle.

Born in Roman Britain around 386 AD to a Christian family, he was kidnapped at age 16 by Irish raiders and enslaved as a shepherd for six years, where his faith deepened through prayer.



After escaping to France for priestly training, Patrick felt called back to Ireland around 432 AD as a bishop to spread the Gospel. He faced hostility from pagan chieftains and druids but won converts by blending Christian teachings with local traditions, like creating the Celtic cross by adding a sun symbol to the Christian cross. Legends tell of miracles, such as driving out snakes (symbolizing evil) and using the shamrock to explain the Trinity.

Patrick baptized thousands, ordained priests, founded churches, and wrote his *Confessio*, humbly sharing his story. He died around 461 AD in Saul, Ireland, leaving a Christian legacy that inspired Europe.

This week, let's pray with Patrick: "Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me."



PRAYER LIFE

LENTEN JOURNEY

This week of Lent we continue following the story of Jesus as he gently calls us to change our hearts and come closer to God. We hear in Sunday's Gospel how Jesus offers "living water" to the Samaritan woman at the well, showing that his love is for everyone and that he never gives up on us, no matter what our past has been.

In school, we are invited to spend a little more time in prayer, to notice people who may feel left out and to share what we have with those in need. Each small act of kindness, honesty or forgiveness is like a drop of living water that brings new life to our families, our classrooms and our world as we journey towards Easter.

OUR SCHOOL CHAPEL OPEN FRIDAY MORNING

For the fourth week of Lent, our school chapel will once again reflect this special season of prayer and preparation and will be **open on Friday from 8.30 to 8.55am** for quiet prayer and reflection.

Our children use the chapel regularly at lunchtimes either for a moment of prayer or for a longer period of reflection.

Focus for Prayer Around the School

EYFS

Our youngest children will be praying about how Jesus loves everyone, just as he loved the Samaritan woman in this week's Gospel. They will thank God for water, friends, and their families, and ask him to help them share and be kind every day.

Years 1 and 2

Children in Years 1 and 2 will be praying for the courage to tell Jesus about the things they are sorry for, and to ask for his help to be honest and welcoming to everyone. They will bring to prayer anyone who feels lonely or sad, asking Jesus to fill their hearts with joy.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, the children will be praying about the 'living water' Jesus offers us in the Gospel, asking God to help them thirst for what is good and



true. They will pray for those who are thirsty in our world, for peace and for the grace to keep their Lenten promises with hope and trust.

CONFESSIONS

Fr. Tim will be joining us on Friday morning to hear confessions for children from Year 4 to 6. This will take place in the chapel.

CATHOLIC LIFE

SVP VISITING ST. ANTHONY'S

Last Friday morning we were visited by Paul, Julie, Kennedy and Albino, members of the Holy Rood SVP. They met with our Chaplaincy Team to speak about their work and mission in the community. They answered questions from the children about practical ways the school can make a difference to people's lives.

We discussed several possible projects centred around Holy Rood Church, the local care homes and fundraising for charities such as CAFOD.

The meeting was very productive and you will be able to hear of the initiatives and ideas from their discussions.

CHARITY WALK FOR THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Next Friday, the last day of term, the children will take part in a charity walk to raise money for the Catholic Children's Society. The Chaplaincy Team will lead an assembly next week to speak about the work of this charity.

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) is one of the oldest UK charities (founded 1859), helping disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire, and the South East. They provide crisis funds, counselling in schools, family support, post-adoption care and early help to build resilience – for children of all faiths and none.

Our charity walk will raise money for CCS to support vulnerable children facing poverty, mental health struggles or family crises. It's a perfect



Lenten act of almsgiving, showing God's love through our steps and generosity. Please donate through the School Gateway. Thank you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

From Desert to Garden

In Week 4 of Branch 4 from the Catholic RE Directory, the children continue to explore the events of Holy Week and Jesus' journey from suffering to Resurrection.

Children will explore Palm Sunday's joyful welcome, the Last Supper and foot-washing on Holy Thursday, Jesus' Passion and death on Good Friday, the silence of Holy Saturday, and the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Through stories, prayer, drama and symbols like palms and Paschal candles, they reflect on God's transforming love – turning desert struggles into the garden of new life.

This prepares hearts for the Paschal Triduum, connecting Lent's sacrifices to Easter hope.

PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2026/03/Newsletter-15.03.2026.pdf>

PARISH LINKS TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2026/03/20260315-NEWSLETTER-2026.pdf>



Prayer for this Week of Lent

Lord Jesus,

*In this week of Lent,
help us grow stronger in faith and love.*

*Guide our steps as we walk together,
remind us to care for those who need us most,
and fill our hearts with hope for Easter joy.*

*Bless our school, our families, and all who give to others,
so that your light shines through every kind word and deed.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



CONNECT

Before the end of term, take a lead in a Prayer and Liturgy.

Plan a reading, display a picture or invite others to listen to a piece of music.

Allow people to reflect on what it says to them.

Allow people to share their thoughts and think about a special mission you want your classmates to carry out.

Your teacher will be able to help.

Mark Ten Mission

THE
MARK 10
MISSION

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

JOHN 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SACRIFICE

PRAYER

WHEN YOU LOOK WITH THE EYES OF YOUR HEART, WHERE DO YOU SEE JESUS WORKING IN YOUR LIFE?

PRAY A THANK YOU PRAYER TO JESUS FOR EACH OF THESE.

WONDER QUESTIONS

WHY WAS JESUS SO QUICK TO GO AND FIND THE MAN AFTER HE HAD BEEN TREATED BADLY?

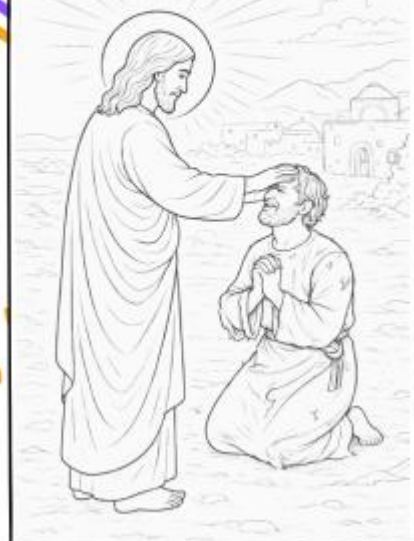
WHY DID JESUS ASK THE BLIND MAN TO GO TO THE POOL TO WASH HIS EYES?

WHY NOT HEAL HIM STRAIGHT AWAY?

MISSION

WRITE DOWN THREE WAYS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK AND CLOSE TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE. IT MAY BE THAT YOU SEE HIM WORKING THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE OR PERHAPS THERE IS A TIME AND PLACE WHERE YOU PARTICULARLY KNOW THAT HE IS WITH YOU.

COLOUR





THE MISSION

JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MAN

WRITE DOWN THREE WAYS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK AND CLOSE TO YOU IN YOUR LIFE. IT MAY BE THAT YOU SEE HIM WORKING THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE OR PERHAPS THERE IS A TIME AND PLACE WHERE YOU PARTICULARLY KNOW THAT HE IS WITH YOU.



THE
MARK 10
MISSION