



St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter
Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge
Friday 4th September 2026

Welcome back to all our families and we extend a very special welcome to all families who are joining St. Anthony's this year.

The purpose of our weekly updates is to give you information about Religious Education, Catholic life and prayer at our school.

We hope you find it informative and useful.

CATHOLIC LIFE

MISSION STATEMENT

The beginning of the year is a good time to remind ourselves of the school's Mission Statement, *We Grow and Learn with Jesus*.

This captures the heart of who we are as a Catholic school. It reminds us that every part of school life is shaped by the Gospels and that, with each step of our children's development, they journey alongside Christ.

We place Jesus at the centre of learning, worship and relationships, so that faith is not just taught but lived every day.

We seek the full potential of each child- spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially. We are always aware that we "travel with Jesus" in this growth.

As a school community working with parents and parish, we kindle a thirst for faith and knowledge so children can exceed their potential and become valued members of society.

We also recognise that the word "learn" is closely connected in origin to the word "teach". We are all learners and teachers: gaining ideas, making mistakes and using what we learn to help others grow. We do this guided by Gospel values which shape how we live, learn and teach together.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All classes at St. Anthony's School are now working to the new Catholic Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD), To Know you More Clearly. As of this month, the curriculum is statutory in catholic schools in the UK.

The RECD was implemented at St. Anthony's last September to give us a head start so that staff and children could become familiar with its requirements and expectations.

Over the course of the year, we shall share children's work from the curriculum to show you what we are doing in classrooms.

THE FIRST AUTUMN TERM

Each term of teaching and learning in the RE curriculum is divided into branches. There are 6 branches over the course of the year.

Branch 1 of the Catholic RE curriculum is called ***Creation and Covenant***

In Branch 1, children:

Meet the God who creates and calls a people: they explore the Christian belief that everything comes from God.

Study the Creation accounts in Genesis, alongside age-appropriate explanations of how the world came to be.

Discover God's covenant relationship with His people, beginning with Abraham and Moses and following the story of the Old Testament.

As in all branches, pupils work through four "knowledge lenses" drawn from the Catechism: Hear, Believe, Celebrate, and Live, so they not only learn about the faith but also pray, celebrate, and live it.

You might support your child at home by:

Talking about the beauty of creation and thanking God for it.

Reading or listening to the Creation story (Genesis 1) together.

Asking: "How does God show He loves us? How can we care for His world?"

This branch helps children see that our faith begins with a loving Creator who calls us into relationship with Him and with one another.



PRAYER LIFE

We follow our Prayer and Liturgy Directory, *To Love you More Dearly*.

The directory aims to place Christ at the centre of everyday activities in the school so that we can ensure prayer and spiritual life is at the core of everything we do.

We recognise in a world of social media and noise, offering all members of the school community daily opportunities for silence, reflection and prayer. For this reason, these opportunities are structured into our daily routine.

A typical day in the school will look like this:

BEGINNING OF THE DAY

The day begins with either formal prayers the children will know, or more personal intentions.

LUNCH TIME PRAYER

Prayers of thanksgiving before the children begin the lunch hour.

CLASS PRAYER AND LITURGY

Children gather after the lunch break for a period of prayer. Each period of prayer consists of some or all of the following key elements:

- **GATHER**
Using music or other familiar rituals to allow the class to transition into the period of prayer
- **THE WORD**
A reading from Scripture read by some of the children
- **RESPONSE**
A time of reflection as staff and children share their thoughts on the scripture reading
- **MISSION**
The teacher or child leading the liturgy decides on a practical way the scripture passage might be lived out within the school community.



There will be days when a moment of prayer and liturgy will focus on the safety of silence and stillness.

A painting or an object might be used as a stimulus, a single sentence or word. We recognise that there are many ways we can encounter God in our daily lives and Prayer and Liturgy times gives us that opportunity to explore those different experiences.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

A moment of quiet and stillness with a formal prayer or a personal intention before going home.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND LITURGY

We shall ensure the children and staff meet at least once or twice a week for Key Stage Assemblies led by Elaine or other members of the Senior Leadership Team. All our assemblies have Prayer and Liturgy at their core.

LITURGICAL YEAR

We will follow the liturgical year so that Feast Days are celebrated within the school.

Dates to note for the autumn term will be:

September

September 14th Feast of the Holy Cross

September 27th Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

October The Month of the Holy Rosary

October 4th St. Francis

October 18th St. Luke

October 22nd St. John Paul the Great

November Month of the Holy Souls

November 2nd All Saints Day

November 3rd All Souls Day

November 30th First day of Advent



December Advent

December 8th Immaculate Conception

CHAPEL

Our school chapel is available for the children to use either with their classes, small groups or individually. The chapel, located in the Year 3 corridor, is a place of peace and reflection where children and adults can go for prayer and moments of stillness. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, the chapel is open before school for families to visit as the working day begins. The chapel is also open most lunchtimes between 12.30 and 1pm.

MASSES

St. Anthony's lies in between two parish churches, Holy Rood and St. Bede's. We have worked closely with Fr. Tim at Holy Rood Church who is our School Chaplain. Fr. David Knight at St. Bede's is very keen to work with us too.

Children can attend masses either within school or at church over the course of the year.

Last July, our Year 6 children attended Holy Rood Church for their Leavers' Mass. It was the first time that our Year 6 pupils have attended Leavers' Mass at the church so it was particularly special for them to celebrate with parishioners in such beautiful and historical surroundings.

PARISH LINKS TO HOLY ROOD CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2026/09/Newsletter-30.08.2026.pdf>

PARISH LINKS TO ST. BEDE'S CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2026/07/20260719-NEWSLETTER-2026.pdf>

From July 2026

LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Green for Ordinary Time



EDUCATION SUNDAY

Education Sunday takes place on Sunday 13th September. It is the day of prayer and celebration for all those involved in education: pupils, staff, governors and families.

It is a chance for us to thank God for the gift of learning and to pray for all those who guide and support us on our journey. We ask God to bless St. Anthony's School community and all the schools across the UK.

Please find below a letter about Education Sunday written by Bishop Marcus Stock, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, the Catholic Church in England and Wales will observe Education Sunday on 13th September, the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The Gospel reading this year for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, is taken from St Matthew's Gospel:

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

Matthew 18:21-35

As the new academic year begins in our Catholic schools, colleges and universities, and rejoicing in the overflowing forgiveness of Our Heavenly Father which is revealed to us in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, we place before Almighty God in prayer all the pupils and students, staff members and leaders, governors and directors of our educational institutions.

During this special Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Saint's death, we also pray that we will be inspired to imitate the Poor Man of Assisi to work for peace, live simply, be of service to the poor, and trustworthy stewards of God's creation.

On Education Sunday, we give thanks to the Lord for the vocations of all who work within the Catholic sector: the teaching and support staff, chaplains, school leaders and governors. It is through their commitment and hard work that pupils and students in our schools, colleges and universities can thrive and contribute to society, through their formation and education.

In the academic year ahead, let us endeavour to give witness to the message of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace in the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and to pray that our Catholic schools, colleges and universities will be beacons of His good news in our communities.

With every blessing, I remain,

+ Marcus

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

The Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds
Chairman of the Catholic Education Service

Catholic Education Service

An agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Chairman: The Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds

Director: Paul Barber

Company Number: 4734592 Charity Number: 1097482



Prayer for the New School Year

Lord of all wisdom and love,
As we begin this new school year,
We thank you for the gift of learning,
For teachers, staff, pupils, and families
Who make St. Anthony's School whole.

Bless our school with your presence.
Make it a place of safety, truth, and joy,
Where every child is known and valued,
Where kindness is learned and practised,
And where faith grows in word and deed.

Grant our staff wisdom,
Our pupils curiosity and courage,
Our parents trust and hope,
And our community strength and unity.
May the Holy Spirit guide us all
To seek what is good, just, and true.

Throughout the journey of this year
May we always
Grow and Learn with Jesus.
We place this year in your hands,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK



Every week we offer activities to support the wellbeing of our school community.

These activities are there for you to do if you need them and cover 5 main elements:

Connect	Be with friends and family.
Be Active	Move about every day.
Keep Learning	Try new things and ask questions.
Give	Be kind and help others.
Take Notice	Look, listen and enjoy the world around you.

Here is this week's challenge:

GIVE

Think about your hopes for the new school year.

You could write them down, draw them or create a prayer.



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 look at the idea of forgiveness and reflect on the life of St. Teresa.

THE MARK 10 MISSION

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

ENCOUNTER

PRAYER

Write a short prayer asking Jesus to help you be a person of forgiveness.

FIND + MEMORISE

*Blessed are the _____,
for they will be called children of God.*

Matthew 5:9

WONDER QUESTIONS

Why do you think Jesus wants us to let go of grudges and unforgiveness?

As you try to forgive, how can it change things if you realise that Jesus is with you?

Your Mark 10 Mission is to follow the advice of Jesus in the Gospel. If you fall out with someone this week, try your best to make peace quickly.





Watch this week's episodes



SAINT OF THE WEEK



MISSIONARY FOUNDRESS

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

FEAST
SEPTEMBER 5TH



WHO IS SHE?

St Teresa of Calcutta loved Jesus deeply and tried to see Him in every person she met, especially people who were poor, sick or forgotten. She founded the Missionaries of Charity, a community of nuns who cared for people who had nowhere else to go. Mother Teresa often remembered Jesus' words from the Cross: "I thirst", and she understood this as Jesus asking her to love Him by loving others. She once said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one," reminding us that even a small act of love can make a difference.

PRAYER

St Teresa of Calcutta loved to pray this prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me
sow love.
Where there is injury,
pardon.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Amen.

SAINT MISSION

This week, help three people in need. Especially try to notice those who others have forgotten. After sharing the love of Jesus with them, write who they are below.