St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter

Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge

Friday 6th November 2026

CATHOLIC LIFE

November: Remembering with Love

As we begin November, we take time to remember with love those who have died and to pray for their families and friends. Following the celebration of All Saints on Sunday 1 November, the Church marked All Souls' Day on Monday 2 November, when we pray for all those family and friends who have died.

Our theme this week is hope. Through prayer and reflection, we invite children to remember the love, kindness and happy memories that connect us with people who are no longer with us.

Families may wish to spend a quiet moment together remembering someone special. You could share a happy memory, look at a photograph or say a short prayer. We recognise that remembering can bring different feelings, and children should feel free to take part in a way that is comfortable for them.

A Prayer of Remembrance

Loving God,

We remember the people we love who have died.

Thank you for the love they shared

and the memories we treasure.

Hold them in your care

and comfort everyone who misses them.

Amen.

South West Herts Christmas Appeal

A reminder that our school is supporting the South West Herts Partnership Family Support Service Christmas Appeal.

The appeal will provide Christmas Wellbeing Bags to bring comfort, warmth and care to local families. If you can contribute, please choose a brand-new item from the lists below.



Please bring donations to the school reception by Friday 27th November 2026. Unfortunately, items cannot be accepted after this date.

There is no expectation for every family to donate. Thank you to everyone who can help, whether through a contribution, prayer or encouragement. This appeal gives us an opportunity to put our faith into action by responding thoughtfully to the needs of our neighbours.

Thank You for Supporting Our Foodbank Collection

Thank you once again to everyone who was able to contribute to our recent foodbank collection. We are grateful for the generosity and care shown by our school community.

The collection offered children a practical example of loving our neighbour. It helped us reflect on Catholic Social Teaching, particularly solidarity, human dignity and care for people experiencing poverty. Together, small acts of generosity can become a meaningful expression of our shared responsibility for others.

Family Reflection

Talk together at home:

Who has shown you love or kindness?

What happy memories are you thankful for?

How could we comfort someone who is feeling sad?

What can we do this week to help someone feel cared for?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Looking Ahead: Prophecy and Promise

Our next curriculum branch, Prophecy and Promise, provides opportunities to explore how God speaks to his people and how Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

This branch introduces children, in age-appropriate ways, to the messages of the prophets, the hope of a promised Saviour and the

meaning of Advent. It leads towards learning about the Nativity and the Christian belief that Jesus is God made human.

A question for families to explore together:

What does it mean to keep a promise?

Children could think about:

A promise they have made.

Why keeping a promise matters.

How it feels to wait for something important.

How they can bring hope or encouragement to another person.

PRAYER LIFE

Celebrations and Prayer Intentions This Week

Monday 2 November – All Souls' Day

We pray for those who have died and for everyone who misses someone they love.

Tuesday 3 November – Weekday in Ordinary Time

Optional memorial includes St Martin de Porres

Our prayer focus is service. We give thanks for people who care for others and ask God to help us notice opportunities to offer kindness and practical help.

Wednesday 4 November – St Charles Borromeo, Bishop

We remember St Charles Borromeo. Today, we pray for bishops, priests, teachers and all who help others to learn about and grow in faith.

Thursday 5 November – Weekday in Ordinary Time

We pray for peace in our homes, school and wider world. Help us to listen carefully, speak respectfully and find peaceful ways to resolve disagreements.

Friday 6 November – Weekday in Ordinary Time

As the school week draws to a close, we give thanks for our learning, friendships and the people who support us. We pray especially for anyone who needs rest, comfort or encouragement.

Saturday 7 November – Weekday in Ordinary Time

We pray for those who share the Christian faith and for communities throughout the world. May our own words and actions reflect God's love.

Sunday 8 November – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

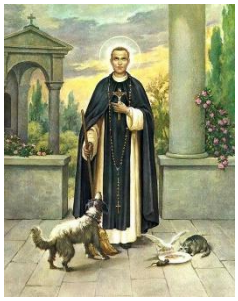
In Matthew 25:1–13, Jesus tells the parable of the ten bridesmaids. Five bring extra oil for their lamps and are ready when the bridegroom arrives. The Gospel invites us to reflect on being prepared to welcome Jesus.

For our children, a helpful question is:

How can we be ready to respond with love when someone needs us?

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Martin de Porres



St Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. He grew up in poverty and experienced unfair treatment because of his mixed-race background. Despite these difficulties, he devoted his life to prayer and caring for others, becoming a Dominican brother.

Martin learnt skills in caring for the sick and used them to help people in his community. Whether someone was rich or

poor, he welcomed them with kindness and compassion. He also carried out everyday tasks, such as sweeping and cleaning, showing that even simple jobs can be done with great love.

His example helps us reflect on dignity: every person is precious and deserves to be treated with care and respect. As we support our Christmas appeal, we can follow Martin's example by noticing the needs of others and responding generously.

What Can We Learn from St Martin?

Treat everyone with kindness, whatever their background.

Notice people who need help or friendship.

Use our skills and talents to care for others.

Carry out everyday tasks willingly and thoughtfully.

Make time for prayer alongside helping others.

Community Challenge for the Week

Choose one quiet act of service each day. You could tidy a shared space, help someone with a task or invite someone to join your game. Try to do it without expecting a reward or recognition.

A Short Prayer

Loving God,

help us to follow St Martin's example

by treating everyone with kindness and respect.

Open our eyes to those who need our help

and teach us to serve with generous hearts.

St Martin de Porres, pray for us.

Amen.

CHAPEL

Our school chapel, located in the Year 3 corridor, offers a quiet space for prayer and reflection.

This week, children are invited to:

Write a prayer remembering someone special.

Give thanks for a happy memory.

Pray for someone who is feeling sad or lonely.

Pray for the families supported by our Christmas appeal.

Sit quietly and speak to God in their own words.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A Prayer for Hope and Kindness

Loving God,

Thank you for the people who love and care for us,

and for the memories we hold in our hearts.

Be close to those who are grieving,

comfort those who feel lonely,

and bring hope to those who are worried.

Help us to notice when someone needs a friend.

Give us patient words, generous hearts

and the courage to offer help.

May our school be a place

where everyone feels welcomed, valued and loved.

Amen.

PARISH LINKS

Holy Rood Church Weekly Newsletter

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2026/11/Newsletter-01.11.2026.pdf

St. Bede's Church Weekly Newsletter

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2026/10/20261101-NEWSLETTER-2026.pdf

LITURGICAL COLOURS WORN AT MASS

Green is used for the weekday Masses of Ordinary Time and for Sunday 8 November. White is used for the memorial of St Charles Borromeo. For All Souls' Day, violet or white may be used.

LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS WEEK

Every week, we offer activities to support the wellbeing of our school community. These optional activities are there for you to support your wellbeing and cover five 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.

This Week's Challenge: Connect

Make time for a conversation with someone you trust.

You could:

Share something you enjoyed this week.

Ask someone about a happy memory.

Read a book or play a game together.

Tell someone why you appreciate them.

Talk about a worry with a trusted adult.

Invite someone to join your activity.

There is no need to have the perfect words. Sometimes, simply spending time together and listening is a kind way to show that we care.

Mark Ten Mission

This Week's Mission – Holiness and Love

This week's Mark Ten Mission invites us to think about how we can be ready to welcome Jesus. Through the parable of the ten bridesmaids, Jesus reminds us to keep our hearts prepared, just as the wise bridesmaids brought extra oil to keep their lamps burning.

Our focus is readiness: making time for Jesus in prayer and allowing his love to guide our everyday choices. Through listening to God's Word, praying and singing together, we are encouraged to keep the light of faith shining in our lives.


MISSION
KEEP YOUR LAMP BURNING
"Your Mark 10 Mission is to add drops of oil to the lamp on your Mission File. Use a coloured pen to add a drop of oil each time you welcome Jesus into your heart. That could be by spending time in prayer, by going to Mass or by doing an act of kindness."
THE MARK 10 MISSION

THE MARK 10 MISSION

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

REMEMBRANCE

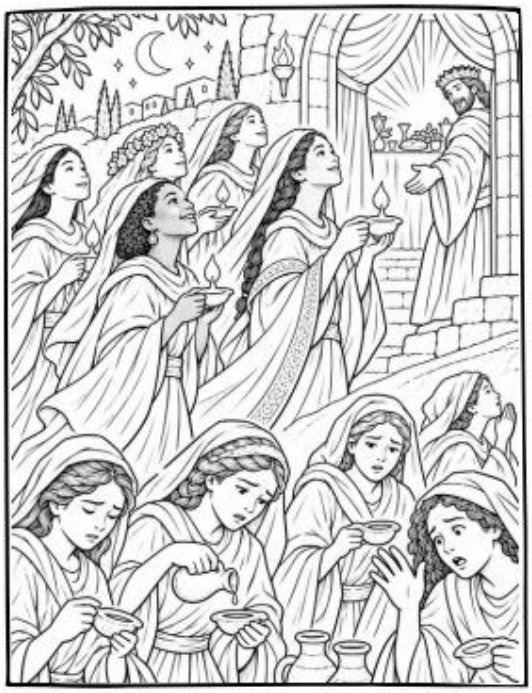


FIND + MEMORISE

Your word is a _ _ _ _ _ to my feet
and a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to my path.

Psalm 119: 105





Watch this week's episodes

WONDER QUESTIONS

Is it better that we do not know the day or the hour when Jesus will come again?

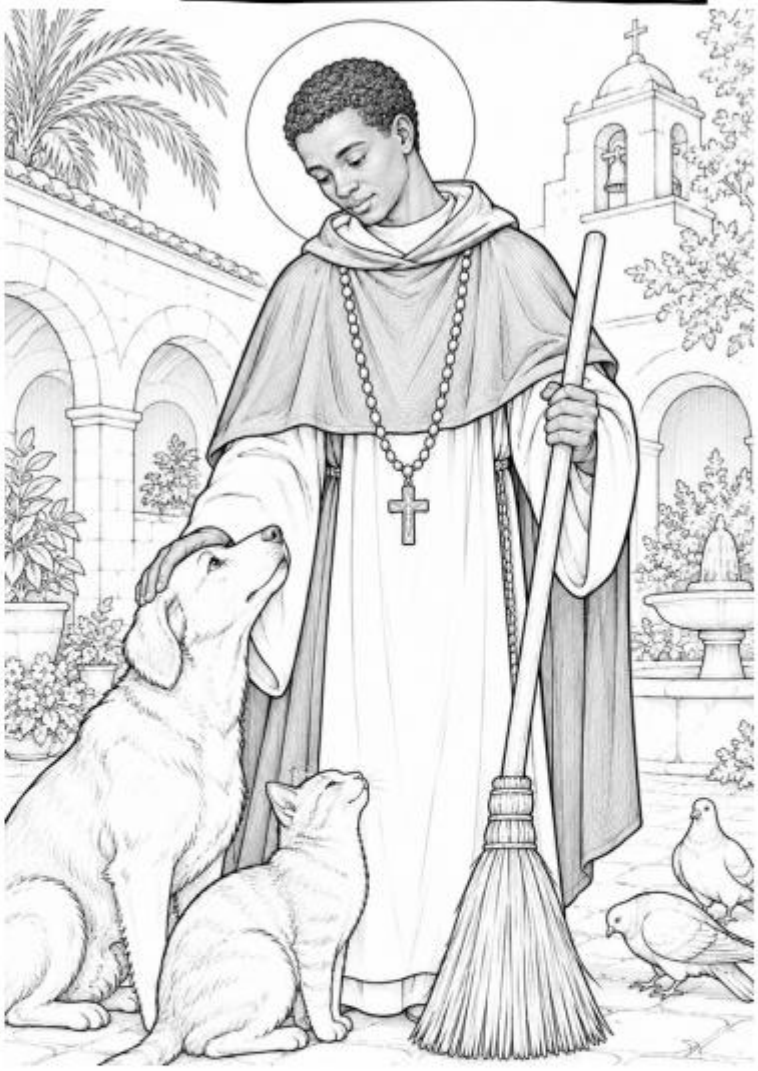
Why, in the parable, does Jesus add the detail that the bridegroom was delayed?

SAINT OF THE WEEK

DOMINICAN

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

FEAST
NOVEMBER 3RD



WHO IS HE?

St Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579 and grew up facing poverty and unfair treatment because of the colour of his skin. He became a Dominican brother and spent his life caring for the sick, feeding the hungry and helping anyone in need. Martin loved Jesus deeply, spending many hours in prayer, and was known for his extraordinary humility and gentleness, even towards animals. He reminds us that we can become saints through small acts of kindness, treating everyone with love and recognising Jesus in those who need our help.

WORDS OF SAINT MARTIN

"Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God."

SAINT MISSION

St Martin loved serving Jesus by helping others. He was happy to do even the smallest jobs, like sweeping the floor, because he knew that everything could be an act of love for God.
This week, become a secret servant! Find three ways to help someone without being asked and without expecting any reward. You could tidy up, help someone who is struggling or do a kind deed for somebody in need.