



Reflection

This Sunday, we hear about another person that Jesus healed. A man who has a skin problem comes to Jesus and asks to be healed. Jesus makes the man better but asks that he not tell anyone what has happened. Instead, he asks the man to visit the priest and give thanks to God for his cure.

The man does not do as Jesus asks; instead, he goes round telling everyone the story. Perhaps it was because he was just so happy to be well again and wanted everyone to know about it.

We try to be like Jesus today in our world, by caring for others, and helping them when they are ill or finding things difficult. How can you be more like Jesus and care for others who are ill or finding things difficult.

Prayer

Christ Jesus, you always looked after people who were sick or in need. Help us to be more like you and to care for others here and around the world. Amen.

Ash Wednesday - WED 14th

The beginning of Lent falls in half term this year. Please see here for mass times. 9.30am St Marys 7.00pm Holy Name.

Lent

Mission Together Lenten Calendar 2024



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
We will soon begin our Lenten journey to Easter. We pray that we may use this time to grow in love of God and each other.	13 Shrove Tuesday. Find out why we eat pancakes today. *	14 Ash Wednesday Why are ash crosses traced on our forehead today? *	15 Why does Lent last forty days? *	16 With your class, reflect and pray with the 1st and 2nd Stations of the Cross. +	17 Many years ago Lent was a name for Spring. Capture both in Mission Together's <i>Lent through a Lens</i> challenge. *	18 Find a quiet place and ask God to help you pray and share more this Lent.
19 Yesterday's Sunday Gospel was Mk 1:12-15. What does it encourage us to do this week? +	20 In Lent we give things up to put God and others first. What could you give up today?	21 Jesus showed us how to be silent and still. Spend a minute being both now.	22 Find out what the word 'sacrifice' means and why we practice this in Lent.	23 With your class reflect and pray with the 3rd & 4th Stations of the Cross. +	24 Tell your family about the Stations of the Cross and why we pray them in Lent.	25 Find a quiet place and spend a little time talking to Jesus, our God and our friend.
26 Yesterday's Sunday Gospel was Mk 9:2-10. What does it encourage us to do this week? +	27 In Lent we listen to God and others more carefully. How can you listen well this week? *	28 Hear God speak to you today through: Creation The Bible Loved ones	29 In Lent we try to change our ways for the better. What could you change today?	1 MARCH Feast of St David. Find out what 'Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant Hapus' means.*	2 Tell a family member three things you have learnt about Lent this week.	3 Find a quiet place and pray the <i>Our Father</i> for all hungry children in the world.
4 Yesterday's Sunday Gospel was Jn 2:13-22. What does it encourage us to do this week? +	5 Jesus taught us to be fair. How can we act with fairness today?	6 In Lent we give what we can to help others. What help can you give today?	7 Lent is a time to share more of what we have. Why is sharing important?	8 With your class reflect and pray with the 7th & 8th Stations of the Cross. +	9 Tell a family member why we pray more in Lent. Teach them your favourite prayer.	10 Mothering Sunday Ask God to bless mums and grandmas today.
11 Yesterday's Sunday Gospel was Jn 3:14-16. What does it teach us about who Jesus is? +	12 In Lent we reflect on God's mercy. Why is it important to be sorry and to forgive?	13 Write a Lent prayer. Include the words: <i>mercy, pray, share, Jesus, God, Holy Spirit.</i>	14 Say a <i>Hail Mary</i> for those who help people heal: carers, therapists, nurses, doctors.	15 With your class reflect and pray with the 9th, 10th 11th Stations of the Cross. +	16 Lent is a time to say sorry and forgive. Ask God to help you and your family do both.	17 Today we recall St Patrick. Find out why he is patron of Ireland.*
18 Yesterday's Sunday Gospel was Jn 12:20-24. What does it teach us about what Jesus offers? +	19 In Lent we pray and share to help those in need. Who shall we help today?	20 Say the <i>Our Father</i> for farmers and for those who make the food we'll eat today.	21 We're coming closer to Holy Week. Why is it the most special week of the Church year?	22 With your class reflect and pray with the 12th, 13th and 14th Stations of the Cross. +	23 Tomorrow is Palm Sunday. Tell a family member about the first Palm Sunday.	24 Palm Sunday Find a quiet place and thank God for sending Jesus to love and guide us.
25 Yesterday's Palm Sunday Gospel was Mk 11:1-10. What does it teach us about who Jesus is? +	26 Holy Week Today we recall Judas' bad decision. Ask God to help you make good choices this week.	27 Today Jesus and his disciples planned the Last Supper. Thank God for the food you'll eat today.	28 Maundy Thursday Why do Priests wash the feet of others at Mass tonight?	29 Good Friday Sit quietly, be still, and thank Jesus for loving us all so much.	30 Holy Saturday Today we wait as Jesus lies in the tomb. Say a prayer for those who are grieving today.	31 Easter Sunday

The season of Lent starts on Wednesday 14th February with Ash Wednesday. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are important parts of Lent, please see below for further information from the Mini Vinnies.

Lots of information, workbooks and videos about Lent can be found here on the [Mission Together](#) website. You can also find a Lent Calendar with daily actions to help prepare for Easter in this special liturgical season.

Family Mass

Our next Family Mass is on **Sunday 18th February at 11am** in church. We hope you can join us on the first Sunday of Lent.

Calendar symbols: + refers to scriptures and reflections found in our Mission Together Celebrations of the Word, also to our Stations of the Cross. The * symbol refers to Lenten activities or Five Fact Saints Assemblies. These and additional Lent resources are available at missiontogether.org.uk/Lent/ Registered Charity No. 1056651



NEWSLETTER – 9th February 2024

Message from the Mini Vinnies

As you may know, part of our role is to identify and help those in need. We have been thinking hard about how we can put this into action this Lent, as we prepare for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We thought about children who are less fortunate than ourselves, families who may be struggling to feed themselves and old people who may be lonely.

We hope you will help us in our mission to spread joy and love to these people this Lent.



We would love to support children and families who don't have as much as us and would like to donate Easter Eggs for the SVP food bank. In addition to this, as Lent lasts for 40 days, we thought it would be a great idea to set ourselves a '40-day food bank' challenge. We are asking for food donations throughout Lent. Please bring any Easter Eggs and food in by **Monday 25th March**.



At our Good Shepherd fundraiser, we are going to be decorating buns to sell. Buns will cost £1 and we guarantee they will be delicious!

We are also going to be making Easter cards to share with the elderly in our local community.



Finally, we will be taking part in the CAFOD 'Big Lent Walk' to raise money and help fight global poverty. The aim is to collectively walk 200km! If every child in school took part, this would be less than 1.5km per child which we think is very achievable. Sponsor forms will be given out in the first week after half term to record distant walked and money raised. Children are encouraged to walk as much as they can throughout the duration of Lent- we will be incorporating some walks into our school week as well! Please bring completed sponsor forms and any money raised to school by **Friday 22nd March**. We can't wait to see how far St. Mary's can walk!



We know we are asking for a lot of help but hope you will agree that it is important to help those less fortunate and help spread love and kindness in our community.
Thank you, The St. Mary's Mini Vinnies

Extra times for the sacrament of Reconciliation 2024

The recent preparation programme for first reconciliation will end this Sunday. Families can attend the regular times on a Saturday morning at 10.30-11am in the church Mass is being said (usually both St Mary's or Holy Name but please check the bulletin for any changes) or Saturday evening 5.30pm-6pm at Holy Name. The catechist will have explained to families how they are to make the priest aware if your child is attending confession for the first time. Father Michael and Father Marc have also allocated extra dates and times should families wish to avail of these:

Date	Time	Church	Priest
Wed 21 st Feb	3.15-4.15pm	Holy Name	Fr Michael
Thurs 22 nd Feb	3.15-4.15pm	St Mary's	Fr Michael & Fr Marc
Mon 26 th Feb	3.15-4.15pm	Holy Name	Fr Marc
Tues 27 th Feb	3.15-4.15pm	St Mary's	Fr Michael & Fr Marc

Congratulations to all the children who have prepared so well to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation and a special thank you to all who have helped in their preparation. Please remember them all in your prayers.

Dear Lord, may we be attentive to your word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and be always grateful for your loving kindness. Help us to live the truth in love and grow into the fullness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

NEWSLETTER – 9th February 2024

Safer Internet Day

This week we celebrated Safer Internet Day and our School Council presented brilliantly to the rest of the school. As a school, we recognise the majority of our children spend a great deal of time online so we have bought into an online safety monthly newsletter which we will share with you on a monthly basis. The February newsletter can be found [here](#). Please also find attached [a guide to parental controls](#) to help you set up controls and adjust privacy settings to provide your child with a safer online environment.

World Book Day

World book day is on **Thursday 7th March 2024**.

What to Wear

This year, we invite all children to come into school on WBD dressed up as a character from a book that has been made into a film. You do not need to have watched the film; it could just be a well-known character. The costume can be as simple or as complicated as you like.

Competition

This year, we invite you to make and decorate a mask as a book character. You can either use your own template or the one provided by school. You can be as creative as you like! There will be one winner chosen from each class who will be awarded with a book-related prize.



Northern Arts Factory

During the day on World Book Day, all year groups will have the chance to work with staff from Northern Arts drama company on a book theme. This is always a highlight for the children.

World Book Day Assembly

You are invited to join us for the World Book Day assemblies on Thursday 7th March. During this time, the children will have chance to show off their costumes, take part in a book themed quiz and listen to a story. We will also announce the competition winners! Reception and KS1's assembly is at 9.05am in the school hall and KS2's assembly is at 2.30pm in the school hall.

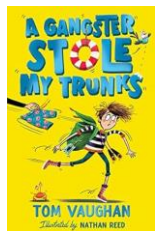
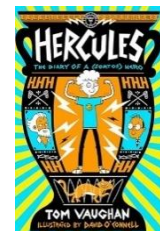
Book Swap

The children at St. Mary's do love to read and we know how many fabulous books so many of you have at home. However, due to the current financial climate, it might be becoming increasingly challenging to purchase new books. Therefore, we have decided to hold a 'book swap' after school on Thursday 7th March (World Book Day itself).

If your child would like to take part, please send them with 1 or more book(s) of their own from home between Monday 4th March and Wednesday 6th March. In return, they will be given a token/tokens to 'purchase' books at our book swap after school. This will take place in the KS1 playground (weather permitting).

Author Visit

This year, we have Tom Vaughan (an author who writes funny, illustrated children's books such as 'A Gangster Stole My Trunks') visiting St. Mary's on Wednesday 6th March. He will host a whole-school assembly followed by workshops for KS2.



Library Visits

In previous years, all classes have had the opportunity to visit Horsforth Library. However, due to staffing restrictions at the library, we are only able to offer a visit to two year groups. This will be years 1 and 2 as they are not being offered workshops with Tom Vaughan (author).

NEWSLETTER – 9th February 2024

On Tuesday 5th March, years 1 and 2 will have an opportunity to walk to Horsforth Library. Here, they will take part in an activity led by the library staff, explore the library and the resources available and borrow a selection of books to take back to school.

In order to meet the costs, and in line with the Governors' policy on charging for school activities, we request a voluntary contribution of:

- £4.20 per child from EYFS and KS1 – this is to cover the cost of Northern Arts Factory and the author assembly.
- £5.50 per child from KS2 – this is to cover the cost of Northern Arts Factory, the author assembly and author workshops.

Please pay by Monday 26th February. There is no obligation to pay but without sufficient contributions, these activities will have to be cancelled. A sympathetic response will also be made to any parent who wishes their child to participate in this activity but cannot afford the expense. Requests for consideration in this matter should be made to Mrs Hurley.

I hope you are looking forward to all the plans as much as we are!

*Many thanks,
Mrs Robertshaw*

Staffing

Miss M Roberts will be leaving St Mary's at February half term to go travelling. We thank her for the brilliant work she has done as a teacher but also her excellent work as PE lead and the many evenings she has spent stood next to the football pitch.

Miss S Michelet will be joining our school as Year 2 teacher after February half term and has been in school the week so she can have a thorough handover from Miss Roberts and meet the Year 2 children. We look forward to welcoming her to the St Mary's family.

Mrs Doolan, who has covered supply in school previously, will be teaching the Year 3 children on a Wednesday when Mrs Wray does not work, alongside MVMNT for PE.

Headteacher Awards

Reception – Orla O'S & Bethany W

Year 1 – Shelden K & Ruby T

Year 2 – All of Year 2

Year 3 – Olive S & George T

Year 4 – Leonardo Z & Charlie P

Year 5 – Evie C & Francesca G

Year 6 – Seth H & Evie I

Virtue Awards – Simplicity

Reception – Reuben S

Year 1 – Jonathan C

Year 2 – Aamir S

Year 3 – Grace C

Year 4 – Alice PB

Year 5 – Isobel S

Year 6 – Sam D

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Diary dates

Please note changes or additions in red. *denotes parents welcome

February

Sunday	18	11.00am	Family Mass*
Monday	19		School opens
Monday	19		Food Bank Challenge begins – all food and Easter Eggs welcome
Thursday	22		Y3 and Y6 rugby tournament
Tuesday	27		Year 1 trip
Wednesday	28		Year 4 skipping competition
Thursday	29		Open the Book
Thursday	29		Year 3 trip

March

Tuesday	5		Year 6 trip
Tuesday	5		Year 1 and Year 2 library visit
Wednesday	6		Author visit and workshop
Thursday	7		World Book Day
Thursday	7	9.05am	Reception and Key Stage 1 WBD assembly*
Thursday	7	2.30pm	Key Stage 2 WBD assembly*
Thursday	7		Northern Arts workshops
Friday	8		Family Fast Day – KS2 soup and a roll
Friday	8	9.05am	Mother's Day Assembly*
Monday	11		Year 5 Residential
Thursday	14	2.00pm	Reception Easter workshop*
Friday	15	2.30pm	Good Shepherd Fundraiser*
Friday	15		School Council trip
W/B	18		Book Fair
Monday	18	2.00pm	Year 5 and Year 6 Easter workshop*
Tuesday	19		Year 5 Rewind to Easter
Tuesday	19	4.00–6.30pm	Parents Evening*
Thursday	21	4.00–6.30pm	Parents Evening*
Friday	22	2.00pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Easter workshop*
Friday	22		Non Uniform for Good Shepherd - £1 suggested donation
Friday	22		Donations in for Cafod Big Lent Walk
W/B	25		Stations of the Cross
Monday	25		Donations close for food bank
Monday	25		Year 5 trip
Tuesday	26	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Year 5*
Tuesday	26	2.00pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Easter workshop*
Wednesday	27	2.30pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Easter production*
Thursday	28	9.05am	Year 5 class assembly*
Thursday	28		School closes



Parish News

THE SEASON OF LENT

begins this (Ash) Wednesday - a day of fasting and abstinence (one main meal only, no meat). Ashes will be given at all Masses on Wednesday. The cornerstones of Lent are praying, fasting and almsgiving. These sacrificial practices prepare and purify us in body, mind and spirit for the passion of our Lord.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday 6pm at Holy Name during Lent.

LEEDS DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Friday 5th - Thursday 11th July 2024. Bookings will be opening in the next few weeks and can be made either online or by telephone with the tour operator. Assisted pilgrims needing support please complete medical forms before booking with the tour operator (please contact stephturner100@gmail.com for medical form) All pilgrims who have travelled with us previously, will receive information from the tour operator. Information can also be found on the Diocesan website. We welcome new volunteers, particularly nurses and we need a GP for 2024. Please consider joining this rewarding service. To volunteer, please contact: lourdesrecruitment@dioceseofleeds.org.uk Any questions, please contact: lourdes.enquiries@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

SUNDAY MASSES (Saturday Vigil)

Holy Name	6.30pm
St. Mary's	8.15am
Holy Name	9.00am
Assumption	9.45am
St Mary's	11.00am
Holy Name	11.15am