



Reflection



This Sunday, we hear about how it is not always easy to follow Jesus or to accept what God wants to happen in our lives. Even Peter, one of Jesus's disciples found it difficult.

It is sometimes hard to do what God wants us to do, just like it was for Peter, because we are afraid, and we do not want to get hurt, or for those that we love to be hurt.

Jesus tells us that it will not always be easy to follow him, but that we must have courage, because God will always be with us. Will you be brave in the coming week? What will you do over the coming week to show that you follow Jesus?

Prayer: Christ Jesus, you call us to follow you. May we have the courage to answer that call, even in the most difficult times. Amen.

Father Emmanuel

Fr Emmanuel has been asked by the Missionary Society to take up a new ministry in a parish in Dundee, so will be leaving us for colder climes. His last Masses here will be on Sunday 24th October. We will welcome Fr Jude Iroh (pronounced i- row) MSP as our new parish priest. Fr Jude has been in the UK for several years & is currently parish priest in a similar sized parish to ours, in Aylesbury. I am sure you will join with us to say a huge thank you to Father Emmanuel who has been a wonderful support to the school and parish particularly during Covid.

Wednesday Word

Please see the link to read this week's [Wednesday Word](#) here.

New altar servers

Anyone who has received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion can become an Altar Server, no matter how old they are! If you are eligible & would like to become a server, please contact Amanda at the church office, who will arrange some instruction.

This is a bumper edition newsletter but please read all the information below as there are lots of things to look forward to but also lots of things we need your help with to keep the children safe.

NEWSLETTER – 10 September 2021

Back to school!

What an amazing first few days at school we have had. It was wonderful to have our first real life whole school collective worship and Mass this week for the first time in 18 months. The children have settled back into school life without bubbles brilliantly and showed real respect for all the new resources the school have had put in place over summer. The Key Stage 2 children have loved using the new fitness equipment in the Key Stage 2 playground and the children in Key Stage 1 have enjoyed reading stories to each other in their new reading area with story circle. We also love the children's virtues that they created for the entrance to school to stand with Mary and our new Hail Mary prayer. The children have done a wonderful job at creating the school mosaic based on Nicola in Year 6's design and when it's finished it will be displayed on the front of school.



New Reception children

It has been lovely to welcome our first 10 Reception children this week. They have settled in brilliantly to our school. Next week we will welcome the rest of our Reception children on Monday and Wednesday. I know the Year 6 buddies can't wait to meet their Reception buddies.

Clubs

Now we are no longer restricted to bubbles, the teaching staff will be running clubs for children throughout school. A letter regarding clubs will be sent out on Monday.

Nut allergies

We have a number of children with severe nut allergies in school. Your child must not bring any items into school containing nuts. Please be vigilant especially with packed lunches and snacks to ensure the safety of all the children.

NEWSLETTER – 10 September 2021

Good Shepherd Appeal 2021

We normally take part in the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal during Lent but due to Covid this was delayed. Each school in our Diocese raises money for the appeal and then we attend a Mass to present the cheque to Bishop Marcus. We did some fundraising last academic year but will be having a non uniform day for all the children next Friday, 17 September. The suggested donation is £1 each. We are also having a bun sale for all the children in school on Friday 17 September. We do require donations of buns so if you can donate 6 -12 buns, shop bought or home made by the morning of Thursday 16 September that would be amazing. These will then be sold to the children during the day so children will require money to buy a bun. All buns will be priced at 50p to keep it simple. Please send money in a named envelope especially for the younger children. Any remaining buns will be sold after school.

School lunches and snacks

The school is part of the Government fruit scheme. This provides every child in Key Stage One and Reception with a free piece of fruit each day. Children are welcome to bring in a piece of fruit for afternoon breaks. Pupils are not allowed to bring chocolate or sweets into school. Children in Key Stage 2 do not receive fruit so should bring a healthy snack into school for their morning break.

Children are encouraged to bring full bottles of water (sports top) to school each day. These can be refilled with chilled water when necessary at school. Please ensure children do not bring juice to school, they will be asked to replace this with water.

If your child brings their own packed lunch, please ensure it is a healthy packed lunch. There should be no chocolate bars or sweets.

School uniform reminder

A number of children returned to school with nail polish on this week, please ensure this is removed before children come to school on a Monday, if they wear it on a weekend.

- Children may not wear jewellery to school. Anyone with pierced ears should wear studs during school time.
- Make-up or nail varnish is not allowed in school.
- Long hair should be tied back with either a discreet headband or clips. These should be of a single colour, blue or white, to complement the school uniform.
- Extreme haircuts are not allowed.
- Jumpers and Cardigans must have the school logo on.

For boys, the uniform is:

- Black shoes and dark coloured socks
- Grey trousers
- White button-up collared shirt (long or short-sleeved)
- School navy blue jumper with logo
- School tie (elasticated version for KS1 and self-tie version for KS2)

For girls, the uniform will be:

- Black shoes
- White socks or grey tights
- Grey skirt/trousers/pinafore (blue gingham dresses may be worn after Easter)
- White button-up collared shirt (long or short-sleeved)
- School navy blue jumper or cardigan with logo
- School tie (elasticated version for KS1 and self-tie version for KS2)



NEWSLETTER – 10 September 2021

Entering and exiting school

The school car park is for school and parish use only. It should not be used by parents at drop off and pick up including Dawn til Dusk.

Children should enter school down the blue path, not through the car park. Children should not use the play equipment before school or after school for health and safety reasons.

School begins at 8.55am. Please ensure you are lined up in the Key Stage 1 playground at 8.55am.

Parents must not cut through the lines when children are entering the school in a morning. This week we had a number of children cut off from their class due to parents walking through the lines. This endangers the safety of our children. If you are in a hurry to leave the school grounds, please walk around the back of the children.

Fence

The wall between school and the presbytery has needed repair for some time. From Monday, the wall will be demolished and replaced with a fence. The temporary fencing will be moved closer to the path to ensure the safety of the children but please make sure you monitor your children, especially younger siblings, carefully on entry and exit to the school

Individual photos

Don't forget your best smiles on **Thursday 23 September**, the children will be having their individual photos so should come to school in their full school uniform including ties and jumpers or cardigans. Year 1 and Year 5 would normally come to school on a Thursday in P.E. kit. On this occasion, Year 5 should bring your PE kit with them in their bag to change into after the photographs. Year 1 should come to school in school uniform and will have an active session without getting changed.

Family Mass

On Sunday 26 September at 11am, all our families are invited to celebrate Mass at St Mary's. Many of our Year 6 children will be there as part of their confirmation programme but it would be amazing if we could fill the church as we did before Covid. A letter will be sent out nearer the time asking for volunteers to read at the Mass.

Knowledge Organisers

Following the feedback on the parent survey in July, we have printed the knowledge organisers out for Autumn 1 and sent them home today so you can see what your child is learning in their different subjects. The knowledge organisers identify the key knowledge and vocabulary the children will be learning and there are links to books and inspirational people you may want to learn more about. We hope you find them useful to see what your child will be learning. These are also available on the school website. Curriculum newsletters have been sent home today.

P.E kits

From **Monday 13 September**, children in Year 1 – Year 6 should wear their PE kit on PE days.

P.E. kit for both boys and girls:

- Black pumps
- Royal blue shorts
- School white t-shirt with logo

Games kit

- Trainers
- **Plain** blue or black jogging bottoms
- School logo hoodie
- School white t-shirt with logo

Year group	PE day/s
Reception (from week commencing 27 September)	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 1	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Monday and Wednesday
Year 3	Wednesday
Year 4	Monday
Year 5	Thursday and Tuesday (swimming)
Year 6	Friday

Macmillan Coffee afternoon

On Friday 24 September at 2.15pm we will be holding a Macmillan coffee afternoon in the school hall to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. All our parents and families are very welcome to join us.

We are once again asking you to donate any cakes or buns to sell but I'm sure you will agree it's a very worthy cause. Any donations should be brought to school by **Wednesday 23 September**. We will sell any left over buns and cakes after school to the children so they may want to bring some money with them.

Please help us to raise as much money as possible. All proceeds will go to Macmillan and the very important work they do.

£48 could help run the Online Community forum for over 3 hours. Typically, that would give nearly 333 people affected by cancer both emotional and practical support.

£100 could pay for a person affected by cancer to attend a health and wellbeing event, providing them with skills to improve the management of these areas in their lives.

£285 could pay for a Macmillan grant that helps a family affected by cancer take a holiday and enjoy precious time together.

£573 could pay for a Macmillan Social Care Worker for a week, helping patients, family members and carers manage the social and practical problems of living with cancer.

£1148 could pay for a Macmillan nurse for a week, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

English parent meetings

In the dates below, you will see English parent meetings, these will be focused on writing. The idea of the parent meetings is that you see the expectations for your children in their new class and see ideas of how you can support them. Writing is a focus on our school development plan this year following the impact of Covid, writing is where we have seen the biggest impact academically. If you are unable to attend the meeting, the slides will be available on the website. We hope you will find it useful to support your children. Your child will be able to watch a film in another class to allow you to access the meeting.

125 Year birthday celebration- past pupils of St Mary's

The school will be 125 years old in September and to mark the occasion the children will spend a day celebrating the schools' history on Friday 1st October. As history co-ordinator, Mrs Wray would love to invite past pupils to school to speak in an assembly to the children about what life was like at St Mary's in the past.

If this is something you would like to do, please e-mail office@stmaryshorsforth.org FAO Mrs Wray with your details and she will be in touch.

Flu Immunisation Programme

The Flu Immunisation programme is managed by company called Intra Health.

If you would like your child to receive the nasal flu vaccine in school please follow this link to complete an online consent form;

<https://www.nhsimms.uk/FLU/information?id=139352&Type=FLU>

The vaccinations will take place at St Marys school on Tuesday, 12th October.

The link will close on **20th September**. If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since Sept 2021 please disregard this message.

If you have any problems accessing the link please telephone 0333 358 3397 (option 2 ext 3)

Awards

Headteacher Awards

Year 1 – Grace H & Joseph Mc
Year 2 – Florence D & Mia L-M
Year 3 – Amos Mc & Genevieve D
Year 4 – Callum G & Skyla S
Year 5 – Celeste O'S-W & Isaac P
Year 6 – Oliver O'R & Nicola A

Virtue Awards – respect/courtesy

Year 1 – Alice M
Year 2 – Lucas C
Year 3 – Arthur T
Year 4 – Jennifer Q
Year 5 – Amelia D
Year 6 – Paris T

NEWSLETTER – 10 September 2021

Covid guidance

The updated guidance for schools identifies that close contacts of positive cases will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

Children are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the [main symptoms of COVID-19](#), even if they're mild:

Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test. [Check if you and anyone else your child lives with need to self-isolate.](#)

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Diary Dates

September

Monday	13		Intake 2 Reception children
Monday	13	3.30pm	Y6 Residential Meeting*
Tuesday	14		Y5 swimming lessons begin
Wednesday	15		Intake 3 Reception children
Wednesday	15		Year 6 to church
Wednesday	15		Year 1 – Year 3 taster football day
Thursday	16		Bring in bun donations for the bun sale
Friday	17		Non uniform day for Good Shepherd Appeal - suggested donation £1
Friday	17		Bun sale in school for children for Good Shepherd Appeal
Wednesday	22		Year 5 to church
Wednesday	22		Bun/cake donations for the Macmillan coffee afternoon
Thursday	23		Individual school photos
Thursday	23		Scooter day KS2
Thursday	23		Bring in bun donations for the Macmillan coffee afternoon
Friday	24	11.00am	Year 3 and Year 6 class Mass*
Friday	24	2.15pm	Macmillan coffee afternoon*
Sunday	26	11.00am	Family Mass at St Mary's church*
Monday	27	3.30pm	Year 3 and Year 4 English parent meeting*
Tuesday	28	3.30pm	Reception Parent phonics meeting*
Wednesday	29		Year 4 to church
Thursday	30		School birthday celebration

October

W/b	4		Black History week
W/b	4		Mini Vinnie Harvest tin appeal for SVP begins
Monday	4	3.30pm	Year 5 and Year 6 English parent meeting*
Monday	4		Reception class Saint – Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi
Wednesday	6		Year 3 to church
Thursday	7		Rosary Day
Friday	8		Non Uniform – wear green for Cafod – suggested donation £1
Friday	8		Bring tins for SVP food bank
Friday	8	11.00am	Year 4 and Year 1 Class Mass*
Friday	8	2.30pm	Harvest Festival*
Monday	11		Year 6 residential
Tuesday	12	3.30pm	Year 1 English parent meeting*
Wednesday	13		Year 2 to church
Thursday	14	3.30pm	Year 2 English parent meeting* (Please note the change in date)
Thursday	14		Water safety for KS1 and KS2
Friday	15		Year 6 return from residential
Monday	18	4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening*
Wednesday	20		Planetarium in school
Wednesday	20	4.00-6.30pm	Parents Evening*
Thursday	21	10.00am	Good Shepherd Mass
Friday	22		Training Day
Friday	22		Half term



Parish News

OLK CONFIRMATIONS

Our candidates who have recently started their preparation have been invited to be blessed during the Mass over the next few weekends. They will be Confirmed in October so please keep them all in your prayers.

MOVING FORWARD

With restrictions being lifted, now is a good time to consider if you can help the parish by volunteering as a Minister of the Word (reader), Eucharistic Minister or Welcomer at Mass. We hope to begin our Children's Liturgy Classes again as more people return to Mass & need volunteers to help. We particularly need help with the music at Mass. Is anyone able and willing to play the organ or another instrument to lead our worship? As a community it is very important that we offer our gifts and talents to the Lord and His body the Church.

CALLING ALL ALTAR SERVERS!

Prior to COVID, we were really proud to have so many young people serving at our Sunday Masses. We are extremely grateful to the handful of faithful servers who have continued to exercise their ministry throughout, even though there was very little they could actively take part in. It's been a huge support to our priests to have them there. Now we are once again able to have altar servers taking part fully in the Mass again, we really want to encourage as many of you back as possible. We're quite happy to organise a refresher session for anyone who needs it. Please contact Amanda or Su, preferably by email. Thank you

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Anyone who has received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion can become an Altar Server, no matter how old they are! If you are eligible & would like to become a server, please contact Amanda or Su, who will arrange some instruction. Thank you

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