



Reflection

This Sunday, we hear how cousins Mary and Elizabeth rejoiced when they saw each other and how Elizabeth knew straight away that Mary's baby was very special and she was filled with joy. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognised that Mary's baby will be the Son of God.

No matter where in the world that they are born, all babies need the same things. They need someone to love and care for them. They need someone to feed them and to keep them warm and clean. As we remember how Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy as they waited for their very special babies to arrive, let's pray for all the other babies around the world who are all special too.

God loves us all, even the tiniest baby. Let us remember God's love for us, and for all people, and think about how we can show love to others in this coming week.

Prayer: Caring God, Elizabeth was filled with joy when she saw Mary and knew how special her baby would be. May all parents and their babies around the world live healthy and happy lives, with hope for the future. Amen.



First Holy Communion



We keep our Year 5 children in our thoughts and prayers this weekend as the last group of children make their First Holy Communion. We hope they have a very special day as they receive this sacrament and thank the families and Catechists for all their help in preparing the children.

Those due to receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday 19th December, should go to confession on Saturday 18th Dec following the 10am Mass in either Holy Name Church or St Mary's.



NEWSLETTER – 17 December 2021

It's the most wonderful time of the year!



It has also been the busiest time in school with our Jesse Tree Assemblies, Advent workshops, KS1 nativity, Reception nativity and KS2 carol service.

Throughout all these activities, the children have been truly amazing with their confidence and sensible attitudes and they sung their hearts out reminding us what Christmas is really about.

We are so grateful we were able to safely have family members at these events and thank you for wearing masks to keep each other safe.

A huge thank you to all the parents and family members for your kind comments following our events in school and for your kind gifts and cards. They are both very much appreciated.

We wish all our families a safe and merry Christmas and a very happy new year. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 4 January 2022!

Charity Donations

A huge thank you to all who donated money at the nativities and carol service to the St Vincent de Paul charity. We raised a wonderful £110.

We raised £130 for Save the Children through your kind donations on Christmas Jumper Day.

The Mini Vinnies packed lots of woolly hats for the Apostleship of the Sea campaign for sailors that are away from their families this Christmas.

Mrs Pounder delivered all the presents for children, kindly donated by our families, to the St Vincent de Paul Charity.

Thank you to all our families for all your donations as we know it's a busy, expensive time of the year but we have helped lots of families this year, thanks to your kindness.



Baby News

Mrs Harrison welcomed a healthy baby girl named Caoimhe Grace on 5th December. Mother and baby are doing well and I'm sure you join us, in wishing Mrs Harrison and her family a huge congratulations on their very happy new addition.

NEWSLETTER – 17 December 2021

PE days

Sports Cool will be coming into school in the first week back after the Christmas holidays to do sport with each class on Thursday 6 January so all children will need to wear their PE kits on that day.

On Wednesday 12 January, all children will have a gymnastics session with Mrs Pounder, our PE specialist so again they should wear PE kit.

From week beginning 17 January, children will have regular PE days. Please be aware of changes for some year groups below. Year 4 will start swimming from Tuesday 11 January.

	Week commencing: 4.1.2021	Week commencing: 10.1.2021	Week commencing: 17.1.2021
			Normal PE days
Reception	Tuesday & Thursday	Tuesday & Wednesday	Tuesday & Thursday
Y1	Wednesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Thursday	Wednesday & Thursday
Y2	Wednesday & Thursday	Monday & Wednesday	Monday & Wednesday
Y3	Wednesday & Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday
Y4	Thursday	Tuesday & Wednesday	Monday and Tuesday (swimming)
Y5	Thursday	Wednesday & Friday	Thursday
Y6	Thursday & Friday	Wednesday & Thursday	Friday

Diary dates for Spring 1

Please see below for updated dates for January and February 2022.

Mrs Robertshaw will finish for her maternity leave on Tuesday 1 March therefore parents evening for Year 3 will be on Monday 14 February and Wednesday 16 February via video call 4pm – 6.30pm. We will be doing these via video link as pregnant people are classed as clinically vulnerable for Covid.

Awards

Headteacher Awards

Reception – Ben D & Jasmine L

Year 1 – Jesse Mc & Alexander TF

Year 2 – Lucas C & Willow W

Year 3 – Clodhna KE & Thomas W

Year 4 – Coen M & Fabio Z

Year 5 – Lucy L & Abigail R

Year 6 – Lucas S & Reva T

Virtue Awards

Reception – Melody G

Year 1 – Laurel B

Year 2 – Amelia S

Year 3 – Delia P

Year 4 – Finn W

Year 5 – Eve R

Year 6 – Mia H



NEWSLETTER – 17 December 2021

Diary Dates

*denotes parents welcome

January

Tuesday	4		School reopens spring 1
Friday	7	9.30am	Whole school Mass led by Year 6*
W/C	10		Clubs start
Monday	10	4.00pm	Year 2 maths parent meeting* - via Zoom
Tuesday	11		Year 4 start swimming
Wednesday	11		Gymnastics in school - wear PE kit
Wednesday	12		Year 6 to church
Thursday	13	9.15am	Year 5 class assembly*
Friday	14		Y6 Primary Choices with LUFC
Monday	17	4.00pm	Year 5 and Year 6 maths parent meeting* - via Zoom
Wednesday	19		Year 5 to church
Tuesday	25	4.00pm	Year 1 maths parent meeting* - via Zoom
Wednesday	26		Year 4 to church
Thursday	27	9.15am	Year 2 class assembly*
Friday	28	11.00am	Reception and Year 3 class Mass*
Monday	31	4.00pm	Year 4 maths and MTC parent meeting* - via Zoom
Monday	31		Year 3 Class Saint – Feast Day of St John Bosco

February

Tuesday	1	4.00pm	Year 5 residential meeting* - via Zoom
Wednesday	2		Year 6 class trip
Wednesday	2		Year 3 to church
Tuesday	8		Safer internet day
Wednesday	9		Year 2 to church
Friday	11	9.15am	E safety parent meeting with School Council
Monday	14	4.00pm	Year 3 parents evening via video link*
Wednesday	16	2.00pm	Reception stay and play*
Wednesday	16	4.00pm	Year 3 parents evening via video link*
Thursday	17	9.15am	Reception and Year 6 assembly*
Friday	18		Finish for half term



NEWSLETTER – 17 December 2021

Parish news

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

This is the last weekend we will be welcoming small groups of children and their families to the Sunday Masses in all 3 churches to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. The first few benches will be reserved for the children but the rest of the church will be available for parishioners.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

There will be a 30 minute Carol Service, beginning at 4.30pm at St Mary's before the 5pm Mass, 5.30pm, at the Assumption church before their Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6pm, 10.30pm at Holy Name church followed by Mass. NB: There are no carols before the 7.30pm Mass or any Christmas day Masses.

SM CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL

When visiting the crib in St Mary's church this year donations can be made to a charity Father Jude supports which provide milk for starving school pupils in Nigeria. Please place donations in the candle stand box. 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 in any of our churches (especially at St Mary's and the Assumption as our numbers are very depleted) please contact Amanda or Su. Thank you

FRI 24th The Nativity of the Lord (Vigil Masses) (All Vigil Masses fulfil Christmas obligation)

3.30pm Holy Name Family Mass for Christmas
5.00pm St Mary's Vigil Mass of Christmas
6.00pm Assumption Vigil Mass of Christmas
7.30pm Holy Name Vigil Mass of Christmas
11.00pm Holy Name Vigil Mass of Christmas (Holy Communion at Midnight)

SAT 25th The Nativity of the Lord

10.00am Holy Name Christmas Day Mass
10.00am St Mary's Christmas Day Mass
11.30am Assumption Christmas Day Mass

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