



School to Parish Newsletter



Autumn 2025

This term has been a wonderful time of faith, reflection, and community for our school. We began with a beautiful Whole School Welcome Mass, celebrated by Fr Darren, bringing us together in prayer and gratitude for the year ahead. Throughout October, our pupils prayerfully joined in praying the Rosary, deepening their devotion to Mary. Classes also took part in inspiring CAFOD workshops on Catholic Social Teaching, helping us live out our faith through action and compassion. In November, we learned more about our Patron Saint, St. Francis Xavier, and prepared for Remembrance Day, our assemblies have focused on living out our Virtue of the Week, reminding us all to follow Christ's example in our daily lives.

Nine lessons & Nine Carols

On Wednesday 17th December at 2:00pm, our Y5 & Y6 pupils will lead a special 'Nine lessons & Nine Carols' carol service at St Peter's focused upon the key events of the nativity story. We would like to invite all of our parish community to join us for the special celebration.



Welcome Mass

In September, Fr Darren led us in a beautiful Mass to begin our school year.



The Feast of St Francis Xavier

On the 3rd December, we celebrate the feast day of our school's Patron Saint, St Francis Xavier. In preparation for this special celebration all of our classes have been learning about the life of St Francis and the example his life sets for all of us in how we can spread the word of God. **At 2:00pm on the 3rd December**, Fr Darren will lead a special celebration Mass, all in our school and parish community are welcome – please confirm your place by contacting the school office.

CAFOD

Thank you to CAFOD for coming into to teach the children about key Catholic Social teaching.



Prayer and Liturgy

This term, Mrs Shaw has led the school staff in two CPD sessions focused on developing prayer and liturgy in our school. These sessions included opportunities for staff prayer and spiritual formation and chance to work collaboratively to shape provision for the pupils.

Month of the Holy Rosary

In school, we honoured October as the Month of the Holy Rosary by praying the Rosary each day and coming together for special whole-school celebrations of the Word. We have been reflecting on Mary as an example of our virtues of faith, piety and inclusion.



Harvest Festival

Isaiah 58:10

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness..."

Thank you to all of our families for your generous donations to our Harvest Festival Project. All donations have been given to the St John's multi-bank in Balby.



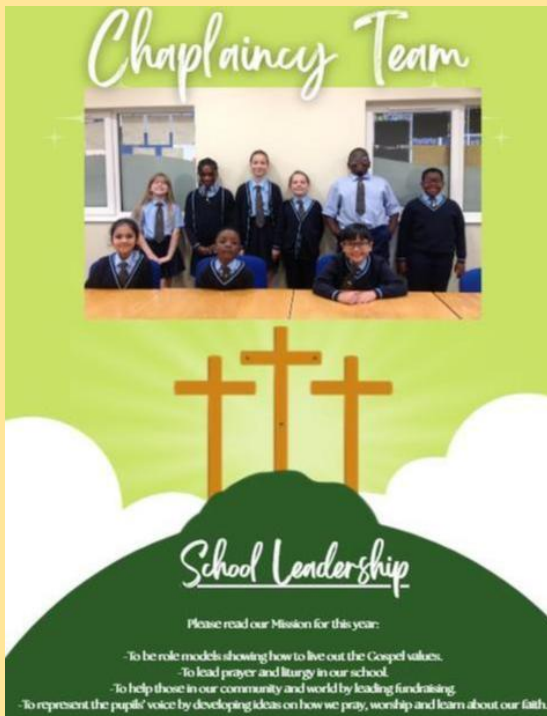
Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day this year our school paused at 11:00am to remember those who gave their lives in the service of others. Our Chaplaincy team led readings and prayers as the whole school assembled in the playground. To conclude our service, we all learned and said the Church's prayer for Eternal Rest.



Chaplaincy Team

Congratulations to those children selected this year's Chaplaincy team. Our Chaplaincy team have a very important mission in our school:



School Prayers and Prayers of the Church

The children and staff pray throughout the school day. We say our school prayers four times a day and we teach the different prayers of the church according to age and the season of the liturgical year. If you want to practice our prayers at home with your child, further details can be found on our prayer and liturgy page: <https://st-francis-xavier-catholic-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/prayer-and-liturgy/>

Prayers

| Age phase | 3-5 (EYFS) | 5-7 (KS1) | 7-9 (Lower KS2) | 9-11 (Upper KS2) |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sign of the cross - Respond with Amen - Begin to join in with Hail Mary - School prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sign of the Cross - The Lord's Prayer - Hail Mary - Glory be - Grace before meals - Grace after meals - School prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Apostles' Creed - An Act of Contrition - Angel of God - Come, Holy Spirit - School prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning Offering - The Rosary - The Magnificat - Act of Faith - Act of Hope - Act of Love - School prayers |
| Advent and Lent 12 noon | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Angelus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Angelus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Angelus |
| Rosary during the month of October | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hail Mary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosary beads and prayers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosary (mysteries) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosary and Hail, Holy Queen (mysteries) |
| Lent and Advent | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Act of contrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simple morning prayer once a week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning prayer once a week |

Dates for the Diary

Parishioners are welcome to attend key school events and liturgies. All events take place in school unless otherwise stated – please contact the school office in advance if you wish to attend.

- Friday 28th November 1:00pm – Advent Wreath making
- Wednesday 3rd December 2:00pm – Mass for the feast of St Francis Xavier
- Wednesday 17th December 2:00pm – 'Nine Lessons & Nice Carols' (At St Peter's)
- Friday 19th December 1:00pm – Carols Around the Crib