



Monday 29th April

May 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Wednesday marks the start of a very important month in our school calendar – the second of our Marian months – months in which we focus our daily prayer around our patron saint, St Mary. Our children will be taking part in various activities including a Crowning of Mary service led by our wonderful GIFT team, Rosary Club at breaktimes, weekly Rosary sessions in class. This year, May also coincides with the feast of Pentecost on Sunday 19th May.

May Rosary Home Pack

During May, each class will have a pack to take home, one child at a time, during which you can join them in a decade of the Rosary. A diary will also be in the pack for them or you to draw or write a prayer or their thoughts about Mary. Please make sure this comes in if your child receives it in order that as many children as possible can take it home during May.

Names for Our Lady from around the globe

As you're aware, we have a very diverse school population, with families and children connected to school with a variety of cultures, languages, religions and traditions. We will be celebrating this on Diversity Day on 21st May, but prior to that, we would like to ask you that if you know Our Lady as any other name, please can you ask your child to pass this on to Miss Thomas for part of our special service to crown Mary. This is part of our commitment to include all children and members of our community within our worships and life at St Mary's. Thank you.

Catholic Social Teaching – What we've been doing

This year so far, we have raised a significant amount of money and donated a great deal of food to different charities including:

- Springhill Hospice (over £2,000) – spearheaded by our Mini Vinnies;
- CAFOD cake sale and book sales (over £250) – spearheaded by our School Council and GIFT Team;
- St Joseph's Penny boxes raised a total of £390
- Our Mini Vinnies also went to a local care home to spread cheer and love to the elderly in the community;
- Our Laudato Si team went to the recycling centre and delivered an assembly to KS2;
- Members of Y6 and of the Laudato Si teams have been planting trees in our school grounds;
- Members of Y6, the GIFT team, Mini Vinnies and Laudato Si met with Andy Burnham and local councillors
- Donations have come in for the Lighthouse Project and Foodbank, creating over 300 meals for families in our own community
- The Poppy Appeal also raised over £300.
- The choir fundraised at Tesco, raising over £200 for charities close to school's heart.
- We have also all been learning about UNICEF's Global Goals and the Children's Charter of Human Rights across the curriculum.
- For Earth Day, we came in in green or blue clothing for a donation, raising money for Water Aid. Once a total has been counted, we will inform you of the donation made.

There's much more we've been busy doing to highlight the need for justice around the world. We call this Catholic Social Teaching and it is something the children are showing a good understanding in – not only looking after themselves and our school, but how scripture teaches us to look after those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We'd like to thank everyone for your very kind donations towards everything we've done so far.

Parent Videos

Salford Diocese have produced five minute videos to help parents guide their children through their Sacramental Journey. They are available on our website at <http://www.stmrc.co.uk/sacramental-journey/>. They would be useful to watch for any parent, not just those who have children making their First Holy Communion.

Supporting the Catholic Life and Mission of St Mary's

This term, our GIFT team, School Council and Mini Vinnies will be selling beautiful pieces of jewellery on behalf of Cambodia Crafts, a charity that raises money for communities affected by landmines in Cambodia.

Saturday 11th May – the first of our Year Three communicants will make their First Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers. Our school chapel choir will also be singing. If your child is in KS2 and wishes to be in the chapel choir, please fill in the form via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/aS0JnenY1f>. The children **must be collected and be in full school uniform**.

Friday 17th May – Pentecost Party – we will hold a street party similar to what we did for the jubilee. We'd appreciate any party food coming in for this, no nuts or nut related products please. We will remind you on Dojo about this.

Wednesday 21st May – Diversity day – children are asked to come in in cultural clothing / non uniform; we will be having a day off timetable to celebrate our diversity.

Manchester Street Team Donations

The Mini Vinnies and Miss Lyndon are currently collecting donations for The Manchester Street Team who are a homeless outreach team in Manchester who meet up each Tuesday to hand out food, drinks, clothes, and essentials to those in need. Each classroom currently has a Bag for Life to be filled with the following items:

- tinned food
- dog food/treats
- umbrellas
- blankets
- sweets/treats
- old clothes (old but wearable)
- socks

We would be extremely grateful if you could donate anything that you can to help those who are homeless and support our Mini Vinnies with their next project. Any donations are to be brought in please before 6th May.

Thank you, as always, for your support and generosity.

Our Mission Statement and Vision Statement

As the family of St Mary's, learning and growing in God's love, joyfully we pray, play and respect all, changing our world forever. (Our Mission)

Nurturing growth, igniting dreams, guided by God (Our Vision)

Everything we do at St Mary's, we do through our love of Jesus. The children have been looking at our Mission and Vision Statements each half term and discussing in class how they show that they follow our school mission and how the vision they have for themselves and we have for them is ambitious, challenging and guided through God's love.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for all your support as we continue to educate your children on caring for our Common Home.

Miss Thomas
RE Lead