



Tuesday 14th February

LENT 2024 Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian,

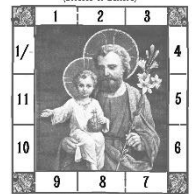
Today marks the start of Lent and the children from Year Two upwards have been to Mass this morning and received ashes to mark Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when we often think to give something up or to leave something behind. As a Catholic school, we think about raising money for charities and marking Lent with awareness days. We will also be decorating our new woodland area with painted pebbles, thinking about what we are leaving behind for Lent. Keep an eye out on X (Twitter) for more of our work on our Catholic Life and Mission.

Today, your child will bring a St Joseph's Penny Donation Box home. This is one of our special charities, as the 'home' charity for Salford Diocese, and one we have supported over the years.


St Joseph's Lenten Appeal

To fund the work of the Catholic Children's Rescue Society (now **Caritas Diocese of Salford**), a Lenten collection began in 1904 known as the St Joseph's Penny. The first collection raised 55,217 pennies or just over £230! The idea was that children in the Diocese would raise money for other children and the idea of children helping children has continued to this day. Many parents and grandparents will recall the appeals involving Penny Boxes and even prick cards (see image to right).

Celebrating the 110th anniversary of the
St Joseph's Penny Lenten Collection
(Diocese of Salford)



One Penny for each Square.
*I had you miserably, so no for as you did this
to one of the least of these brothers of mine you
did it to me." (Mt. 25:40).

 **Caritas**
Diocese of Salford



Caritas
Diocese of Salford

Today Caritas Diocese of Salford confronts and fights poverty, inequality and injustice, in which all people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage or discrimination, are welcomed, valued and supported to reach their full potential. Caritas continues to help children and families, alongside services that combat homelessness, build stronger communities, befriend older and isolated people and welcome refugees. They help people of all religions and none.

Children have been asked to bring back their filled **Monday 31st March 2024 (the Monday of Holy Week)**, so that the money need is greatest in our local Caritas services.



donation boxes by
can go to where the

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

As in previous years, we will also be carrying out other fundraising activities, such as a Big Lent Walk for CAFOD, where children will walk 200 miles during Lent break and lunch times as a way to symbolise Jesus' journey through Lent and the wilderness. To raise money for this, the children in every class will be given the opportunity to make a badge for Lent that they can wear every day to school for a donation of 50p. We will also hold a cake sale next half term as well.

Opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

On Saturday evening before Mass at Our Lady's, Father Tadgh provides the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We would encourage you to take your child (if they have made their Holy Communion) to receive the Sacrament during Lent as a way of preparation for the season of Easter. Father is usually available in the Lady Chapel from 4:15 onwards.

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. During Lent, we specifically think about God's love for us and how He sacrificed His son for our Sins. We can help share in that sacrifice by donating to charity, supporting each other and thinking about others before ourselves. During Lent, we will also be sending home Lenten reflections for you to share with your families.

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