



SCHOOL UPDATES

LENT 2017:

This week, we have been celebrating our Lenten Mission. The theme for our Mission, taking inspiration from the life and teachings of Blessed Oscar Romero, has been 'We are God's Microphone'; over the course of the week, pupils have experienced 'Pilgrimage Afternoons', during which they have taken part in a 'Way of the Cross' around our school grounds: a prayerful journey focusing on some of the themes of Holy Week in a creative and thought-provoking way. We have also enjoyed special Liturgies in school, and celebrated Mass – sharing with our parish family some of our experiences from the week. Please continue to pray for us, that we may be inspired and invigorated by our Mission to be God's microphone in our world today.

Next week, we will be sharing Liturgies in school, and church, inspired by the themes of Holy Week. We would like to extend a welcome to all members of our school and parish community to join us for prayer and reflection at 2:15pm on Wednesday 5th April at St Mary's RC Church in preparation for one of the most important seven days in the Church's calendar.

'BIG PIE FRIDAY':

On Friday, Y5 will be taking part in 'Big PIE Friday', an event being promoted by PIE (Primary Inspiration through Enterprise), a charity who promote enterprise and links with local business to increase employment opportunities in the North East. On the day, the pupils will be completing two STEM based challenges (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths), competing against other participating schools in the North East. We will also welcome a PIE'oneer: a representative from the charity, who will oversee proceedings. We will report back in the coming weeks as to how the pupils get on.

WE'RE OFF TO WEMBLEY:

A huge well done to the Y6 boys, representing Gateshead FC as part of the National League Schools Cup in Lincoln on Wednesday, who have qualified as champions of the North Eastern region, and will now go on to compete in the national final on the hallowed turf of Wembley before the National League Play-off Final on Sunday 14th May! The boys overcame stiff competition to be crowned overall winners on the day, finally defeating Bradford Park Avenue in a hotly contested finale, which books their place in a final against Braintree, Telford and Kidderminster. The boys were cheered on by an army of well-wishers – and special thanks must go to Mr Armory (Michael's Dad) and Mr Humble (Alexander's Dad) for stepping in admirably (and wonderfully successfully!) at the last minute to take on the role of Head Coach(es). We'll now keep our fingers crossed for the Gateshead 1st team in their push for promotion via the play-offs, and hopefully the St Mary's boys will be joined by Gateshead in May for a double Gateshead victory in the capital!

DANCE FESTIVAL:

Next week, our Happy Feet dancers will be representing the school at the annual Gateshead Dance Festival; it is the first time that the school has competed in the event for a number of years, and we would like to wish Nicola and her crew well in taking part in the event. We've all enjoyed the preparations the pupils have been taking part in over the past weeks, and look forward to seeing how they get on.

AU CAFÉ SAINTE-MARIE:

On Friday, our Y6 classroom will be transformed in to *un café français typique* with the children taking on the roles of *serveur* and *client*, practicing the French words and phrases from their most recent topic in a more practical and meaningful way. *Bon chance et bon appétit Y6!*

REMINDERS

TERM DATES:

A reminder that the last day in school for pupils before the Easter Holidays is **Friday 7th April**. All pupils will return to school on **Monday 24th April**.

PARISH ACTIVITIES:

The Children's Liturgy group at St Mary's R C Church would like to invite all pre and school-aged children to take part in Lenten craft activities, in preparation for Palm Sunday, following Mass on Sunday 2nd April. The children will be helping to prepare for our Palm Sunday procession, which will – I'm sure – set a wonderful tone at the start of such an important week in the Church's calendar. All welcome!

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS:

As a school we are currently collecting Active Kids vouchers (available from Sainsbury's) in order to purchase sporting resources for school. If you – or someone you know – shops at Sainsbury's, we would be very grateful if you could collect and send the vouchers in to school; they will be greatly received, and will go towards continuing to provide excellent sporting opportunities for all at St. Mary's. Thank you!

SMALL SAINTS:

Small Saints out of school club will be open during May Half Term except the bank holiday Monday (29th). We are currently taking bookings as places are limited. We will be open 7:45-6:00 Monday to Friday at the cost of £24.00 per child, per day, with a discounted charge of £100 for the full five days. The children will have 3 meals per day as well as snacks, and there will be specific activities each day for the children to take part in along with our normal day to day play. If this is something you would like to book or discuss, please contact me to secure your child's place as we have already started to take bookings.

We are also open on 5th June the Monday after the half term when school is closed to pupils. If you would like to secure your place for that day at the same price as holiday club, please just let me know as we are taking bookings now. Thank you, Leanne Sanderson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY WEEK/EASTER TRIDUUM MASS TIMES:

C2C RIDES:

A reminder that there will be an after-school ride on Monday 3rd April, from 3:15-5pm, and a whole-day ride on Monday 24th April 9am-3pm.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S:

The next meeting for the Friends of St Mary's will be Thursday 4th May, 9am at school. All welcome!

THE WEEK AHEAD W/C : 03/04/17

MONDAY – C2C Ride 3:15-5pm

TUESDAY – Dance Festival at the Sage 12:15-4:00pm (all pupils involved have received information for the event; any queries, please contact school)

WEDNESDAY – Whole School Easter Liturgy 2:15pm at St Mary's RC Church (all welcome)

THURSDAY – Y5 Forest School a.m.

Y6 Forest School p.m.

FRIDAY – Y6 French Café a.m.

NO SWIMMING Y4

