

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary
School

Growing Together in God's Love



Religious Education Newsletter

11th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our second newsletter!

This term has been a truly enriching time for our children as they have deepened their understanding of faith through a variety of meaningful activities in Religious Education. From exploring new topics in class to living out our Pilgrims of Hope pledges, we have embraced every opportunity to grow spiritually and support those in need.

We began the season of Lent with a spectacular Ash Wednesday service, where we reflected on the importance of prayer and fasting. This set the tone for a season of renewal, culminating in a powerful Stations of the Cross service, where the children took time to reflect on the journey of Jesus and its relevance in their own lives. Our Lenten Walk for Nature was another special highlight, as we united as a school community to raise funds for CAFOD while appreciating the beauty of God's creation. We raised £205.00 Thank you!



Another big thank you to all who took part in our 'Guess the name of the Easter Bunny' fundraiser for the Liverpool Youth Pilgrimage. We raised £100.

In addition to these special events, our pupils have engaged in thoughtful classroom discussions, scripture reflections, and acts of service that bring faith to life in practical ways. Through projects, prayers, and daily interactions, they have demonstrated compassion and a commitment to making the world a better place. Their enthusiasm and dedication are a true testament to the values we hold dear as a school community.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter!

Mrs Houghton



To Know You More Clearly

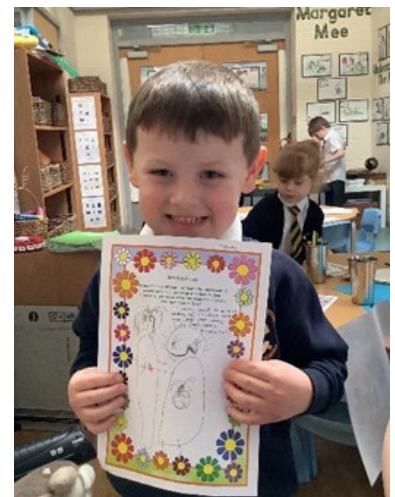
We now have Foundation Stage, Year One, Year Two and Year Three working on the new Religious Education Directory 'To Know You More Clearly.'

NURSERY:

The children in Nursery have been learning about Lent and how it is a very special time for us to care more, share more and give more. We planted some sunflower seeds and the children learned that they would need to show love to the seeds in order for them to grow

RECEPTION:

The children in Reception have been thinking about different ways that they can show love to their family and friends and to God. They thought about how they could be more like Jesus. They also thought about the importance of saying sorry and forgiving those that are sorry.





To Know You More Clearly

YEAR ONE:

Year One role played the story of Palm Sunday. The children discussed how they felt when they first saw Jesus enter the town. We talked about the meaning of the words 'Hosanna!'

The children made palms and waved them joyfully as Jesus approached.





To Know You More Clearly

YEAR TWO:

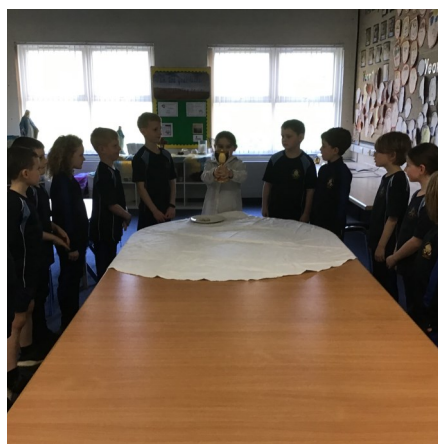
Y2 two have been learning about how Jesus cured a man so that he could walk again. We heard the story of The Last Supper and explored the disciples' feelings. We thought about the parable of the missing sheep and how Jesus calmed the stormy waters when out on the boat with his disciples. We made our own boats and also crafted our own missing sheep.



YEAR THREE:

Year 3 have been working on their fourth topic Desert to Garden.

They listened to the story of The Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29) as an introduction to learning about the different elements which make up Mass. They enjoyed re-enacting the story and the words.



Come and See

YEAR FOUR:

Y4 have been exploring the topic of Self-Discipline.




4.3.25 EXPLORE
Year 4 explored the life of someone who excelled in sport, music or art. They researched the self-discipline it required and what they achieved. They also asked questions about their achievements.

Come and See

Year Five:

Compare the picture with the Gospel account. What are the similarities? What are the differences?



GETHEMANE (based on Mark 14:32-46)

When they reached the place called Gethsemane, Jesus said to his apostles, "Sit here while I go over there to pray."
 He took Peter, James and John with him. He was very frightened and he said to them, "My heart is ready to break. I'm so terrified of what is going to happen to me. You wait here and stay awake."
 He went a little further on, threw himself on the ground and prayed. "Father," he said, "You can do anything. Take this suffering from me. But I will do what you want, not what I want."
 He came back and found his friends asleep and he said to Peter, "Simon are you asleep? Could you not stay awake even for one hour? Stay awake and pray."
 He went away once more and prayed saying the same words. Then he came back and found them asleep again. They could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say to him.
 When he came back a third time he said to them, "You can sleep on now and have your rest. The hour has come. I am going to be betrayed and handed over to violent people. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is not very far away."
 He was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve apostles came with some soldiers. They were armed with swords and sticks. They had been sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders. Judas had said to them, "The one I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and make sure he is well guarded as you lead him away."
 As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, "Rabbi," and kissed him.
 Then they took hold of Jesus and arrested him.

"The agony in the garden" by El Greco

Gospel account Mark 14: 32-46

Year 5 read Mark 14: 32-46. We then looked at the painting 'The Agony in the Garden' by El Greco and thought about the similarities and differences between these.



Year Six:



In our Sources topic Year Six looked at the scripture 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 and brainstormed how different our world, school and community would be if everyone lived out this scripture in their everyday lives.

Understanding not irritated, helping others, jealous, not respectful to others, forgiving

Showing off

Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

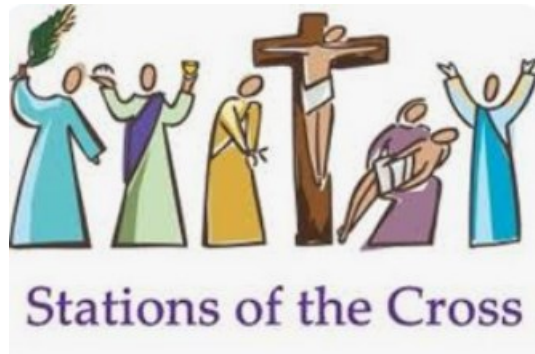
Prayer and Liturgy



Through our class and whole school worship, we have united in prayer, scripture, and song, preparing our hearts for Easter and reflecting on the themes of forgiveness, compassion, and renewal. This sacred time has been a reminder of God's endless mercy and our call to walk in His light. We have enjoyed using our prayer garden to celebrate class worship over the half term and our school Mass celebrations have brought our community together in joy and spiritual reflection.

The Stations of the Cross hold a deep and powerful meaning for children, helping them to understand Jesus' journey of love and sacrifice in a way that speaks to their hearts. Through each station, they reflect on compassion, courage, and faith, seeing how Jesus' suffering connects to the struggles people face today.

Our service in church was truly beautiful and moving, as the children prayerfully walked through each station, reflecting on Christ's love for us. With prayers, readings, and moments of silence, we were drawn into the depth of Jesus' sacrifice, making this Lenten journey even more meaningful. It was a special time of faith, reflection, and gratitude, reminding us of the hope and love that Easter brings.

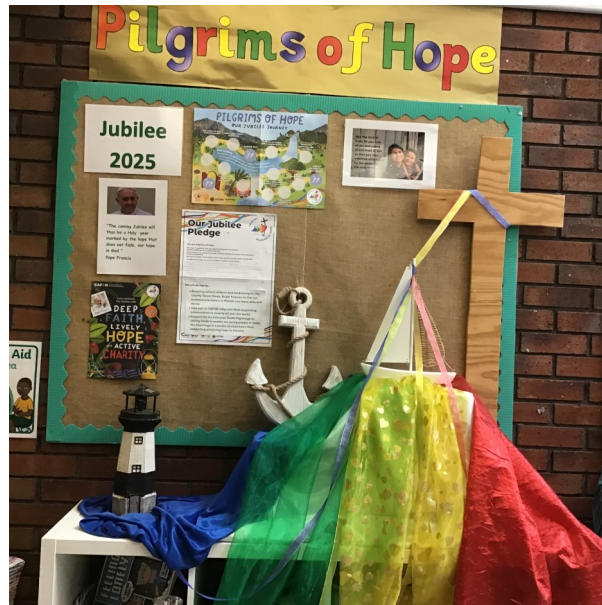


Catholic Life

What a beautiful morning we had for our Lenten walk for. The walk was a little different this year as we were combining it with a Walk for Creation. We journeyed as pilgrims of hope, caring for God's creation and all who share in it. In this Jubilee Year of the Church, we reflected on our call to be stewards of the Earth, walking in faith and solidarity with those in need. With each step, we raised vital funds for CAFOD, supporting communities most affected by climate change and poverty. Together, we walked with hope, justice, and love, embracing the beauty of creation and our shared responsibility to protect it for future generations. Once again thank you to all who donated.

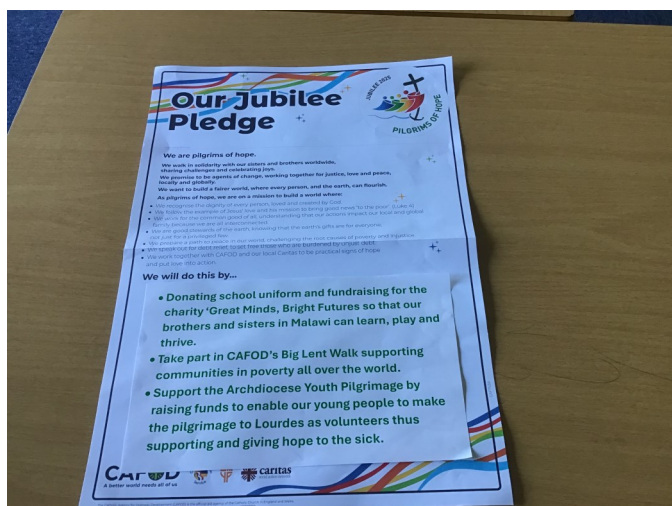


Catholic Life



PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We have continued to share activities to explore how we can be pilgrims of hope to others during this Jubilee year and beyond. Some of the children completed 'hands of hope' where they thought about their hopes for the world. As a school, we have pledged three commitments to show that we are living out our Pilgrims of Hope message.





The children enjoyed guessing the name of our cuddly Easter bunny! This fun activity was part of our fundraising efforts to support the Liverpool Youth Pilgrimage, whose volunteers are dedicating their time to assisting the sick and vulnerable during their pilgrimage to Lourdes this year.

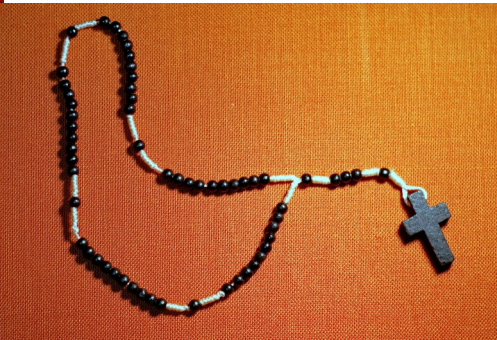
As a school, we are committed to pledges of faith and service, especially as we celebrate this Jubilee Year of the Church.

A big thanks to our Mini Vinnies for supporting this and to all who donated.

Thank you!



Coming up...



Next term, we will continue our Pilgrims of Hope journey and honour Mary, our Mother, during her special month of May.

We will come together in church for our May Procession, where selected classes will bring 'flowers of the rarest' to lay before Mary. The eldest and the youngest child will also crown Mary during this special service.

The children will have the opportunity to pray the Rosary and deepen their understanding of its spiritual significance.

There will be a special family Mass for the children and their families of Year 4 who have now completed their Sacramental journey. The Mass marks the end of their workshops and preparation. This will take place at church on Wednesday, 23rd April at 6pm.

Our children in Year 4 will be making their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 3rd May at St. Thomas of Canterbury church. This is a very special time for the children and their families. We hold them all in our prayers as they continue to grow and develop in their faith.

Best wishes

Mrs Houghton RE subject leader.

