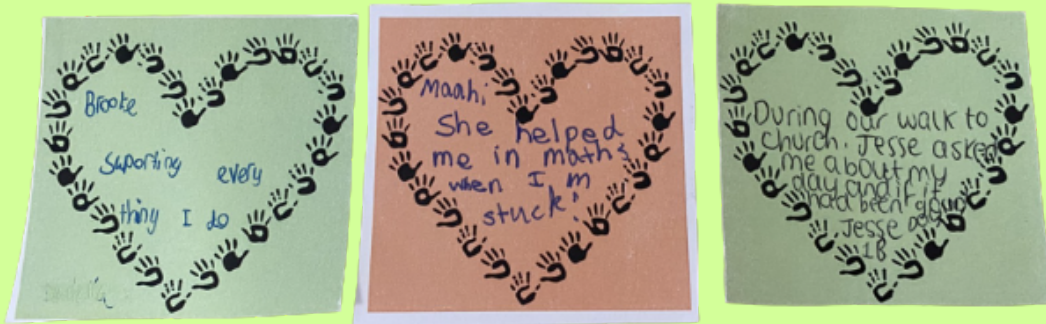




Catholic Life of the School Newsletter

PENTECOST 2026

At St Joseph's this year, we have focused on the beautiful idea of leaving a handprint on someone's heart through acts of kindness, love and service. Inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux and her "little way" of doing small things with great love, the children have worked hard to carry out good deeds for others. They created their own Good Deed Beads to recognise and reflect on these acts of kindness, celebrating the positive difference they can make each day. Through learning about the Creation of Adam, the children explored how God lovingly gave Adam life and how we are all called to share God's love with others. The story behind Albrecht Dürer's 'Praying Hands' reminds us of the importance of prayer, friendship and supporting one another on our faith journey. It has been wonderful to see our whole-school display filled with examples of children showing kindness and compassion, and to celebrate those who received their badges for their good deeds.



PRAYERS FOR PENTECOST

St. Joseph's is our school.
Teach us Lord, to Love, Learn and Grow together.
Just as you guided your beloved son, Jesus.
Open our hearts to your plans for us and
Show us your path to follow.
Each day, help us to feel your presence among us,
Protecting us on our journey.
Holy Spirit be with us.
St. Joseph, pray for us.
Amen



Dear Lord,
The year is done,
We thank You for the fun.
For friends so kind and true,
For all we learnt from You.
Like handprints left behind,
In every heart we'll find,
The love we've shared each day,
Will never fade away.
Amen.

Catholic Social Teaching

This year, we have explored CAFOD's Catholic Social Teaching and reflected on how we can live out these values in our daily lives. Each month, we focused on a different principle, such as caring for creation, promoting peace, and supporting those in need, making it our mission to put these teachings into action throughout our school community. Through our words and actions, we have learned that even small acts of kindness can help build a more just and loving world. To find out more about Catholic Social Teaching, please visit <https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/cst-resources-for-children>.



Catholic Social Teaching tells us that we should take care of the world.
Dilan, Year 2

We learn what God wants us to do and things that are good.
Oscar, Year 1

I know I should check if people are okay and care for them.
Iris, Reception

May



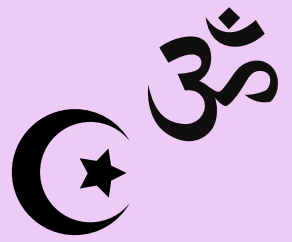
During the month of May, we honoured and celebrated Mary in a special way through a series of prayerful liturgies held in our prayer space. These special moments gave the children the opportunity to spend time with Mary, talking to her through their own prayers and reflections. The calm and welcoming environment encouraged the children to share their thoughts, hopes and thanks with Mary, helping them to grow in faith and deepen their relationship with her. It was a meaningful way for our school community to come together in prayer and remember Mary's loving role in our lives.

The month also began with a beautiful assembly presented by Reception, who shared the story of Mary and helped us celebrate her importance in our faith with confidence, joy and reverence.





Exploring Different Faiths



Throughout the term, our pupils have had valuable opportunities to explore and learn about a range of faiths and religious traditions. They developed an understanding of Judaism through learning about Jewish beliefs and practices, making their own Torah scrolls, baking bread for Shabbat and welcoming a visiting Rabbi to share his faith and experiences.



Staff members from different faith backgrounds have also spoken with the children about their beliefs and traditions, helping to broaden their understanding of the diverse world around them. Pupils learned about Islam through a visit from Mrs Asad, who shared her experience of completing Hajj, and they gained first-hand insight into Sikhism and Hinduism through visits to a Gurdwara and a Hindu temple.



These experiences have helped our children to develop respect, curiosity and appreciation for people of different faiths and cultures, promoting inclusion, empathy and a deeper understanding of the diverse community in which they live.

A group of thirteen children and one adult male, likely a priest, are posed for a photograph in a church. The children, of various ages, are dressed in school uniforms consisting of dark green or navy blue sweaters over white collared shirts. They are arranged in two rows, with some standing and some kneeling or sitting in the front. The priest, wearing a white cassock, stands centrally behind the children. In the background, a large, dark wooden crucifix is mounted on a plain, light-colored wall. The scene is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is formal yet welcoming.

One of their standout experiences was their visits to the Dementia Café, where they shared their time, kindness and conversation with members of the local community. Reflecting on their role, they would encourage the next group of Faith Leaders to be ...



St Joseph's in the Community



a big thank you for your help!
it is so nice to have young people around! ☺
Sophie

Everyone loves your visits, Diana
We love it when you come to the cafe. Diana.
I'm so glad I get to meet you! I am Dee Dee.
You are always so kind & thoughtful. Thank you, Emma.
So great to have young people around!
much love Aisla
You have been brilliant! We all
love your visits. Thank you! Jane
Chris + + + + +
Jill Thank you for coming
So lovely to see all of you thanks for
Jo X Me to see so Yvonne XX

Thank you for writing
the cafe
Joey

Dear wonderful children
& teachers of St Jo's —

Thank you so much for your cheerful presence
and I hope you have a great future ahead of
you - work hard Stephen and Debbie.
Well done indeed! I'm
You Make My Day
Thanks Eulace
Thank you for your cheerful presence
and I hope you have a great future ahead of
you - work hard Stephen and Debbie.
Well done indeed! I'm
You Make My Day
Thanks Eulace
Thank you for writing
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Joey

You are all very wonderful. Thank you. I don't
we love your smiling faces and to see you chatting
with everyone. You cheer us up. Liz and Fredrick

Father John is preparing to leave St Joseph's and join the Diocese of Westminster.

We thank him for the kindness, support and guidance he has given our school community over the past few years through celebrating Mass with us. His presence has enriched the faith journey of our pupils, staff and families, and we are truly grateful for all he has done. We wish him every blessing and assure him of our prayers.

