

St Cecilia's Catholic Life Newsletter



St. Wilfrid's Primary: Anchor of Hope

On 12th February we received the Anchor of Hope from St. Wilfrid's R.C Primary School. The Headteacher Mr. McCue and Mrs. Asher along with 12 GIFT team pupils from year 5 and 6 visited our school. We began the celebrations with a Liturgy in our school chapel led by Mr Barden. In the Liturgy we played the official Jubilee song by Jamie Rivera and learned about the theme, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Jubilee is special year that occurs every 25 years. It is a special year of Mercy, Hope and Forgiveness. Pilgrimages are especially encouraged this year and indeed we have future events planned such as visits to Ladyewell in Fernyhalgh and Walsingham later in the year. We will also have a special focus on Reconciliation and offer the Sacrament to our staff and pupils during Lent. At the end of our service, we exchanged the Anchor of Hope. This Anchor has been provided by Bishop John and is on its own pilgrimage around the Salford Diocese. In total it will visit 37 schools. After it leaves us, it will journey on to St. Patricks Primary school in Walton le dale. Once the Liturgy was over, we had refreshments, cakes and drinks provided by Mrs. Bretherton and some of our GIFT team and Catholic Heart representatives. This allowed our pupils to meet the year 5 and 6 and share food together. Mr Duffy the Head of year 7 and Mrs Hall also took the opportunity to meet and pass on their best wishes to the pupils. The Anchor of Hope is now proudly on display in our main corridor and our own personal Anchor, made by Mr Barton is currently on a more local pilgrimage around the form rooms.



St. Patricks Anchor Exchange

The Anchor of Hope is currently on a Pilgrimage around all 37 schools in the Salford Diocese. This has been presented to us by Bishop John Arnold to commemorate the 'Jubilee Year 2025'. The theme of this Year of Mercy is, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. All schools get to host the anchor and proudly display it in school. They will in turn pass it on after tying a ribbon onto the anchor and writing the name of the school. This week Mr Barden, Mrs Bretherton, Miss Berry and 17 of our school choir visited St. Patrick's Primary school in Walton le-dale. Mrs Hindley the Head teacher and also our link Governor made us feel very welcome and led us in a liturgy in which we exchanged the Anchor. The GIFT team pupils at St Patrick's Primary school proudly led us in prayers and sang beautifully. Miss Berry led the St Cecilia's choir in a joint service. It was a lovely opportunity to visit such a wonderful school and also sample to tasty cookies and warm Vimto kindly supplied by St. Patricks. Mr Barden may have had a few of those.



Ash Wednesday Liturgies

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. As usual St. Cecilia's gathered to commemorate the occasion. Mrs. Bretherton and the GIFT team planned and led the liturgy with poignant music and carefully selected readings. Members of the GIFT team, along with Mr Barden and Mrs Bretherton distributed the ashes. Mr Nelson began the liturgy by reminding us all of the importance and significance of penance and self-reflection. The service was lovely and all staff and pupils received the ashes to mark the start of Lent.



Jubilee 2025 : Pilgrims of Hope Assemblies

As part of our Jubilee celebrations, we had full week of Collective Worship focusing on the Pilgrims of Hope theme. We focused on the themes of the year, forgiveness, renewal, pilgrimage, and a reconnection with God. Pupils listened to Pope Francis' message reminding pupils that we each are loved by God and are created in 'His image and likeness'. God is our loving Father, and he wants a relationship with us. We saw images of Pope Francis opening the Holy Door in December at 7pm, marking the start of the year. We explored the meaning and symbolism behind the Pilgrims of Hope logo which is being used around the world. The cross is the ultimate symbol of hope, as we anchor our faith in the ground. The waves representing the troubles in life that we all face, and the 4 colourful images represent the people coming from the four corners of the earth. Renewal and mercy are key aspects of the year and so Mr Barden used the opportunity to prepare the pupils for the sacrament of Reconciliation that was offered to pupils on the 14th March with Fr. Dutton.



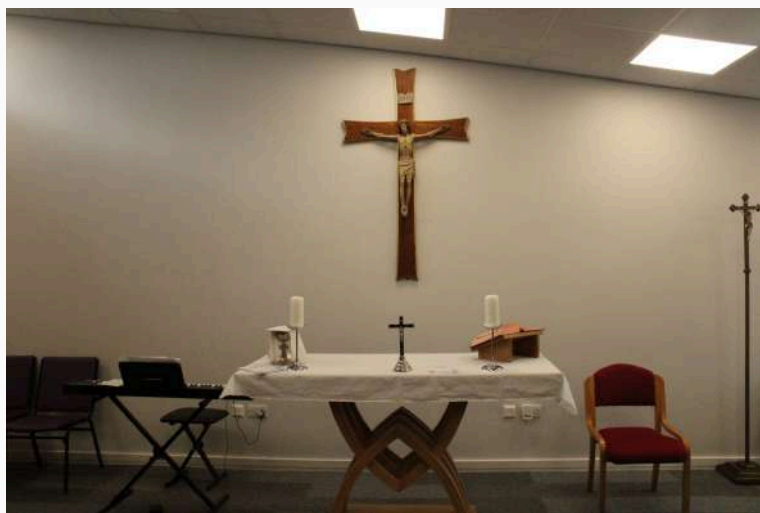
Reconciliation 2025 – Year of Mercy

As this is a Jubilee year there is an extra emphasis on forgiveness and renewing our relationship with God.

Therefore, we have offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our pupils. The RE department spent time in lessons preparing pupils for the sacrament, reminding them of how to conduct themselves and what they should say. This gave us an opportunity to learn the 'Act of contrition' and 'glory be'.

This was arranged on Friday 14th March during Period 2 and 3 with pupils booking a slot to go to confession. The library was also used to pray and prepare to make the sacrament. Once Father Dutton had issued a Penance, pupils then returned to the library to pray and complete their penance before returning to lesson. A number of staff also took the Sacrament during break time. Fr Dutton was really impressed and said he could tell that 'real soul searching had gone on' and he was 'humbled by the experience'.

There was such a large uptake we have decided to offer the sacrament more regularly to our pupils, with Canon Doyle also kindly offering to help us with this.



Lenten Charities

Our dedication to charity remains at the heart of our mission. Throughout the Lent, we have engaged in several initiatives that visibly embody our values, including Year 7 Walk for Lent, Easter bingo, Year 8 colour run, and Year 9 sponsored walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer. The crosses on our lawn serve as a symbol of our commitment to almsgiving this Lent. As of September, each form has showcased the Church's liturgical colours in their designated sacred spaces inviting pupils to offer daily prayers and intentions. We look forward to continuing this journey of faith and service, united in our mission to bring Christ's love to our community.



Lenten Crosses Front of School

At the Front of school, three crosses stand as a powerful symbol of faith and reflection. The central cross, draped in purple with a crown of thorns, serves as a solemn reminder of Christ's sacrifice and the journey of Lent. The purple cloth represents, repentance and preparation, inviting us to reflect on our faith, our actions, and our relationship with God. As we journey through this sacred season, these crosses encourage us to embrace prayer, fasting, and charity. May they inspire us to walk in Christ's footsteps, preparing our hearts for the joy and renewal of Easter.



Sacred Spaces – Purple for Lent

As we journey through the season of Lent, we have changed the colour of our Liturgical cloths to purple, reflecting this time of prayer and preparation for Holy Week. Our Sacred Spaces, used daily as focal points for prayer, provide our pupils with an opportunity to deepen their connection with the wider Catholic Church. To foster this sense of connection and responsibility, our pupils take an active role in maintaining these sacred spaces and leading prayer. This hands-on involvement encourages them to grow in faith and understand the significance of Lent in a meaningful way. In addition, we are delighted to share one of our Anchors of Hope, a beautiful symbol of faith crafted by our very own Mr Barton. This anchor is currently on a pilgrimage around each form room, serving as a reminder of strength, hope and trust in God. Here are some examples of how our pupils are engaging with these sacred spaces.



Eucharistic Adoration

As part of our Jubilee celebrations and renewed focus on the Eucharist, today we were delighted to welcome 50 pupils and staff into a time of prayer and reflection through Eucharistic Adoration. Before entering the Chapel, pupils took time to explore the Carlo Acutis Website in the Library, learning about Eucharistic miracles from around the world. This inspired awe and curiosity, helping pupils to understand the deep mystery and beauty of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Inside the chapel the atmosphere was reverent and still. Pupils listened to “Tantum Ergo Sacramentum”, a traditional hymn honouring the Blessed Sacrament, which set a tone of solemnity and wonder. This was followed by moments of silence and reflection, allowing each participant to be still in the presence of Jesus. We also incorporated Taizé chants whose simple, repetitive melodies created a truly spiritual and prayerful atmosphere, inviting all present into quiet contemplation and deeper personal prayer. This experience has been a meaningful part of the jubilee celebrations, helping pupils and staff alike to deepen their understanding of the Eucharistic and encounter Christ in a real and personal way.



Stations Of The Cross

This term the pupils took part in the Stations of the Cross, looking at how the 14 stations can influence the pupils lives through prayer, reflection and music. This was led by Mrs Hall Headteacher with all pupils fully engaging themselves in this very special event. The beautiful modern versions of the stations displayed on the stage were hand crafted by Mr Barton our Curriculum Leader of DT and will be used throughout the year in our prayer garden and Chapel.



JUBILEE YEAR

2025

A Jubilee Year happens every
25 Years.

It is typically a special year of
forgiveness and reconciliation,
in which people are invited to come
back into the right relationship
with God,
with one another,
and with all creation.

Why do people become Pilgrims?

PILGRIMS

Where do Pilgrims go to?

A Pilgrim is person
who journeys to a
sacred place for
Religious reasons

Could you be a Pilgrim?

How will we celebrate this?

During this year, 2025,
we will have a special focus on
Charity, Hope and Forgiveness.

We will be offering the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
in Lent.

A Pilgrimage is a devotional practice
consisting of a prolonged journey,
often undertaken on foot or on
horseback, toward a specific
destination of significance.
It is an inherently transient
experience, removing the participant
from his or her home environment and
identity.
The means or motivations in
undertaking a pilgrimage might vary,
but the act, however performed,
blends the physical and the spiritual
into a unified experience.

An anchor will be collected from
Salford Diocese
and brought to our school.
It will remain with us for a while
as a symbol of
Hope.
The anchor will pass onto
another school and will eventually travel
around the schools within the
Salford Diocese.
This will symbolize the journey a
Pilgrim
might take to reach the destination of their
Pilgrimage.

Mercy



What is a Pilgrim?

Our Catholic Heart Ambassadors
will visit
St. Mary's Fernyhalgh
and
Ladyewell
the Shrine of Our Lady.
They will make the
Pilgrimage
to the
Ancient Shrine.

Ladyewell
The Ancient
Shrine

Faith

The Sacrament of
Reconciliation and Confession
will take place in the
School Chapel,
during the season of
LENT.

In the
Salford Diocese
we will focus on the symbol of an
Anchor.

Charity

What is a Pilgrimage?



Hope

Exploring the Jubilee Logo



The Papal Bull for 2025 is titled
'Spes non Confudit'

'Hope does not disappoint'

This urges us to look for signs of
Hope

in the world around us and to work for
Peace and Justice.

Are you already a Pilgrim?

Could you take a Pilgrimage?

When will it start?

This year Pope Francis has called for
'A Year of Prayer'

The Jubilee will officially open on
Dec 24th 2024 at 7pm
in Mass at St. Peter's

35 Million Pilgrims
will visit
Rome
over the next year.

is a previous Papal Bull

Dear you,
one and all!

Discover Develop Rejoice

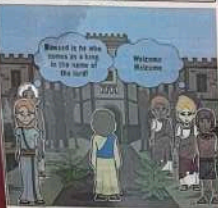
THE EASTER STORY

Jesus enters Jerusalem



Jesus comes on a donkey to Jerusalem.

The People of Jerusalem Welcome Jesus



People waved palm branches and put them on the road in front of Jesus.



The Last Supper



On Holy Thursday, Jesus washes the feet of his apostles and eat with them.

Good



Jesus, one of the apostles, betrayed him. Jesus got arrested because he was lonely and nobody put a cross on his body and buried him in a tomb.

HOSANNA!

The Resurrection



On Easter morning, some women went to visit the tomb but found the stone had been rolled away.

Jesus is alive



Later that day, the women saw Jesus and started worshipping him. Afterwards, they went to tell the apostles.

The Apostles see the Risen Jesus



The apostles were in a room when Jesus came to them and showed his wounded hands to show it is really him.

The Ascension



Jesus went to Mount Olivet, blessed his apostles with the Holy Spirit and then rose to the sky. Jesus then went to heaven to be with his father.

Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit came and gave the apostles the ability to speak in many languages and the courage to preach about Jesus.

The Symbols of Easter

Easter is usually celebrated between March and April.

Why Bunnies?

European people imagine that imaginary rabbits and birds into the celebration of Easter as it is a symbol of fertility.

Hot Cross Buns

They were baked with raisins and spices. These are usually eaten around and during Easter time. They are marked with a cross to symbolize the crucifixion of Jesus.

It is possible that people may have painted eggs for celebration since some people gave eggs. Today, they are passed for a fun activity.

Days of Easter

Each Easter starts with Holy Week, which includes:

- Monday: Thursday - The Last Supper
- Good Friday - Jesus' Death
- Easter Sunday - Jesus' Resurrection from death

Eggs

Eggs are a symbol of new life and resurrection. In Christianity, a lot of different religions also use the egg as a symbol of birth and new life, including the ancient Greeks.

Happy Easter