

Jesus: in our hearts, in our minds, in our living, in our learning.



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Pupils and family members from Reception class gathered for a 'Come and Pray' session, reflecting on what it means to be Pilgrims of Hope.

31st January 2025

Message from Mrs Taylor

On 24th December 2024, Pope Francis launched the latest Jubilee, something that happens in the Catholic Church every 25 years. The theme of the Jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Last week, to mark the launch of the Jubilee Year 2025, we embraced the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' with a week of inspiring activities designed to deepen pupils' faith and commitment to building a better world. You can read more about some of the things we did in the article below.

As a Gold Rights Respecting School, we understand the importance of teaching our children about their rights and with that, their responsibilities. Throughout the school year, we learn about the UNCRC and children's rights. For February, we are focusing on Article 29 – You have the right to be the best you can be. At St Joseph's we do our best to help your child to develop their skills and talents to the full. At home, ask your child to think about five things that they are good at doing or five things that they would like to do this year. They could share it with you by drawing a picture or writing a list.

This week, Nursery and Reception pupils went on a sponsored walk for the Food Bank; Year 1 pupils sequenced the story of 'Jesus in the Temple'; and Year 2 pupils created a map of the school. In Year 3, pupils compared and contrasted different parables; Year 4 pupils wrote a non-chronological report about something special to them; Year 5 enjoyed their vocal workshop and Year 6 started their Forest School sessions with Mrs Gardiner.

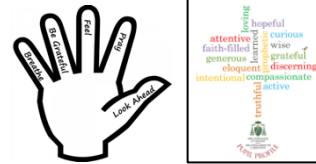
Next week, we'll be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week with the theme 'Know yourself, grow yourself.' The Health and Wellbeing Government Group will launch the week with a special assembly to explore the importance of understanding ourselves and supporting one another. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will work together to create a short film focusing on the power of connection and self-awareness. Throughout the week, pupils will learn valuable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, and reflection, while building confidence and having fun. This exciting project will help our children understand how getting to know themselves and each other can promote growth and well-being.

Thank you to the parents and family members who were able to attend the Reception class 'Come and Pray' on Thursday. A reminder to Year 1 and 2 parents that you are welcome to join your child for 'Come and Pray' next Thursday at 3.20pm.

Take care and God Bless – Mrs Taylor

Prayer of the Week

This half term we are focusing on the virtues of '**attentive** and **discerning**' as part of our ongoing work to develop the St Joseph's Pupil Profile. We use the Daily Examen to help us to be **attentive** and **discerning**.



1. We begin by using our 'stilling exercise' to help us place ourselves in God's presence

Place your hands in your lap.

Close your eyes (Caewch ein llygaid).

Concentrate on your breathing. Feel yourself gently breathing.

(Breathe in slowly through your nose and breathe out slowly through your mouth)

As you inhale, say the words 'Help me to become attentive and discerning'.

As you exhale, say the words, 'Thank-you'.

(Play some gentle music)

2. Look back on your day and notice the things that you are grateful for and that made you happy. Picture them in your mind. Give thanks to God!

3. Look back on the day and notice the things that make you sad and sorry. Picture them in your mind. These are the times you did not do God's will. Tell God you are sorry.

4. Face up to the things that went wrong and ask God's help for the future.

5. Once more, give thanks to God for his love and look forward to walking with confidence in his presence in the future.

Help me Lord God to grow in the virtues of being **attentive** and **discerning**.

Amen.

Attendance



This week's attendance figures for each class are:

Class	Attendance
Reception	87.7%
Year 1	92.4%
Year 2	88.3%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	91.6%
Year 5	83.8%
Year 6	90.7%

Well done to year 3 who achieved the highest attendance this week and to all families who arrived at school on time.

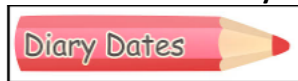


Come and Pray – Reception Class



Pupils, parents and other family members from Reception class gathered on Thursday for a Come and Pray session, reflecting on what it means to be Pilgrims of Hope. The prayer began with lighting a candle to remind everyone of Jesus' presence, followed by a reading from the Gospel of Luke about the disciples on the road to Emmaus, showing how Jesus walks with us even when we do not recognise Him. After a moment of quiet reflection, families created decorated footprints, symbolising the hopes they carry on their journey of faith. These were placed around a large cross as a sign of shared commitment to bringing hope to others. The session ended with a prayer of mission, a shared sign of hope, and the extinguishing of the candle, reminding everyone that while the prayer time had ended, their journey of hope and faith continues.

Dates for the Diary



February

- 3rd – Children's Mental Health Week
- 5TH – Nursery – Year 2 Fluoride Varnish Application
- 5th – Chaplaincy Government Group to St Richard Gwyn – Launch of the Jubilee Year Mass
- 5th – Years 3 and 4 to Mass**
- 5th – Year 6 PC Alex Cyber Safety
- 6th – Come and Pray – Years 1 and 2 – 3.20pm**
- 10th – Reduce Food Waste Week!
- 11th – Safer Internet Day
- 12th – Rec – Year 2 HSBC Financial Education workshops
- 12th – Years 1, 2 and 5 to Mass
- 12th – Year 4 Educational Visit to Brecon Beacons
- 13th – Y3 – 6 HSBC Financial Education workshops
- 13th – Come and Pray Years 3 and 4 3.20pm
- 14th – Martha's Dancing Heart Charity Day
- 17th – Year 5 – Multi Sports Festival, St Cyres
- 18th – Year 6 to St Richard Gwyn to see 'The Wizard of Oz'
- 20th – Come and Pray – Years 5 and 6 3.20pm

24th – 28th – Half Term

March

- 5th – Ash Wednesday Liturgy 2.45pm
- 7th – School Eisteddfod: Nursery – Year 2 10am; Years 3 – 6 2pm (Pupils can wear Welsh costume/ Welsh sports shirts/ Red to school)
- 11th – Parent Teacher Consultations 4pm – 6pm
- 12th – Parent Teacher Consultations 4pm – 6pm
- 14th – World Book Day
- 19th – Feast of St Joseph Mass at 2.45pm
- 25th – 28th – Year 6 cycling
- 24th – 28th – Big Walk and Wheel

Summer Term

- 5th May – Bank Holiday
- 6th May – INSET day
- 21st May – May Procession and Picnic
- 10th June – Years 1 – 6 Sports Day
- 17th June – Nursery and Reception Sports Day
- 18th July – Final Day of school for pupils
- 21st July – INSET day

Please check the Dates for the Diary every week.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Launch Week

To mark the launch of the Jubilee Year 2025, we embraced the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" with a week of inspiring activities designed to deepen pupils' faith and commitment to building a better world. Here are some of the activities we took part in:

Daily Prayers of Hope

Each day during the launch week, pupils took time to say the Chaplaincy Team's Prayer of Hope, the official Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope prayer, and the Daily Examen. These daily prayers encouraged them to reflect on their experiences, express gratitude, and develop patience. Through this routine, pupils were able to pause, appreciate God's presence in their lives, and consider how they could live out the message of hope in their actions.



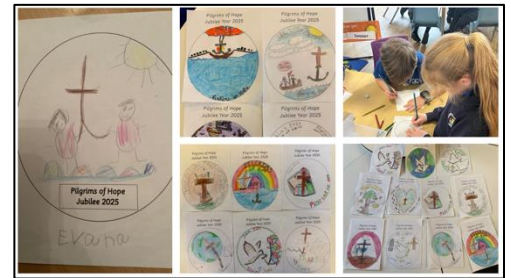
Celebration of Mass



Our school Mass, celebrated by Fr Nick Williams, marked the beginning of our Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope launch week. This special celebration prepared us for the Holy Year called by Pope Francis, inviting us to embrace a time of forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal in our relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. As we reflected on the Bible's message that "Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit," we were encouraged to think about our own hopes—for ourselves, our future, and the world. Fr Williams led us in prayer, asking God to help us shine the light of Christ in all that we do, guiding us throughout this significant Jubilee Year.

Creating a Jubilee Logo

Pupils began by watching the CAFOD Jubilee 2025 film to deepen their understanding of the themes of this special year. Using CAFOD's logo explainer, they explored the meaning behind the official Jubilee logo and its key messages of faith, hope, and renewal. Inspired by this, they designed their own Jubilee logos, reflecting on what the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' meant to them. This creative activity encouraged personal reflection and allowed pupils to visually express their hopes for the future.



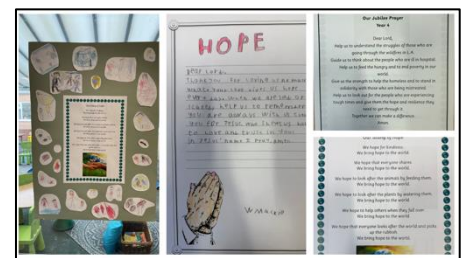
Pilgrimage Walk



Pupils took part in a Jubilee Pilgrimage, journeying together in reflection and prayer to renew their hope, remember God's promises, and recognize His presence in the world. They began with the Jubilee Prayer before pausing at key points to reflect on symbols of hope, justice, and faith. Through artwork, scripture, and discussion, they considered what the Jubilee means and how they could live it out. A symbolic act of breaking chains represented the call to liberation and justice, and time in silent prayer encouraged them to listen for God in creation. The pilgrimage ended with a commitment to be Pilgrims of Hope, followed by a final prayer and the opportunity to take home a CAFOD bookmark or write a personal reflection.

Writing Prayers of Hope

Pupils used quotes from Pope Francis' writing about the Jubilee, Hope Does Not Disappoint, alongside thought-provoking questions to guide discussion and deepen their understanding of the theme. These reflections inspired them to write their own class or individual Prayers of Hope, which were then displayed as part of the 'Prayers of Hope' display, showcasing their personal responses and aspirations for the Jubilee Year.



Jubilee Pledges



Pupils took part in the CAFOD Launch Day Film event, learning more about the significance of the Jubilee Year 2025. They explored the Jubilee Pledge, reflecting on how they could live it out both locally and globally. As a class, they wrote a pledge to build a better world, considering ways to put faith into action. Using CAFOD's See, Judge, Act template, they began to think about meaningful steps the whole school community could take to work towards their pledge and make a positive difference.

Four Purposes of the Curriculum –Ambitious and Capable Learners!



Nursery	Rowan Keenan	Year 3	Scarlett Chan
Reception	Evana Jainson	Year 4	Charlotte Cummings
Year 1	Stream-Rose Kingsley Cooling	Year 5	Archie Jones
Year 2	John Murray	Year 6	Jasmin Green

Weekly Good News Awards



Mrs Taylor's Good News Awards are for pupils who have given 100% effort to improving their handwriting, forming their letter correctly, working towards a consistent size and style and joining letter correctly, where appropriate.

Congratulations to this week's winners!

Nursery	Delilah Pugsley Margot Drake Oscar Murphy-Newport Grace McDermid	Year 3	Noah Ford Isaac Morgans Jackson Ruckley Ayana Varma
Reception	Osian Whittaker Camilla Haincock Aneyah Stait Milo Mulchinock	Year 4	Alice Deacon Annabelle Hoover Esmail O'Grady Ayaansh Prasad
Year 1	Afan McAuley Elise Knapper Doris Perkins Theo Davies	Year 5	Leilani Goodall Lexie Morgan Ashton Ruckley Joey Burnett
Year 2	Albie Todd Reuben Bousie Tomos Samuel Olivia Bounds	Year 6	Raine Ferrer Oscar Evans Georgia Dudley Brooke Lewis

ST RICHARD GWYN PRESENTS

THE
WIZARD
of
Z

YOUTH EDITION

FEBRUARY 18 | FEBRUARY 19 | FEBRUARY 20
2025