



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Thursday 17th April 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Reflection for Holy Week

Jesus, You were the one who freed us, but You were arrested.
 You were sad and afraid, so we could have comfort and joy forever.
 You were thirsty, so we could have Living Water.
 You died in sudden darkness, so we could live in constant light.
 You were rejected, so we could be accepted by God.
 You were shamed and despised, so we could be honoured and loved.
 You were wounded and pierced, so we could be healed and whole.
 You were defeated, so we could win over death and sin.
 You died, so we could live.
 Thank you, Jesus.



Dates for your Diary

Thursday 17th April	School closes for ONE WEEK Easter holiday 1.00pm	
Monday 28 th April	School reopens	8.40am
Monday 5 th May	School closed for May bank holiday	
Thursday 8 th May	VE Day 80 th Celebration & Street Party Lunch (details to follow)	
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th May	SATs week for Y6	
Thursday 22 nd May	School closes for TWO WEEKS holiday	3.20pm
Monday 9 th June	School reopens	8.40am

School Term Dates 2024 -2025

Spring Term 2025	Summer Term 2025
Monday 6 th January 2025 to Thursday 13 th February 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025 to Thursday 22 nd May 2025
HALF TERM	HALF TERM
Monday 24 th February 2025 to Thursday 17 th April 2025	Monday 9 th June 2025 to Monday 21 st July 2025
END OF TERM	END OF YEAR

Teacher Days – Friday 23 rd May Monday 21 st July 2025

Bank Holidays – Friday 18 th April 2025 Monday 5 th May 2025

St Joseph's Parish

Mass at St Joseph's Church takes place every **Sunday morning at 9.45am**. Please do try to attend Mass as often as you can. A coffee morning also takes place **every Friday morning at 10.30am** at St Joseph's Church, all are welcome.

End of Term

School finishes today for our one week Easter holiday. We return to school on Monday 28th April at 8.40am.





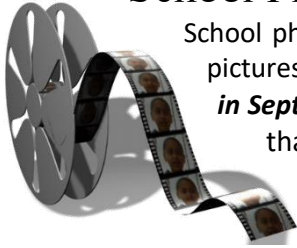
Easter Egg Raffle

Thank you to all of the families who supported our Easter Egg Raffle. We raised a total of £248.10 which is amazing! Congratulations to all of the children who won an egg today. Alongside the money donated for the sponsored walk the school has raised an incredible £635.72 for the schools chosen Lenten charity, CAFOD. Thank you for your generosity.

Holy Week Church Services

Please see the flyer from Father Solomon at the end of the newsletter which provides details of the upcoming Holy Week Services.

School Photographs – Class Groups & Y6 Leavers



School photographs were taken last week for class group pictures and Year Six individual graduation pictures – ***there are no individual pictures for children from Reception to Year 5 as these were done in September.*** If you would like to order, you need to scan the QR code on the small white card that your child brought home and follow the instructions on the website. All orders must be placed online; we cannot order from school unfortunately.

Public Health Advice

Due to the ongoing waste and recycling service industrial action, rubbish has continued to accumulate across Birmingham. Residents may be impacted by the industrial action in different ways, however the public health risk associated with household waste can be reduced by taking the following precautions:

- Good hygiene is important to reduce risk of becoming ill from bugs, in particular regular hand washing with soap and water.
- Keep food preparation areas clean using a disinfectant, don't leave food on surfaces at home unwrapped, including pet food and use bin lids as accumulated waste can attract flies.
- Use two bin bags, especially when preparing waste for taking outside as this reduces the risk of vermin breaking into bin bags.
- In particular, ensure waste products such as nappies, sanitary towels and condoms are 'double bagged' for example put in a smaller bag first before placing in the household rubbish bin.
- Use gloves if you pick up rubbish that has spilled into your driveway or street.
- Take extra precaution with children who may be playing in areas near where rubbish has accumulated and especially if you notice exposed waste.
- Where possible, keep wheelie bins / outside bins out of direct sunlight to reduce smells and in a place that minimises obstruction to others.
- If you or your child cuts themselves on waste in the street, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and apply a sterile adhesive dressing, such as a plaster. Visit the [NHS website information about how to deal with cuts](#). If there is a risk the wound could become infected or you think it is already infected call NHS 111 or visit your local walk-in centre, minor injuries unit or GP surgery - or download the free 'Ask NHS' app for advice if you begin to feel unwell.

Year 6 SATs Week

Year Six SATS will take place during the week of 12th – 16th May. It is VERY IMPORTANT that your child is in school for the whole of this week, and also that they are in on time each day. To help with this, we will provide a free breakfast club for all Y6 children for the duration of the week. Research has shown that a good, healthy breakfast improves brain function and helps children to function better in their lessons! We will send out a letter to Y6 families regarding this after the Easter break.

*This half-term virtues are: Attentive & Discerning
If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.*

Holy Week/Easter

Today is Holy or Maundy Thursday, which marks the second special day in Holy Week, the most important week in the Church year. Holy Week is the week leading up to Jesus' death, and resurrection on Easter Day. There are five special days in Holy Week on which Christians go to church; Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. These days remember special events in the Easter story.

Maundy Thursday is the day on which Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples. It was the Jewish feast of Passover, and Jesus broke bread and shared wine with the disciples. This is an important event for the church, as it was the first celebration of the Mass, where Jesus told the disciples (and us) 'Do this in memory of me'. Jesus told the disciples that when they did, the bread would become his body and the wine would become his blood; the sacrifice which he was going to make. Jesus also washed the disciples' feet, to show them that he was the 'servant of mankind'. If you go to Mass tonight, you will see Father Solomon washing the feet of people in the congregation to remember this act. Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray on Holy Thursday, and it was here that Judas (one of the disciples) betrayed Jesus by bringing the soldiers to arrest him. At the Maundy Thursday Mass, the Eucharist (communion) is taken from the altar and taken to a side chapel. Everything is removed from the altar in preparation for Good Friday, which is a day of mourning in the church. People sometimes stay after the service to pray, as Jesus asked the disciples to pray with him in the garden.



Good Friday was the day on which Jesus was crucified. Good Friday is a day of mourning in church, and traditionally, people choose to fast or not eat certain food and drink. This is where the tradition of 'Hot Cross Buns' came from, as people would eat these on Good Friday as a simple alternative to other foods, the cross on the bun representing the cross on which Jesus died. We do not have Mass on Good Friday, but we go to a solemn, simple service, which is traditionally held at 3.00pm. This is the time that Jesus is believed to have died. If you go to church on this day, you will see Father Solomon holding the cross for people to kiss. This is called 'veneration', which means to worship, and it is done as a symbol of adoration and honour for Jesus and what he did for us. On Good Friday, Jesus was questioned by the Jews after his arrest, who believed that Jesus was a troublemaker and a sinner, as he claimed to be the Son of God. They wanted Jesus to be punished, but were not allowed to do it themselves, so they handed him over to the Romans. Despite giving the crowd many opportunities to free Jesus, Pilate, who was the Governor of Rome, eventually gave in and sent Jesus to be flogged and crucified. The Gospels tell us that Jesus was mocked and given a purple robe to wear (the colour of Kings and royalty) and a crown of thorns. This is because they said that Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. Jesus carried his own cross to the place where he was crucified, known as 'Golgotha' or 'the place of the skull'. After Jesus died and was taken from the cross, he was placed into the tomb.

On **Holy Saturday**, we celebrate the 'Easter Vigil'. This is the first Mass of Easter. The word vigil means to keep watch and wait, as we are awaiting the resurrection of Jesus, the light of the world. At the Easter Vigil Mass, Fr. Solomon lights a special fire. He blesses the fire and lights the new Paschal Candle from it. The Paschal Candle represents Christ as the light of the world. It is lit every week throughout the season of Easter, up until Pentecost Sunday. It is also lit at special times throughout the year, such as funerals and baptisms. If you go to Mass on this day, you will also see the veils being removed from the statues and crucifixes in the church, and the Eucharist being brought back to the altar. You will also notice that we use the 'Alleluia' again, which you will remember that we buried at the beginning of Lent. This is a time of great joy and celebration; the most important day in the year of the church.



The staff and I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Easter and we hope the children enjoy the Easter treats which they have brought home with them today. These sweet treats were kindly donated by another Birmingham primary school as part of their Jubilee year commitment.

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Internet Safety Coffee Morning

Mrs Gowen previously sent a letter home regarding the importance of internet/online safety for your children. A coffee morning will be taking place in school on **Thursday 8th May at 09:30am** which you are most welcome to attend to discuss online safety further.

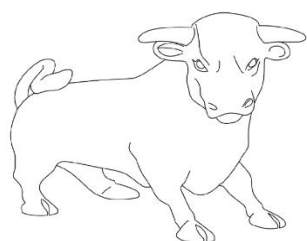
MyClothing - 10% discount on uniform

Our uniform supplier MyClothing have issued a 10% discount code to save you money on uniform costs please see below code and details of the expiry date.

Code = **MYCSS10%**

Expires 31/05/2025

Uniform can be purchased by clicking this link - [My Clothing](#)



Birmingham Hospice

Nechells POD – Bull Decorating

Nechells POD will be taking part in the 'Bulls in the City' art trail based on the famous bronze Bullring bull. The trail will come to Birmingham in summer 2025 and the POD are looking for children within the local community to help them design their bull 'Frank'. If your child would like to be involved, blank templates are available from the School Office for the children to complete an entry and create a design for Frank. Completed designs will then need to be returned to Nechells POD **before Friday 25th April**. Bull decorating sessions will take place at the POD on Tuesday 7th and Tuesday 14th May at 3.30pm. All those who have submitted a design are welcome to attend.

Easter 2025 Soccer Schools

Please scan the code for more information on Week 2 of the Easter Soccer Schools offered by the Aston Villa Foundation. Please note that the children will still be in school on the dates offered for Week 1. Bookings can be made by scanning the QR code.



Pastoral Team

In school we have a team of safeguarding DSLs, Wellbeing staff and we also have a Pastoral Team. Our Pastoral Team is made up of myself (Mrs Ashley), Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell, Mrs Gowen, Mrs West, Mrs Koumi & Miss Crane.



Lunch-time Award

Our weekly lunchtime reward system is open to all children to earn a reward certificate for good behaviour during lunchtimes. Children will be chosen each week and will receive their certificate in assembly and be mentioned in the newsletter. Our lunchtime award winners for this week are:

Attendance – week ending 17th April 2025

Well done to **Y4** who had the best attendance this week with a fabulous **97.8%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 93.3%	Year One: 94.3%	Year Two: 91.4%	Year Three: 97%
Year Four: 97.8%	Year Five: 93.8%	Year Six: 95.9%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 95%

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Attendance from Autumn to Spring Term

Well done to **Year Four** who had the best overall attendance from Autumn to Spring Term with **97.5%**.

Reception: 93.9%

Year One: 95.3%

Year Two: 95.2%

Year Three: 96.3%

Year Four: 97.5%

Year Five: 93.2%

Year Six: 96.5%

This gives a whole school attendance over Autumn and Spring **95.5%**



Congratulations to the following children who have shone in school over the last week;

Reception	Kielet	Showed very good understanding of Holy Week in our R.E. lessons.
Year 1	Camari	For trying hard in everything he does :)
Year 2	Praise	Excellent work in R.E this week.
Year 3	Success	For her excellent knowledge of the scriptures during Holy Week.
Year 4	Matthew	For being a wonderful role model to the rest of his class.
Year 5	Bersaba	For settling in well and trying very hard. Well done 😊
Year 6	Lidya	For always being helpful around the classroom and for being a great role model to the younger children!

This Week's News

This week, the whole school have been gathering together to revisit the events of Holy Week.



On Monday Reception and KS1 reminded us of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The children made palms to wave, sang a song about and led us in a Palm Sunday procession around school. It was a joyous occasion!

As part of Holy Week, Years 3 and 4 performed The Last Supper whilst Years 5 and 6 assembly went through the events of Good Friday. They all did a fantastic job of reminding us what Holy Week is all about.

In other activities, Reception enjoyed building dens and an Easter egg hunt!



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We are so proud of all the children who were awarded certificates in our Gifts from God assembly.



SCAN HERE TO DONATE



HE IS
Risen

HAPPY
Easter

May the resurrection power resurrect every single dead thing in our lives and may we be victorious in every thing we set our eyes on, in Jesus's name, Amen.

0121 327 0235 stjoseph.bham@rcaob.org.uk Rev. Fr. Solomon Ghebray

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

With **REV. FATHER SOLOMON GHEBRAY**

13TH APRIL - PALM SUNDAY MASS 9.45AM AT ST JOSEPHS- 11.30AM AT ST VINCENTS
17TH APRIL - HOLY THURSDAY DAY MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER 07:30 PM AT ST VINCENTS
18TH APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS AT 09:15 AM
CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD 12.00 NOON ST JOSEPHS, 3:00 PM AT ST VINCENTS
19TH APRIL - HOLY SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL AT 04:30 PM AT ST VINCENTS
20TH APRIL - EASTER SUNDAY MASS AT 9.45AM ST JOSEPHS - 11.30 AM AT ST VINCENTS

0121 359 3305 stvincentdepaul.bham@rcaob.org.uk Rev. Fr. Solomon Ghebray

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