



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

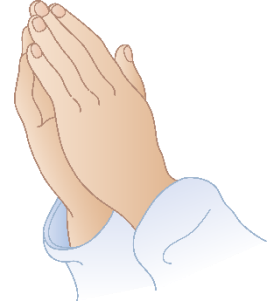
Friday 27th March 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils, Staff and Parishioners,

A Prayer for Holy Week

Almighty Father, who sent your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin,
 show me how I can honour you and bring glory to your name,
 by walking in the way of Jesus.
 Give me grace and mercy as I try and fail,
 guidance when I'm not sure which way to go, and wisdom to trust you in all things.
 For your love brings light and life to all who seek it.
 May I seek you evermore as I walk with you through this Holy Week and beyond.
 Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 31 st March	Y3 & Y4 Maundy Thursday Liturgy (pm)	2.30pm
Wednesday 1 st April	Mrs Smith's Retirement Assembly	9.10am
	Y5 & Y6 Stations of the cross Liturgy (pm)	2.30pm
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for ONE WEEK Easter holiday	1.00pm
Monday 13 th April	School reopens	8.40am

School Term Dates 2025 -2026

Autumn Term 2025

Term starts: Monday 1 September 2025
 Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025
 Term ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026
 Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026
 Term ends: Thursday 2 April 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026
 Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 5 June 2026
 Term ends: Tuesday 21 July 2026

Teacher Days

Monday 1st September
 Monday 13th October
 Friday 13th February
 Monday 6th July
 Monday 20th July
 Tuesday 21st July



End of Term – NEXT Thursday – 1pm
 Just a reminder that we are still in school next week for Holy Week. **School finishes for our one week Easter holiday NEXT THURSDAY at**



1.00pm. Please ensure that a responsible adult is here at that time to collect your child.

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

School Holy Week Services

Next week is Holy Week, the children will be preparing and presenting some special services in school.

On Tuesday 31st March Y3/4 will be leading a Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service at 2.30pm.

On Wednesday 1st April Y5/6 will be leading a Stations of the Cross service at 2.30pm.

Parents and carers are warmly invited and encouraged to come into school for these services and share this very special time of year with us. Please note that due to the nature of these services and the way the children will be seated, **we are unable to admit anyone after 2.30pm**. Please ensure you arrive on time to avoid disappointment.

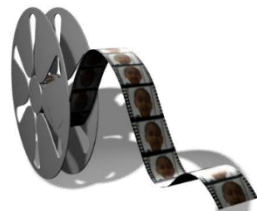


Goodbye!

Sadly, we will soon be saying goodbye to Mrs Smith who has been here with us for almost 24 years. Mrs Smith has been away from school more recently but is still a huge part of the St Joseph's community. Mrs Smith's father was the caretaker at St Joseph's for around 25 years and then Mrs Smith started her own career at the school. Mrs Smith has always gone above and beyond for our children and families, and she will be greatly missed. There will be an assembly in school to celebrate her retirement on **Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 9.10am** and all parents are welcome to attend to wish her well.

School Photographs – Class Groups & Y6 Leavers

School photographs were taken on Wednesday 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.



After-school Clubs

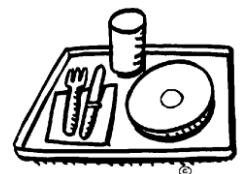
All after school clubs (Archery, Seed to Feed and Tag Rugby) have now finished. Letters have been sent out regarding the new after-school clubs which will begin after the easter holiday.

Reminder – Refillable Water Bottles

We would like to remind all families that single-use plastic water bottles are not permitted in school. To help us reduce waste and promote environmentally friendly habits, please ensure your child brings a refillable water bottle each day. Children have access to water stations around the school and can refill their bottles whenever needed. Thank you for your support in helping us encourage sustainable practices.

School Meals price increase

The price of school meals will be increasing from after Easter by 25p per week. This means that the costs will be £2.75 per day or £13.75 per week. Unfortunately, this is due to rising costs through our catering company and the costs of food increasing.



MAC SEND Coffee Morning – Archbishop Ilsley School

The MAC would like to invite you to a SEND Coffee Morning, an event designed to bring together families of children with physical disabilities, visual impairments, or hearing impairments. This will be a relaxed opportunity to meet other families, share experiences, and build a supportive community.

- When: Wednesday 15th April
- Time: 9.30am–11.00am
- Where: Library, Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School, B27 7XY

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

During the session, you will have the opportunity to connect with other parents and carers, share strategies, challenges, and successes and enjoy a warm drink in an informal and welcoming environment. To help us plan for numbers, please complete the Microsoft Form if you are able to attend: [Invitation to a SEND coffee morning – Fill out form](#) We hope you will be able to join us.

Kind regards, the SEND Team at Archbishop Ilsey



St Joseph's Church Easter Egg Hunt

Please see the poster for details about the Easter Egg Hunt taking place at St Joseph's Church on Sunday 12th April 2026 from 10:45am. Entry is £1 and all are welcome.

Lent – Palm Sunday

This Sunday is the sixth in Lent, and is known as Palm Sunday. It is the beginning of 'Holy Week', which is the most important week of the year in the Catholic and Christian faiths

On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' journey into Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Passover. After hearing about Jesus and the miracles that he had performed in Galilee, the people were starting to believe that Jesus was the Son of God and that he would be their King. When they heard that he was coming to their town, they were keen to see him and gathered along the road. They waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (John 12:12-13). The people were excited and it was a time of great joy and happiness for them. However,



while Jesus was happy that people believed in him and wanted him as their King, it was also a time of great sadness and fear for him because he knew what was going to happen later that week and that those same people would disown him and turn away from him, saying that he should be crucified. So, while the story of Palm Sunday helps us to remember that Jesus is our King, it also helps us to think about times that we have turned away from God.

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.

Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Measles this Spring

There have been recent measles cases in the region. To keep yourself and others safe and healthy this spring, please read the information sheet at the end of the newsletter.

NHS Public Consultation – Shape the Future of Urgent Care in Birmingham & Solihull

The NHS in Birmingham and Solihull is running a public consultation on proposed changes to Urgent Treatment Centres and GP out-of-hours services, and is encouraging NHS staff, patients, families, and the wider public to share their views before the consultation closes on 16 April. Two options are being considered, and no decisions have been made – feedback from local communities will directly influence what happens next. Please support this work by completing the survey and helping ensure as many voices as possible are heard.

- Complete the consultation survey by visiting: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UTCservices/>
- Find out more about other ways to get involved at: www.birminghamssolihull.icb.nhs.uk/utc-review

Every response helps the NHS understand people's experiences and priorities so it can design services that meet the needs of all our communities.

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End of Term Safety Message from Birmingham City Council

As we approach the end of term, we are writing to ask for your support in reinforcing key safety messages with pupils, particularly those who may be finishing school early or making their way home independently.

Experience from previous end-of-term periods shows increased footfall and activity in Birmingham city centre and other busy locations. While there is no specific cause for concern, we are keen to work together to help ensure young people travel home safely and avoid unnecessary risk.

We would be grateful if schools could:

- Encourage pupils to go straight home at the end of the school day
- Discourage congregating in the city centre or other busy public spaces
- Remind pupils to look out for one another and seek help if they feel unsafe

Birmingham Youth Service and partner agencies will be visible in key areas, offering support and guidance to young people. Schools play a vital role in helping reinforce consistent messages that promote safety, responsibility and wellbeing.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please continue to follow your usual procedures. For urgent concerns:

• **Police (non-emergency):** 101

• **Emergency:** 999

Thank you for your continued support in keeping Birmingham's children and young people safe.

Parent Wellbeing Newsletter

We're pleased to share the latest Parent Wellbeing News Update from the [Togetherness](#) team – an online NHS-supported learning environment designed by psychologists and health practitioners. Togetherness provides accessible, research-informed resources to support emotional health, positive behaviour and strong relationships at home. You can access the newsletter here [PDF April 2026 parent wellbeing newsletter.pdf](#)

Google Translate

If you would like to translate the newsletter into your home language, this can be done through Google Translate. Please follow the link ([Google Translate](#)) where you can 'drag and drop' the newsletter and this will automatically translate the content into the language you choose.

School's X (formerly Twitter Page)

The school does have an account on X (formerly Twitter) which is regularly updated with what the classes have been doing each week in school. Please visit our page ([St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, B7 \(@stjosb7\) / X](#)) to see what your children have been doing. You will need an account on X to be able to view any updates.

Aston Villa Foundation Community Hub

Please see the poster for more information on the Aston Villa Foundation Community Hub sessions. To register and for more information you can also scan the QR code.

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. Please scan the QR code to view St Joseph's Instagram page.



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Different Upcoming School Holidays

Just a reminder that we have different holidays to other Birmingham schools this year. We will be having ONE week holiday at Easter and TWO WEEKS at May. Please bear this in mind when making any travel arrangements for the holidays. Dates are on the first page of this newsletter and have been on since September. Medical absences either side of school holidays will require evidence of illness for them to be authorised. Once you have had 5 unauthorised days absence you can be fined. These days do not have to be all at the same time/ consecutively and can be over a period of different terms. Any days of absences that are unauthorised (this also includes 'late after registration' marks where a child arrives after 9.15am) now count towards number of absences. Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, or less days if you have had previous unauthorised absence in the 10 weeks prior to the holiday. The fine for unauthorised holiday is now £160 for each parent (reduced to £80 if paid within 28 days) for each child that was absent. For example, if you have 3 children absent for term time leave, this would result in each parent receiving a fine of £480 (reduced to £240 if paid within 28 days).

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:

Haad – Y2 Adam – Rec Farah – Y3 Janelle – Y5

Attendance – week ending 27th March 2026

Well done to **Y1** who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 98.3%	Year One: 100%	Year Two: 99.2%	Year Three: 94.9%
Year Four: 97.5%	Year Five: 98.8%	Year Six: 98.1%	

This gives a whole school attendance of 98.1 %

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1	Pasta Bolognese Cheese and Onion Pasty (V) Broccoli(V) Carrots (V) New Potatoes (V) Shortbread and Custard Fresh Salad Bar and Bread	Chicken Meatballs in a Tomato Sauce Vegetable Meatballs (V) Spicy Wedges (V) Carrot and Swede (V) Green Beans (V) Apple Crumble and Custard	Roast Chicken or Quorn Roast Dinner with Trimmings(V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrots and Cauliflower(V) Fruity Jelly Jacket Potato and Fillings	Chicken and Chickpea Curry Sweet Potato and Spinach Curry(V) Boiled Rice and Naan (V) Broccoli (V) Fruit Sponge and Custard	Homemade Margherita Pizza(V) Crumbed Cod Fish Cake Chunky Chips(V) Spaghetti Hoops (V) Garden Peas(V) Ice Cream Tub Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts
WEEK 2	Crispy Turkey Burger Quorn Burger(V) Green Beans(V) Baked Beans(V) Spicy Wedges(V) Flap Jack and Custard Fresh Salad Bar and Bread	Cottage Pie Vegetable Lasagne (V) Baby Carrots (V) Broccoli (V) Herby Diced Potato(V) Chocolate Crunch and Custard	Sausages, Yorkshire Pudding and Gravy Quorn Sausages (V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrot & Swede Batons (V) Peas (V) Fruit Jelly Jacket Potato and Fillings	Chili Con Carne Cheese and Potato Pie Boiled Rice & Garlic Bread Broccoli(V) Marbled Sponge and	Homemade Margherita Pizza(V) Breaded Pollock Chunky Chips (V) Baked Beans(V) Sweetcorn (V) Ice Cream Tub Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts
WEEK 3	Macaroni Cheese(V) Fish Fingers(V) Spicy Wedges(V) Garden Peas(V) Carrots(V) Lemon Drizzle Cake and Custard Fresh Salad Bar and Bread	Hot Dog with Onions Quorn Hot Dog & Onions(V) Herby Diced Potatoes(V) Sweetcorn (V) Broccoli (V) Chocolate Cracknell and Custard	Roast Gammon Dinner with all the Trimmings Cheese and Onion Lattice Finger(V) Roast Potatoes(V) Carrots and Green Beans Fruit Jelly Jacket Potato and Fillings	Cajun Chicken Wrap with Fried Onions and Peppers (V) Italian Pasta Bake Homemade Coleslaw (V) Spicy Wedges(V) Baked Cookie	Homemade Margherita Pizza(V) Bubble Crumb Fish Fillet Chunky Chips(V) Baked Beans (V) Sweetcorn(V) Ice Cream Tub Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts

Vegetarian options available daily.
For any allergen or special dietary requirements please speak to a member of the catering team.

This Week's Menu

Please see details of the school's three week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 30th March 2026 children will be offered the Week 3 menu:

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

Reception	Ivy	For always being so helpful 😊
Year 1	Kali	For excellent effort in all her lessons this week.
Year 2	Elihu	For excellent progress in Maths.
Year 3	Maidah	For trying her best to improve in Maths.
Year 4	Muheymin	For settling into Year 4 so well!
Year 5	Mary	For writing so well, that it is a pleasure to read her work! 😊
Year 6	Kezia	For always trying your best in everything you do and for being such an excellent example to others.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
Thimble Mill Lane B7 5HT

29 MARCH
9.45am Palm Sunday Mass

3 APRIL
10.00am Good Friday Walk of Witness
beginning at Nechells Outreach Centre Long Acre B7 5JP
The group will arrive at St Joseph's by 10.30am

3 APRIL
12.00 noon Good Friday Service
Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord

5 APRIL
9.45am Easter Sunday
Mass of the Resurrection

ST VINCENT'S CHURCH
Nechells Parkway B7 4JY

29 MARCH
11.30am Palm Sunday Mass

2 APRIL
7.30pm Holy Thursday Evening
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration until Midnight

3 APRIL
10.00am Good Friday Walk of Witness
beginning at Nechells Outreach Centre Long Acre B7 5JP
The group will arrive at St Joseph's by 10.30am

3 APRIL
3.00pm Good Friday Service
Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord

4 APRIL
7.30pm Holy Saturday
Vigil of the Resurrection

5 APRIL
11.30am Easter Sunday
Mass of the Resurrection

May Our Lord Jesus bless each one abundantly during Holy Week the Easter Season and always.

Happy Easter

May the miracle of Easter bring you love, joy, good health, peace, renewed hope, and faith.

- Rev. Fr. Solomon & Sister Catherine

Happy Easter

St. Joseph's & St. Vincent Churches

Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.

How to protect yourself, your family, and your community from measles

WHAT IS MEASLES?

Measles is highly infectious and can lead to serious health complications. There have been recent cases of measles in the region.

The best protection against measles is two doses of the MMRV immunisation.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM MEASLES?

The MMRV immunisation protects against measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox (varicella).

Children are offered 2 doses of the immunisation when they are 12 months and 18 months old. Older children born on or after 1 January 2020 are also offered 1 or 2 doses of the immunisation.

A pork-free version of the MMRV immunisation, called Priorix-Tetra, is available at all GP surgeries.

The MMRV immunisation is safe, effective, and free of charge. It does NOT cause autism – numerous studies have proven there is no link between the immunisation and autism.

The MMR immunisation is no longer offered to all young children. It is recommended for anyone born on or before 31 December 2019 who missed having this immunisation when they were younger.

HOW CAN YOU GET THE IMMUNISATION?

To get immunised, book an appointment at your GP surgery. To find out if your child is up to date with their immunisations, check their Personal Child Health Record, or contact your GP surgery.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF MEASLES?

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms. The first symptoms of measles include:

- a high temperature
- a runny or blocked nose
- sneezing
- a cough
- red, sore, watery eyes

A rash usually appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms. The rash starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body.

Some people may also get small spots in their mouth, particularly inside the cheeks and on the back of the lips. To learn more about symptoms, visit nhs.uk/conditions/measles/.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD HAS SUSPECTED MEASLES?

If your child develops symptoms, urgently contact your GP. Please contact the surgery by telephone before visiting and tell the reception staff that you think that your child may have measles.

Do not attend the surgery unless you are asked to, nor should you attend A&E. The doctor will advise on what to do, and will make special arrangements to see your child so that if they have measles, they won't pass it on to others.

For more information, visit nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

