



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St. Joseph's News

Thursday 2nd April 2026



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 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
School finishes today for our one week Easter holiday. We return to school on Monday 13th April at 8.40am.

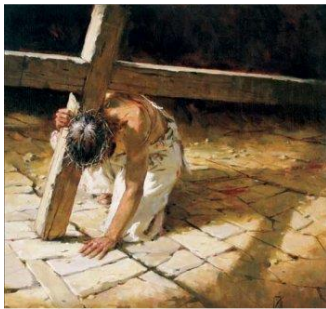


*This half-term virtues are: Curious & Active
 If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the safeguarding team;
 Mrs Gowen, Mrs Ashley, Mr Caffrey, Mrs Boxwell and Mrs West.*

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.

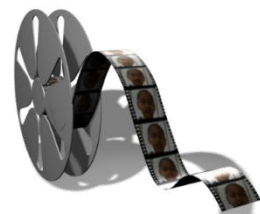
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School Photographs – Class Groups & Y6 Leavers

School photographs were taken on 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.



After-school Clubs

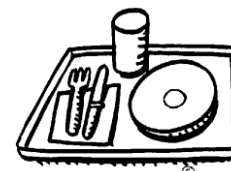
All after school clubs (Archery, Seed to Feed and Tag Rugby) have now finished. Letters have been sent out regarding the new after-school clubs which will begin after the easter holiday.

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

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 Ilsley

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.

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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.

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.birminghamsolihull.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.

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.

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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 ([@stjosb7](https://twitter.com/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.



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:

Rufael – Reception Hiyabeal – Year One Isaiah – Year Four Nathan – Year Six

Attendance – week ending 2nd April 2026

Well done to **Y2** who had the best attendance this week with an incredible **100%**!

The full attendance figures are as follows:

Reception: 98.8%	Year One: 99.2 %	Year Two: 100%	Year Three: 96.6%
Year Four: 96.4 %	Year Five: 96.9 %	Year Six: 93.5%	

This gives a whole school attendance of **97.1%**

Attendance for Spring Term

Well done to **Year 5** who had the best overall attendance during the Spring Term with **97.5%**.

Reception: 96.3 %	Year One: 97.1%	Year Two: 97.2%	Year Three: 97.3%
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Year Four: 96.1%

Year Five: 97.5 %

Year Six: 96.9%

This gives a whole school attendance of 96.9% over Spring Term

This Week's Menu
Please see details of the school's three week rotating dinner menu, week commencing Monday 13th April 2026 children will be offered the Week 1 menu:

CITY SERVE		LUNCH MENU							
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
WEEK 1	Pasta Bolognese Cheese and Onion Pasty (V) Broccoli(V) Carrots (V) New Potatoes (V) Shortbread and Custard	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	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 Salad Bar and Bread	Jacket Potato and Fillings	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	Cottage Pie Vegetable Lasagne (V) Baby Carrots (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	Chilli 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 Salad Bar and Bread	Jacket Potato and Fillings	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	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	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 Salad Bar and Bread	Jacket Potato and Fillings

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



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

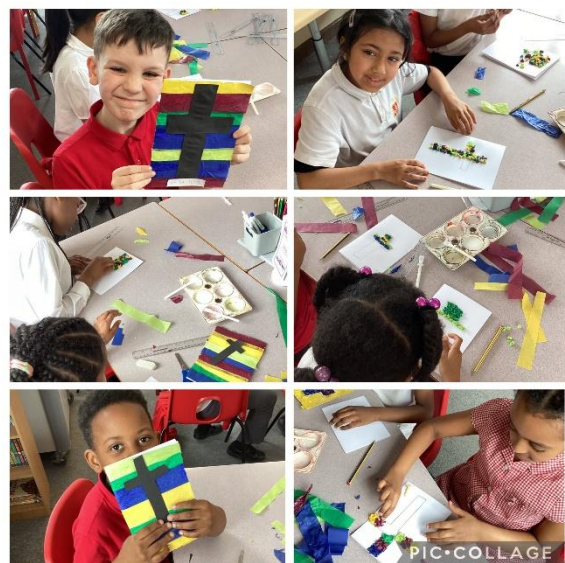
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| Reception | Yolyana | Always using her manners 😊 |
| Year 1 | Evie | For excellent RE work. |
| Year 2 | Adonai | For beautiful reading in our Palm Sunday Assembly |
| Year 3 | Abenob | For showing improvement on TT Rockstars |
| Year 4 | Dagmawit | For her confidence during the Lenten Roadshow! Well done! 😊 |
| Year 5 | Natan | Excellent problem solving skills. |
| Year 6 | Dina | For her thoughtful responses in RE this week. |



This Week's News

This week, the children have been busy preparing for Holy Week. They started the week by celebrating Palm Sunday processing around the playground, waving their palms and singing Hosanna.

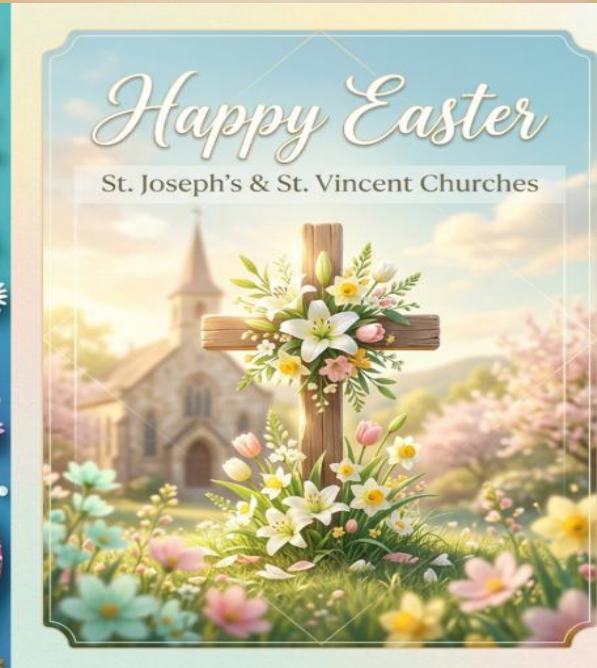
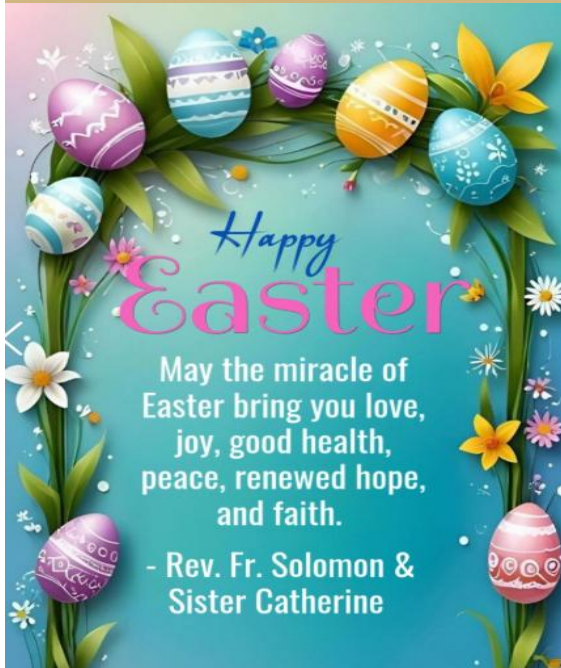
Here's a picture of our Year Four children getting creative making their Easter cards!



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 ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH Thimble Mill Lane B7 5HT	 ST VINCENT'S CHURCH Nechells Parkway B7 4JY
29 MARCH 9.45am Palm Sunday Mass	29 MARCH 11.30am Palm Sunday Mass
3 APRIL 10.00am Good Friday Walk of Witness <small>beginning at Nechells Outreach Centre Long Acce B7 5JP The group will arrive at St Joseph's by 10.30am</small>	2 APRIL 7.30pm Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration until Midnight
3 APRIL 12.00 noon Good Friday Service Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord	3 APRIL 10.00am Good Friday Walk of Witness <small>beginning at Nechells Outreach Centre Long Acce B7 5JP The group will arrive at St Joseph's by 10.30am</small>
5 APRIL 9.45am Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection	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.	



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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/

