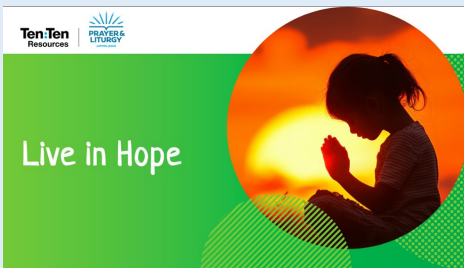


The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

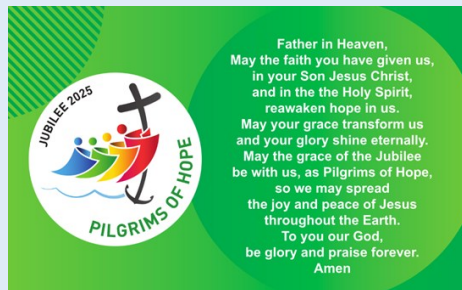
Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. This Feast celebrates that Mary was free from original sin from the moment she was conceived. God chose her and prepared her to be the mother of Jesus. Her purity shows God's mercy and plan for salvation.

This day honours Mary's sinless beginning. It reminds us of God's special plan for her. Mary's example teaches us to say yes to God with faith and trust. Her humility, obedience, and faith guide us in our own lives. She is the new Eve whose yes brought hope to the world. On this day, we honour Mary and thank God for choosing her to bring Jesus into the world.

Theme of this weekend's Gospel:



Going forth for this weekend's Gospel:



This month's Virtue to Live By



Prayer intentions: On the second Sunday of Advent, Lord, help us prepare our hearts for Your coming. Guide us to remove obstacles that keep us from You. Strengthen our love and faith as we journey together. Amen.

Collective Worship Newsletter: Please find the newsletter for December by clicking on this link:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Picture News

Question: How important is it to feel a sense of togetherness?

Story: On Friday, the Princess of Wales will host her annual carol service, which will bring people together to celebrate kindness, connection, and community.



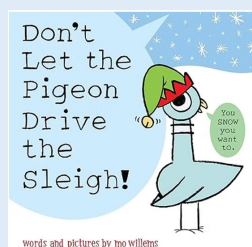
Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching Principles:

Everyone is special (Human Dignity)



Book Recommendations



Prayer of the Month

Our prayer for December is **The Magnificat**.

Our Advent Word of the week last week was **Hope**.

Our word of the week this week is **Peace**



Information / Messages

Update on Mrs Healy: As a school we want to thank Mr Frank Barratt for stepping in to support our school during this very difficult Autumn term. We are delighted to say that Mrs Healy has begun a phased return to work. We have missed Mrs Healy during her absence and we are all committed to helping her return to her role as Headteacher of St Mary's full time. We understand that this will take time and we are delighted to say that Mrs Donna Faley (Headteacher at St Thomas More) has offered our school support as part of this transitional period.

Travelling Carols— On **Tuesday 9th December**, we warmly invite you to join us for a travelling carols service as we journey together in song through the Christmas story. We will begin at **St. Mary's church at 6pm** and conclude at **High Green Methodist church**.

Payment at the Christmas Fair: Once again there will be no floats available at the Christmas Fair, so although you can pay by cash we cannot guarantee change will be available. Therefore, we will be enabling people to buy tokens. These can be paid for on ParentPay until 11am on **Friday 12th December**. At the entrance to Fair, pre-paid tokens will be available to collect and cash can be exchanged for tokens.

Christmas Dinner: If you wish for your child to have a Christmas dinner on **17th December**, you need to order it in advance (on your usual school grid account) by **10th December**. After that date we cannot guarantee your child will be served a Christmas dinner.

Raffle Tickets: Each child should have brought home a book of raffle tickets. All money and stubs should be returned to the school office before the draw on **Friday 19th December**. Extra booklets can be picked up from the office if you require them. If you are unable to sell/buy tickets, please return them to school to be redistributed. The draw will take place at the end of candlelit carols on this day. Tickets will also be available at all of our upcoming parent events.

Shoebox Appeal: Mini Vinnies are collecting for the shoe box appeal. This year they will be making boxes for adults in our community. If you are able to donate items to go in the boxes, it would be much appreciated. Ideal items would include: toiletries, gloves, socks, non-perishable sweets/chocolates. Please could these items be in school no later than **Wednesday 10th December**.

Website: Our updated website should be ready to launch this week. This will hopefully mean that the online calendar will be in operation again. We appreciate your patience while this change over has been happening.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9th December

11:30am—Y2 visit to the Methodist church
Advent confessions in school
6pm—Travelling carols

Wednesday 10th December

9am—Y3 class assembly
Deadline for ordering Christmas dinner

Thursday 11th December

9:30am—Y5/6 Sports hall athletics final
2:20pm—YR St. Nicholas workshop

Friday 12th December

Non uniform day—bottles donation.
9:30am—Advent Mass in church
3:15—5pm—Christmas Fair
Santa Dash—fun run in school time.

Monday 15th December

3:30pm—Reception advent presentation in church.

Tuesday 16th December

2pm and 5pm—Y1/2 advent presentation in church

Wednesday 17th December

11am—Choir carol singing at care home
2pm and 5pm—Y3/4 advent presentation in church

Thursday 18th December

2pm and 5pm—Y5/6 advent presentation in church

Friday 19th December

2pm Candlelit carols
Break for Christmas

Monday 5th January

Return to school

Good Work — History

Phoebe S, Cillian H, Eleanor R, Luna LP, Rebecca S, Emrys H

Stars of the week

Sebastian R, Amelia H, Malik S, Alethea H, Jax H, Alfie G

Hot Chocolate

Harvey C, Lilia G, Erin M

School Council Star

Elsie F

Mini Vinnie Award

Aoife A

Acts of Kindness

Olivia B, Freddie J, Darcey S

Reading Awards

Words—100,000 – Merryn TW; **250,000** – Sophie B, Olivia T, Eimear K

Reading for Pleasure—Rosie GS

Maths Awards

Numbots— Oliver S, Henry R, Alexander I, Phoebe S, Callum H, Benji A, Isla R, Amelia H, Harrison T

TT Rockstars—Improved speed: Camille W, Teddy T, Mila A, Annabelle A, Olivia T, Annie BB, Rebecca S, Callum B, George T, Esme A, Alethea H

Support Act—Rocky G, Esme A ; **Rock Legend**— Teddy T

Vocab Ninja

Christopher R, Halle B, Camille W, Joseph B