

Leader update for Catholic Life and Mission, RE Curriculum and
Collective Worship
Spring Term 2025

- The term began with World Faiths Week 6th – 10th January. All year groups studied Judaism and Islam. Some of our children from other faiths spoke in assembly during the week. They shared their knowledge of their Islamic faith and showed off the clothing they wear. These children were from KS2 and included two children who were relatively new to St Mary's. It was a special moment to see them sharing their faith with the school and showed our inclusivity and our British values of tolerance and mutual respect.
- 10/1/25 Fr Richard led a Mass in the school hall for children, parishioners and parents. It was animated by Year 4 who read beautifully.
- 17/1/25 Y5 led a class assembly about the Jubilee Year of Hope, as called for by Pope Francis. They explained what a Jubilee year is and how we can all pledge something which can bring hope to the world.
- Following the assembly, all children and staff wrote their own Jubilee Pledges, which have been displayed in the entrance hall for all to see.
- During spring term, every class organised a Stay, Pray and Learn afternoon for their parents and carers. These were really well attended and showed off what is going on in each year group. They began with a child-led Celebration of the Word and followed with various aspects of the curriculum, including RE, with children and adults working together.
- 24/1/25 Mrs Hesketh attended the RE Spring Conference at BWFC with RE leads from the Salford Diocese. The focus was the Prayer and Liturgy Directory, supporting schools in its implementation for September 2025. During the day we explored ways to create opportunities for prayer, progression in prayer, the formation of pupils and Annual

Plans of Provision. There was an opportunity to look at ideas for celebrating the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope. Greg Finn of The Mark 10 Mission joined us, sharing practical suggestions on how we can share the Gospel in exciting and engaging ways. The children in Y1 love his Mark10 Mission videos so much that they all made cards for him and he replied with a video message just for them!

- 29/1/25 was the Parents' Meeting in the Rosary room at church for the Sacramental Programme of 2025. This year we have 32 children making their sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Of these, 23 attend St Mary's.
- Sunday 2/2/25 was the Presentation Mass for the children on the Sacramental Programme. They attended with their families and after Holy Communion they sang The Servant King to the congregation. A lovely start to their journey.
- Session for the Sacramental Programme began on Thursday 6th February, led by Fr Richard and Mrs Hesketh. There are 5 sessions which led to the children making their Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- The children all successfully made their Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday 22nd May or just after.
- 4/2/25 Y4 attended Mass at St Mary's Church.
- 4th – 10th February was Good To Be Me Week at St Mary's. All classes did work on resilience and how we can be kind to ourselves. We also celebrated Safer Internet Day on 11/2/25.
- 4/3/25 Mrs Hesketh attended a virtual RE Lead updates meeting with Catherine Moss and representatives from Caritas, Laudato Si and Martin Johnson on CSI.
- 5/3/25 was Ash Wednesday. Mrs Hesketh and Mrs Hayes led a service in the hall. Fr Richard kindly dropped off blessed ashes so the whole school had the opportunity to receive ashes and were invited to 'repent and believe the Gospel'. Children in classes made Lenten promises and the

school prayer tables were turned purple for the season of Lent.

- 12/3/25 Parents of children on the Sacramental Programme were invited to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation Service alongside the parish at St Mary's Church in the evening.
- 18/3/25 The Gift Team attended a Lenten retreat at St Anthony's, with other Gift Teams from Bolton. They were a part of a video which will be sent to all schools to explore how Jesus is with us always.
- 21/3/25 The Knights of St Columba attended our Celebration Assembly to give out prizes for the nativity art and scripture competition which they ran before Christmas.
- 27/3/25 Y6 attended Mass at St Mary's Church
- 27/3/25 EYFS invited all their mothers and grandmothers into school for a lovely Mother's Day breakfast. It was so nice to see adults and children interact in a happy and joyful celebration.
- 28/3/25 This was EYFS who led the class assembly on Mother's Day. The children had painted pictures of their mums, said why they appreciated them and gave them a gift. There was not a dry eye in the house!
- 1/4/25 Y3 and 4 led the Easter Cantata, performed for parents and relatives at St Mary's Church. The children spoke clearly and acted out their parts with passion in delivering the events of Holy Week and Easter in a thought-provoking and reflective manner.
- 4/4/25 The term ended with our annual Love in Action Walk to spread God's message of love and raise money for Caritas. Over £1000 was raised for St Joseph's Penny!

C. Hesketh, RE Lead 28/4/25