



March Newsletter 2025

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28.03.25

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and special month, it's lovely to take a moment to reflect on all we've shared as a school community.

At the beginning of this month, we began this Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday Mass, a time to pause and reflect on how we can grow in faith, kindness, and generosity and this week, it was wonderful to see our youngest children leading us in their Lenten service, reminding us in their simple, heartfelt way of the importance of prayer and thinking of others. Lent calls us to reflect, but it's also about action—living out our faith in the way we treat one another each day.

Our library visits have continued, and it's been lovely to hear the excitement from children discovering new books and sharing stories. Encouraging a love of reading not only helps them to grow as learners but also nurtures their ability to express themselves with truth and confidence—qualities we want to develop in all our pupils.

One of the highlights this month was our sports afternoon and children were sponsored for their activities to raise money for Brushstrokes. It was filled with energy, encouragement, and lots of smiles. Events like this are about more than just the competition—they're about teamwork, resilience, and lifting each other up, as well as a chance to raise money for a brilliant charity as part of our Lenten fundraising.

As we continue our journey through Lent, may we all find small ways to bring hope and kindness to those around us. I leave you with the words of Micah 6:8:

"Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

Wishing you all a restful and blessed weekend.

Take care and God bless,

Mrs Borriello

Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



What is a Jubilee?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

What is the theme for the Jubilee Year?

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door on Christmas Eve 2024 to begin the Jubilee year. In schools, this officially launched 24th January 2025.

The Jubilee Prayer

The official Prayer allows pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness. The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year, this can be found in other languages on the website of the Jubilee. The Jubilee is an experience of faith and a profound encounter with the Lord.

Prayer Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Our Gospel Value and Virtue for Spring term 2 are: Attentive and Discerning.



We are growing to be attentive to our experience and to our vocation; and discerning about the choices we make and the effects of those choices.

Our Catholic school helps us grow by promoting the practice of attentive reflection and discerning decision making: in teaching, in the examen, prayer and retreats; and through the practice and example of school leaders and staff.

Why will you treat others as you would like to be treated?

Our Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle for Spring term 2 is:
Option for The Poor and Vulnerable.



The Headlines for this Newsletter:

- *Safeguarding*
- *Class Attendance*
- *Attendance - What does this mean?*
- *Lent Activities*
- *Local Links - Brierley Hill Library*
- *SEND - Dudley's Local Offer*
- *Dyslexia support*
- *Black Country CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops*
- *Dudley Family Information Service*
- *Celebrating our God-given talents*

- *Half Termly Dates*
- *Pope Francis' Monthly Intention for February*
- *Contact School*

Safeguarding



If you find you are ever facing something challenging in your family life, please come and see us. We are always here to help you and your child(ren).

Early Help

An Early Help Assessment is a great way of getting your family some support, whether it be with your child's behaviour, their sleeping pattern or social and emotional wellbeing, or something that effects the whole family, housing and finances, for example.

It involves a meeting with professionals from different agencies (dependent on your family's individual needs) and a plan will be put in place to show the different support you will receive and who is responsible for getting this done.

It is not input from Social Services: it is there as a support tool only, for a variety of different reasons.

If you have any questions, or feel you may benefit from this, please contact Ms Mosley on 01384 985 005, or contact the school office to arrange an appointment to see her.

Safeguarding

Please be aware that we have a duty of care to all children at St. Mary's and this may mean we need to contact Social Services/Family Support for advice or to report a situation. We

understand that this can be distressing for those involved, but please be assured that we **always** have your child's best interests at heart.

If you have any concern or worry about another member of the St. Mary's School community, please don't hesitate to contact any of our DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads): Mr Lodge, Miss Clewley or Ms Mosley. Our Interim Executive Principal, Mr Wilkes, will also be a member of our DSL team too.

Class Attendance - March



Reception: 89.5%

Year 1: 88.2 %

Year 2: 92.1 %

Year 3 93.8%

Year 4: 89.8 %

Year 5: 88.6 %

Year 6: 91.6%

National Average: 94.6 %

Attendance record and lessons missed

- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- ***90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.***
- 85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 80% attendance means 200 missed lessons. This means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 75% attendance means 250 missed lessons. This means the child misses about 9 weeks of lessons in the school year

Punctuality

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year, that's 123 lessons missed

Attendance - What does this mean?

Attendance Matters



This newsletters' attendance is 90.53 %, which needs huge improvement! If you're unsure about your child's attendance, worried about getting them into school or just want advice and support then please come and speak with us. Together, we can work hard to improve this.

On average, this would mean that:

- **90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.**

Please do reflect on this; 100 missed lessons could cause significant interruption to children's learning and would mean that learning outcomes may not be as strong as they could be.

We would obviously love to be as close to 100% as we can. The government, rightly so, has a huge focus on attendance as, ["research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well."](#) There is a clear link between attendance and better outcomes so well done to everyone that has focussed on this; by doing so, you are prioritising a brighter future for your child/children.

Attendance is everyone's responsibility just like the safeguarding of every child and young person.

Please understand, that if attendance shows deterioration, you will be contacted - this is to establish a path forward so that we can raise the level of attendance, which is heavily linked to raising the performance of your child in their crucial education. We need to prioritise this so join us and work with us!

Thank you and God bless, Mr Lodge.

Lent Activities



During this special time of Lent, the children have been very busy completing various activities. We have raised funds, through sponsorship of the EYFS and KS1 Big Lent Walk and the KS2 sports afternoon, for the Good Shepherd appeal, which tasks us to raise at least £1 for Father Hudson's Caritas to be used to support their charity work. If you haven't already done so (I know most classes have), please do send in your sponsor forms and we will send out total amount raised soon. Moreover the children in EYFS and KS1 hosted their Lent prayer morning, which was absolutely fantastic! Well done to all staff and children involved along with a big thank you to the parents and family members that attended. Furthermore, the children are busily working on their lent mission, gather goods for Brushstrokes - another aspect of Father Hudson's Caritas! Well done to all classes for making such a good start! We are certainly keen to see how many donations of clothing and goods that will go onto families in desperate need; St Mary's is truly bringing Jesus to so many people around our archdiocese!

Local Links - Brierley Hill Library



Sustaining Our Local Links with Brierley Hill Library

At St Mary's, we love encouraging a passion for reading, and we are delighted to continue strengthening our **local links with Brierley Hill Library**! The children have been excited to visit once again - **next to visit is Reception and Pre School on the 2nd April.**

Take a look at what's been happening around School





1 - Reception



2 - Reception



3 - Reception



4 - Reception



5 - Reception



6 - Year 1



7 - Year 1



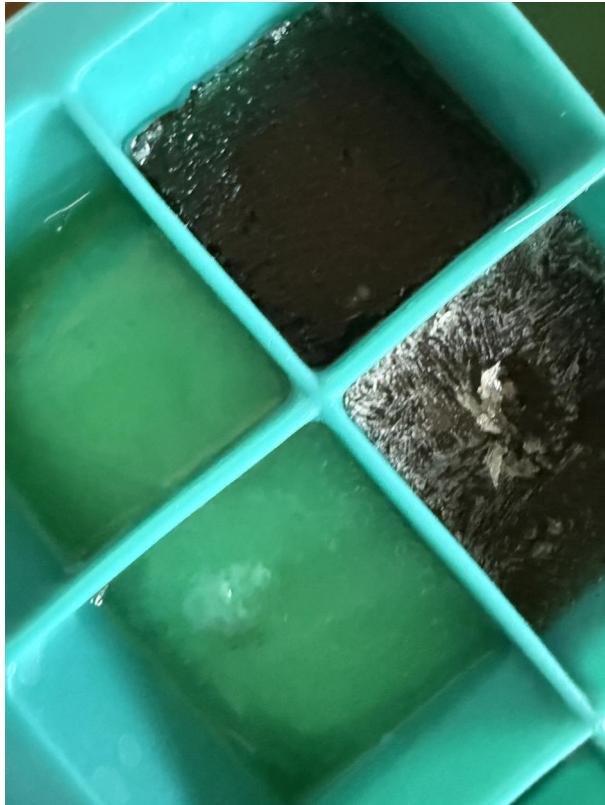
8 - Year 1



9 - Year 1



10 - Year 1



11 - Year 1



12 - Year 2



13 - Year 2



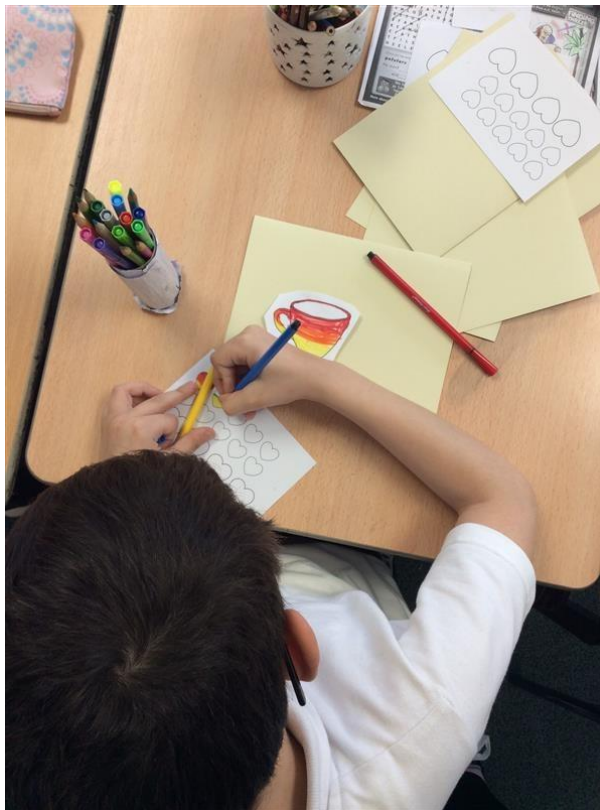
14 - Year 2



15 - Year 2



16 - Year 2



17 - Year 3



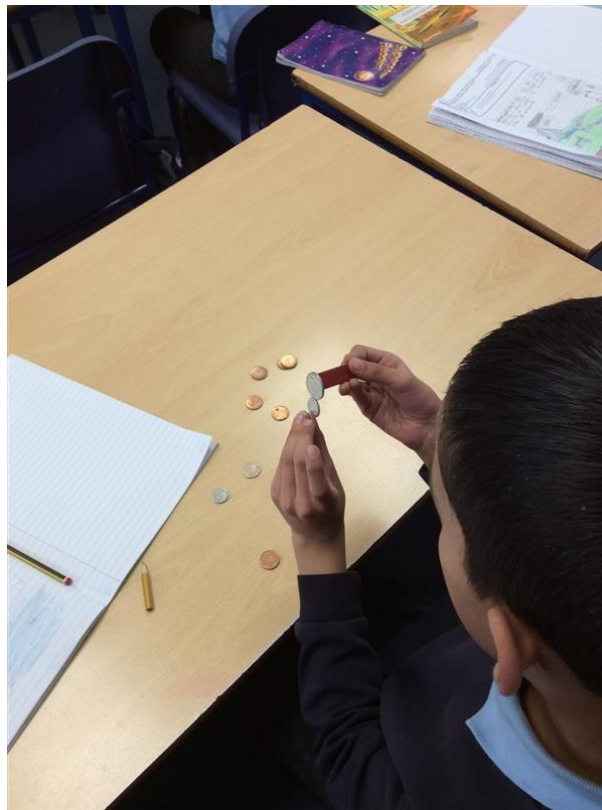
18 - Year 3



19 - Year 3



20 - Year 3



21 - Year 4



22 - Year 4



23 - Year 4



24 - Year 4



25 - Year 4



26 - Year 4



27 - Year 4



28 - Year 4



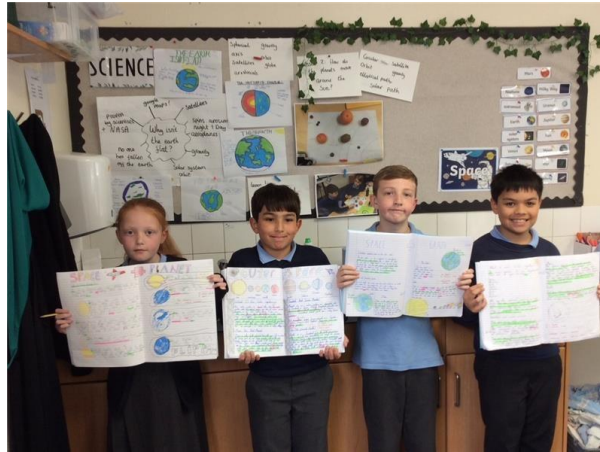
29 - Year 4



30 - Year 4



31 - Year 4



32 - Year 5



33 - Year 5



34 - Year 6



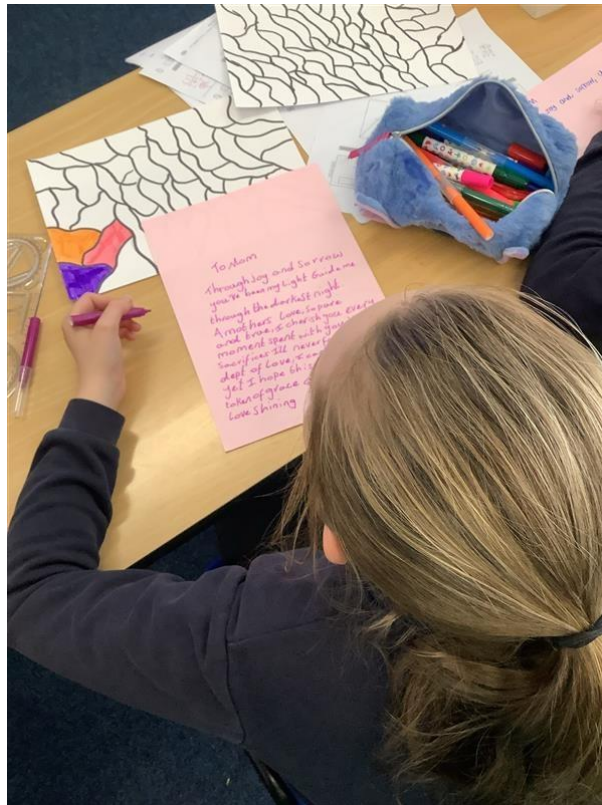
35 - Year 6



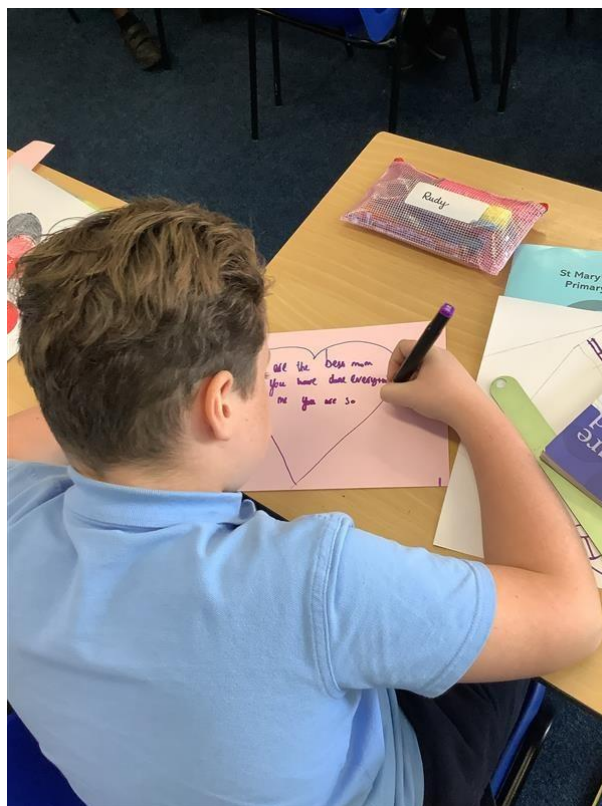
36 - Year 6



37 - Year 6



38 - Year 6



39 - Year 6

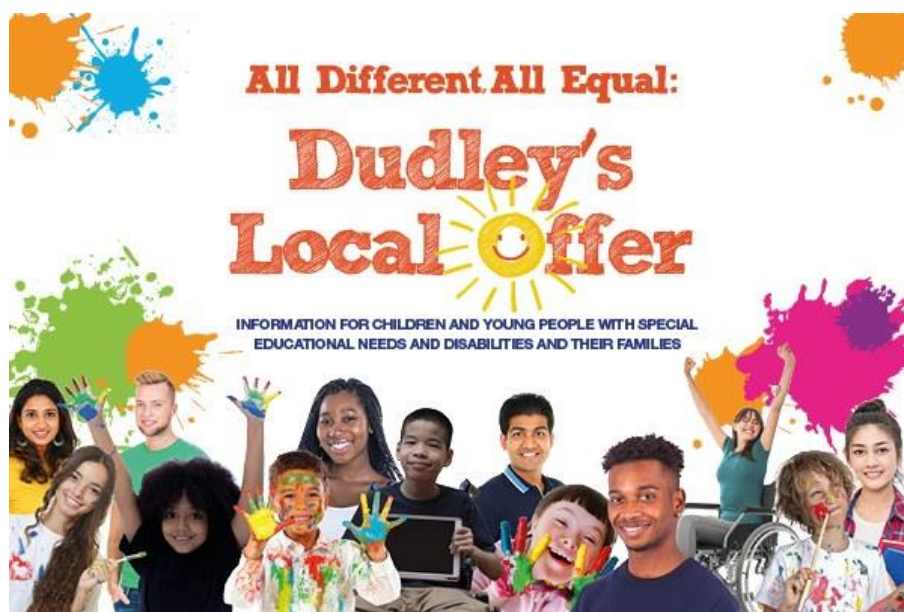


40 - Year 6



41 - Year 6

SEND - Dudley's Local Offer



Dudley's Local Offer

The Local Offer is full of information and advice on things to support you and your child with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. If you need advice on health, education, social care and community support for you and your family visit the Local Offer website:

www.localoffer.dudley.sch.uk

Dudley Parent Carer Forum

Parents and carers from across Dudley borough who have children with disabilities and special needs are being invited to join the Dudley Parent Carer Forum.

Dudley Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parent carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with disabilities and additional needs. The forum provides a safe environment for parent carers of children with disabilities or additional needs to share their thoughts and concerns and to empower them to have their voices heard in a way that influences change and service design.

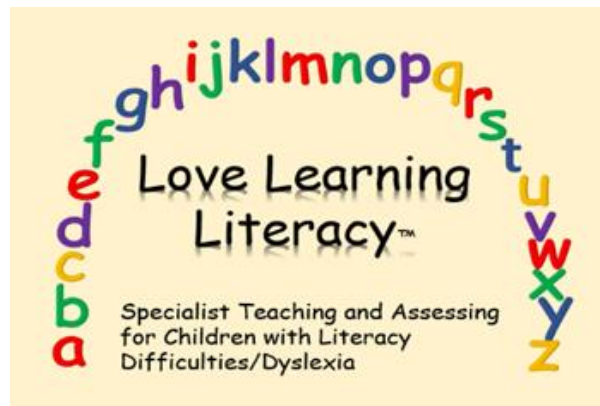
Any parent carer of a child with a disability or additional needs, residing in Dudley borough can become a member.

For more information contact the forum via their Facebook page or by their website:
www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk/

Events and workshops for people with SEND

Dudley SENDIAS (special educational needs & disabilities information advice and support) Service is running a range of online activities over the coming months to help parents and

carers or young people with SEND. Find out more at <https://dudleyci.co.uk/workshops-and-events>



42 - Does your child have literacy difficulties/dyslexia? Would you like them to improve their reading and writing in the comfort of their own home?

I create and teach interactive, multisensory Online lessons using Dyslexia Action's highly effective Structured Literacy Programme. After an informal assessment, each lesson is tailored to your child's needs to ensure enjoyable progress. Lessons are for children aged 5-11 years and can be 30/40 minutes or one hour.

For more information, please contact Vee Bird (Specialist Dyslexia Teacher) on 07554 253 703 or write to: //lovelearningliteracy@gmail.com

Thank you,

Vee Bird (MSc, PGCE, Associate of The Dyslexia Guild)

Dudley Family Information Service



Please click on the following link to access the latest bulletin from Dudley's Family Information Service:

[Family Information Summer Newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)

Celebrating our God-given gifts



This months wonderful Gifts of God recipients are:

Reception Francisco, Vikeerthan, Aaron, Immanuel, Roshan, & Jayden.

Year 1 Willow, Dominic, Winter, Lucas, Diego, Demetria, Ava, Grayson, Isabella & Paige.

Year 2 Sebastian, Aadhya.

Year 3 Julia, Bruce, & Chloe.

Year 4 Rian & Theodore.

Year 5 Isla, & Keilah.

Year 6 Aminah, & Miah

A huge well done to everyone!

Notices



Half Termly Dates

April:

Wednesday 2nd KS2 Lent Service – parents welcome

Thursday 3rd Year 2 Whole School Mass

Monday 7th Rock Steady concert – parents welcome

Friday 11th Break up for the Easter Holidays

Dates for the new school year:

Further dates for the term ahead are available on our website. If you require support accessing these, please contact our friendly office administrator, Mrs Bate, for additional help.

You Said, We Did:

We received feedback to say that there is not enough advanced notice for dates, so we have added them to the monthly newsletter! Please do continue to provide useful feedback that could be used to enhance your Saint Mary's experience.

We are also now giving parents a full week's notice for when your child is due to receive a Gifts of God certificate. Some exceptions will still apply, such when additional certificates are awarded.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March



For **prisoners**:

In March, Pope Francis' prayer intention focuses on **prisoners**, emphasizing the need for humane conditions that respect their dignity and foster rehabilitation. This aligns with his longstanding commitment to prison ministry, exemplified by his recent visit to Rome's Rebibbia prison, which he described as a "cathedral of pain and hope" during the inauguration of the Holy Year. During this visit, the Pope highlighted the importance of hope for inmates and advocated for prison reforms that emphasize rehabilitation over mere punishment. [AP News+1AP News+1](#)

Looking ahead to April, the Pope's prayer intention centers on **adolescents**, particularly focusing on the canonization of Carlo Acutis, a teenager known for his deep faith and technological skills. This event is part of the Holy Year celebrations, which include various events for different pilgrim groups. The canonization of Acutis is significant as he is considered the first millennial and digital-era saint, highlighting the Church's recognition of the role of youth in faith. [AP News+1AP News+1AP News+1AP News+1](#)

These intentions reflect Pope Francis' dedication to addressing societal issues and nurturing the spiritual growth of the faithful across all ages.

Please join Pope Francis and the whole Church in praying these monthly intentions, particularly on Fridays at 12.30pm.

[Polite reminder - teachers can be contacted using the class email address or through making a telephone appointment through the](#)

Main Office. Teachers will reply as soon as possible, during normal working hours. Out of school hours, in an emergency, you can contact us by completing this form here: <https://st-mary-bh.sch.life/page/detail/contact-school-1>



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Visit us on the web at [St. Mary's Website](#)