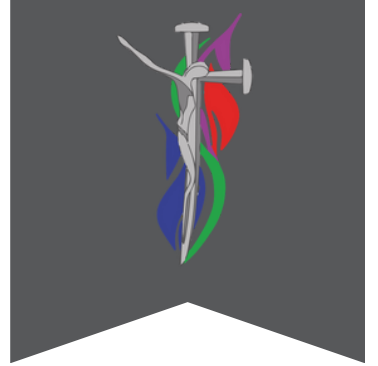


HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC MAC

EASTER NEWSLETTER



Volume 020

10 April 2025





**HAND IN HAND WE LISTEN TO GOD'S CALL
WE LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD AND WE
SHARE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE**



**KNOWLEDGE
THROUGH THE
LIGHT OF FAITH**

**LEARNING & GROWING
AS GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**



ACHIEVING TOGETHER IN FAITH

**LEARNING, GROWING
& PRAYING TOGETHER
WITH CHRIST OUR KING**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**

**ACHIEVING OUR BEST UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL
REVEALING WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE**



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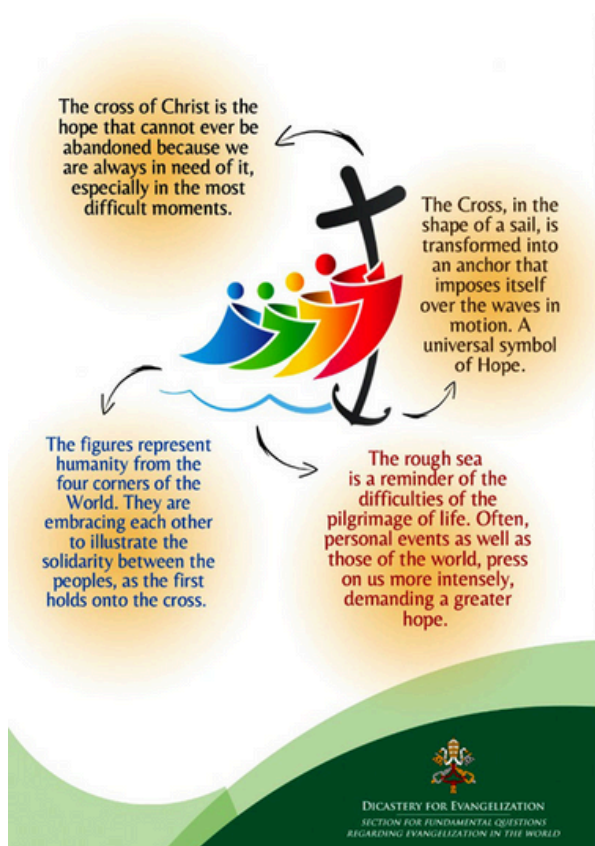


info@hccmac.co.uk

Message from our Chair of the Board of Directors

As we look forward to Easter during this Jubilee Year, we reflect on some of the events that have taken place across the Holy Cross Catholic MAC.

Within the logo for the Jubilee Year, we have concentrated on the Cross and The Anchor, a universal symbol of Hope.



The theme "Pilgrims of Hope" emphasizes the journey of faith and the role of hope in navigating life's challenges. As part of this theme, we are encouraged to trust in God's providence and extend that hope to others.

Archbishop Bernard has set three challenges to all schools in the Archdiocese during this very special year: prayer, social action and fundraising for which you all have been involved in and continue to develop.

As the term draws to a close, we also look back and reflect on our many successes and achievements over the last few months reflected in this newsletter and we look forward to the future in Hope.

Again, "Thank you" to all our staff, governors, directors, clergy, volunteers and parents for all your incredible hard work and support.

During the season of Easter, we are reminded that God loved us all so much that he sacrificed his only son on the cross to save us. This Easter, we pray for all those who have sadness or difficulties in their lives, we particularly pray for Peace around the world and for Pope Francis as he continues to recover from his recent serious illness.

I hope all of you have a very happy and holy Easter, take time to rest and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer Term.

Holy Cross of Jesus, Be Our Hope.

John Teahan





Message from our Chief Executive Officer

As we come to the end of the Spring Term 2025 there is once again much to celebrate across our school communities. As always our schools have been very busy places over the last term and our pupils and staff have been working very hard.

Spring Term 2025 started with the Diocesan launch of the Year of Jubilee and all our pupils and staff joined with all the other pupils and staff from across the Diocese for the livestream event on Friday 24 January.

It was wonderful to be part of our flourishing archdiocese coming together with such joy and hope. During the livestream His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley presented everyone with three challenges for the Jubilee year ahead: Prayer; Social Action, and Fundraising for Fr Hudsons' Caritas. And we are very proud of our pupils and staff who have been responding to all three challenges on a daily basis with such enthusiasm and generosity.

During the season of Lent it has been wonderful to witness the response of our MAC to His Grace's challenges and our school communities have been praying for those in need, as well as completing lots of social action and raising funds for those who need our support financially. Across our local communities there are many people and families in desperate need of our support and every item donated and every penny raised will be deeply appreciated by those receiving the support. Thank you.

As we prepare for Holy Week, we reflect on Jesus' suffering and the pain of his crucifixion, followed by the joy of the Resurrection and the hope of new life that it brings. This Easter we pray for everyone who faces challenges and hardship that they may have some joy in their lives over Easter – particularly those who are affected by the natural disasters and for those living in war torn parts of the world. We continue to pray for peace, reconciliation and healing across our troubled world.

Once again I would like to thank all the pupils, staff, governors, directors and parents and carers for all their support.

And finally we wish all our exam years good luck with their revision over the Easter holidays as they begin final preparations for their important end of key stage tests and GCSE and A level exams that start when we return from the Easter holiday. Many thanks to all the staff who are giving up their own time and Easter holiday to provide additional lessons and support for our young people preparing for exams.

On behalf of everyone at Holy Cross Catholic MAC, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful, holy, and relaxing Easter.

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly



HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC MAC LONDON MARCH 2025

On Friday 7th March 2025, a group of KS2 and KS5 children from across the Holy Cross Catholic MAC had the incredible opportunity to visit London. The trip was packed with exciting experiences, allowing the children to explore some of the city's most famous landmarks.

Their adventure began with a scenic riverboat cruise along the Thames, offering stunning views of iconic sights. This was followed by a trip on the London Eye, which had just celebrated its 25th anniversary that week! The highlight of the educational aspect of the trip was a guided tour of Parliament, where the children visited both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They also took part in a fascinating parliamentary workshop, learning about how laws are made and the role of democracy in the United Kingdom.



LONDON LANDMARKS



St Paul's Cathedral



Houses of Parliament



Tower Bridge



Tower Of London





Mr Beast

The most unexpected and thrilling moment of the day came as the students made their way back to the coach and spotted YouTube sensation Mr Beast travelling through London! Excitement levels soared as the children caught a glimpse of the internet star, making an already memorable trip even more unforgettable.

It was a fantastic day of learning, adventure, and excitement, and we're sure the children will cherish the memories.



LONDON AT NIGHT



Westminster Abbey



A huge thank you to Miss Riach who organised the whole trip.

Holy Cross Catholic MAC

SUSTAINABILITY

UPDATES



Highlights Across MAC Schools

This Spring Term has been a busy and inspiring one for sustainability across our MAC schools, with staff and students working together to make real and measurable impacts on our environment. From reducing waste to protecting wildlife, here are just some of the green achievements we're proud to share:



Sorting Waste the Right Way
In response to the UK's new waste regulations, our schools have made considerable progress in sorting waste correctly. Staff and pupils have embraced the changes enthusiastically, ensuring that recyclable materials are properly separated and food and general waste are disposed of responsibly.



Carbon Footprint Calculations

All MAC schools now have a baseline carbon footprint, thanks to our work with Count Your Carbon. This helps identify key areas for improvement and supports long-term sustainability planning.



Looking Ahead to Summer Term

Next term, we'll be focusing on Earth Day, developing garden areas, and learning about young environmentalists. We'll end the Summer Term with a Sustainability Celebration, sharing highlights from each school.



RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch

Our young nature enthusiasts took part in the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch, observing and recording local birdlife. This hands-on activity helped students connect with nature and better understand local biodiversity, contributing valuable data to a national conservation effort.



National School Rebuilding Programme Update

As you are aware, we are incredibly lucky that both of our secondary schools are included in the National School Rebuilding Programme.

At **Cardinal Newman**, the steels are going up! The main school building will open in September 2026, with the new Sports Hall following on in the summer of 2027.

The new school will have an impressive internal outdoor courtyard area which will be one and a half times the size of the Sports Hall. The courtyard area will house an outdoor reading area attached to the Learning Resource Centre, an external teaching area, an outdoor SEN area, a food garden to grow vegetables attached to the food room, and also a Peace and Memorial area.



In this drone screenshot, you can see the two-storey building starting to take shape with its centre corridors, and the large courtyard starting to be formed on the left.

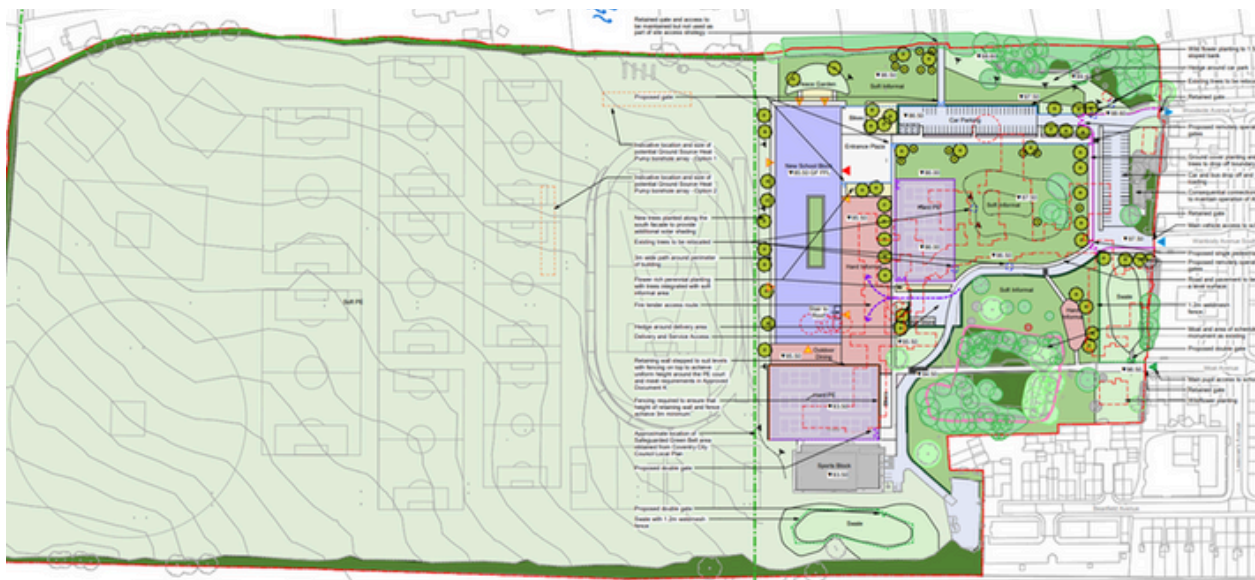


The new main school pedestrian entrance will be off Bennetts Road South with vehicles entering off Sandpits Lane. We are also now in the early stage of applying for a 3G All-Weather Pitch. Exciting times indeed!

National School Rebuilding Programme Update

The Bishop Ullathorne school rebuild is in a slightly later phase of the national programme.

A costed 'model scheme' has been developed and the process of appointing a contractor has commenced.



The recently built £4m Sports Hall is being retained, but the rest of the school is being completely rebuilt to better accommodate the needs of our growing student population and to provide state-of-the-art facilities. The design envisions a school that not only supports academic excellence but also fosters a sense of community and well-being among students and staff.

It is planned that the new school will be built at the back of the current school so that the school can continue to operate as usual until the new build is completed. This strategic approach ensures minimal disruption to the students' education and daily routines, allowing them to continue with their studies in a stable environment.

In a similar way to the new school at Cardinal Newman, the School/MAC's vision includes a two-storey building with an impressive internal outdoor courtyard area.

The new design includes plans for cars to enter from Wainbody Avenue and pedestrians from Moat Avenue. However, these plans are subject to design developments and planning permissions.

The 16th-century historic moat site, which is Heritage listed, adds a unique element to the school grounds. No work can take place in this protected area, but the vision is to turn it into a scenic pedestrian walkway leading into the new school.

Detailed design work with the appointed contractor is set to begin in the summer. This phase will be crucial in finalizing the architectural plans and ensuring that every aspect of the new school meets the highest standards of functionality, sustainability, and aesthetic appeal. The goal is to have 'boots on the ground' in late 2026.

Coventry Hope Project

Throughout Lent Holy Cross Catholic MAC Schools joined with Holy Family, Our Lady of Assumption and St Osburgs Catholic Schools to support the Hope Project at Christ the King Parish. Thank you to everyone who has supported so generously

to support families in need in our communities. Please see below a letter of thanks from the Project of Hope Steering Group



Dear Volunteers and Parents

The Hope Project has been a remarkable success and a fantastic team effort from everyone. During Lent we have provided 255 parcels to families across the city.

The families in our schools were so generous giving donations that we were able to provide such wonderful food parcels for the families in need. Thank you to our transport volunteers for collecting and delivering donations across the city.

We know how these food parcels have helped families. This is our last week, so moving forward, we will pass on details to schools for their newsletters. Families can call into the hub and collect a parcel, or we can drop off a parcel to those in need.

This sharing of the Hope Project has been a great start to the Year of Hope, and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your help and support. This project has provided opportunities for families to share meals together and they have been so grateful for the parcels.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McLintock and Sarah Pittaway
(on behalf of the Project of Hope Steering Group)

A banner for the 'Pilgrims of Hope' project. On the left is a logo for 'JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE' featuring a cross and colorful figures. The main text reads 'Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company Pilgrims of Hope on a mission to build a better world'. Below this is a list of commitments: 'Where: We recognise the dignity of every person, loved and created by God. We follow the example of Jesus' love and his mission to bring good news 'to the poor'. (Luke 4) We work for the common good of all, understanding that our actions impact our local and global family because we are all interconnected. We are good stewards of the earth, knowing that the earth's gifts are for everyone, not just for a privileged few. We prepare a path to peace in our world, challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice. We speak out for debt relief, to set free those who are burdened by unjust debt. We work together with CAFOD and our local Caritas to be practical signs of hope and put love into action.' At the bottom are logos for Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company and seven partner schools. The footer includes contact information for HCCMAC.

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company
Pilgrims of Hope
on a mission to build a better world

Where:

- We recognise** the dignity of every person, loved and created by God.
- We follow** the example of Jesus' love and his mission to bring good news 'to the poor'. (Luke 4)
- We work** for the common good of all, understanding that our actions impact our local and global family because we are all interconnected.
- We are good stewards** of the earth, knowing that the earth's gifts are for everyone, not just for a privileged few.
- We prepare** a path to peace in our world, challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice.
- We speak** out for debt relief, to set free those who are burdened by unjust debt.
- We work together** with CAFOD and our local Caritas to be practical signs of hope and put love into action.

Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company
Achieving together in faith

Contact HCCMAC
02475 186555 | info@hccmac.co.uk | www.hccmac.co.uk



Welcome to CTK Community Food Hub

Please call in to find out more about how we can help.

Contact us between

8:30am- 2:30pm

Tel: 07438 276865

Opening Times

Tuesday 1:00pm-2:30pm

Wednesday 10:30-11:30am

Friday 10:30-11:30am

Our Hub is situated just inside the front doors of the church,
right of the foyer.

We are here to help!

Christ The King Church, Westhill Road, Coundon
Coventry CV6 2AA



Father Hudson's Caritas Social Care Agency



Archbishop Bernard Longley has asked all schools to raise funds for Father Hudson's Caritas, the diocesan charity during the season of Lent.

Father Hudson's Caritas is a charity committed to supporting individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Since 2015, they have been providing essential services and safe spaces for vulnerable people in Birmingham through projects like Tabor Living and Fatima House. These initiatives offer not only shelter but also opportunities for individuals to rebuild their lives. Tabor Living provides a welcoming environment where people can access accommodation, food, and support services tailored to their needs. Fatima House offers a safe haven for women who have experienced trauma, providing them with a secure place to stay and the resources needed to start anew.

The charity's work extends beyond immediate relief, focusing on long-term solutions to help individuals regain independence and stability. They offer various programs aimed at addressing the root causes of homelessness, such as mental health support, employment assistance, and educational opportunities. Father Hudson's Caritas relies on the dedication of its staff and volunteers to make a meaningful impact, and they welcome donations and volunteer support to continue their vital work. By fostering a community of compassion and support, Father Hudson's Care strives to create a brighter future for those in need.

Our schools have been fundraising to support Father Hudson's Caritas and over Lent we have raised a fantastic.

Total
£6110.72

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported so generously.

News from our Schools





Bishop Ullathorne
Catholic School

Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Big Sleep Out

157 students from Year 10 to 13 took part in the Big Sleep Out. It was a great experience, planned and led by our Sixth Form Leadership Team. Thank you to the staff who supported and the students who raised over £1000 for homeless charities.



A Night at the Musicals

The fabulous Sixth Form team have directed and led a plethora of musicals for A Night at the Musicals on 26 March.



Miss Moloney wanted to utilise the Arts to fundraise for the Lourdes trip in May and showcase some of the talent we have at Bishop Ullathorne.

Caitlin directed Year 7 with some fantastic songs from Matilda. Year 8 worked on Annie with Grace, and enjoyed their experience. Mean Girls was directed by Mya and Eadie with Year 9 featuring some strong performances.

Maame worked tirelessly on The Lion King with Year 10, even designing and creating the masks for the performers. Year 11 were directed by Zofia in The Little Shop of Horrors with some of the iconic numbers.

The night concluded with Cellblock Tango from Chicago by our Sixth Form cast.

A huge well done to everyone involved, we are so proud of every single one of you.

Champions!

Congratulations to the Year 8 Football Team who are Coventry Schools Champions.



Change Makers Programme

Year 12 Students have been leading the Change Makers programme in school for Year 7. Three Students were invited to the Council House where they spoke about their roles.



The group are determined to work with more students in order to create a tomorrow worth fighting for.



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day this term with another fantastic range of events!

All students in years 7-9 were treated to one chapter of an audiobook in each of their lessons. The chosen title, *Shiver Point*, is a deliciously creepy tale about friendship – and body snatchers! The full audiobook can be found on the World Book Day website, and should remain available until early April.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories>



The big event of the day was of course the staff dress-up, with almost fifty staff donning costume and props for the day. We had Vikings and brides, witches and wizards.

We also had the entire cast of *Bad Dad* by David Walliams; PE classes were treated to the terrifying Miss Trunchbull. English were jump-scared by Lord Voldemort himself and we even had extra limbs from the excellent Ursula the Sea Witch and Sebastian the crab from *The Little Mermaid*. Gangsta Granny caused mayhem in the playground; as befitting a Catholic school, we had four encyclicals, who were fiendishly hard to guess on the character hunt. The Sixth Formers got involved with everything from A-level literature-themed Macbeth characters to a bright-orange (and inflatable) Lorax!

Ski Trip

40 students and 6 members of staff travelled to Saalbach in Austria for the school ski trip. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and all made excellent progress over the 6 days of skiing. As well as the skiing and the fantastic weather, the students also enjoyed a ski show and the Ullathorne Triathlon which included a quiz, games night and skittles night. It was a fantastic week, the group were a pleasure to be with and they represented the school perfectly whilst they were away.





Cardinal Newman
Catholic School

Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC



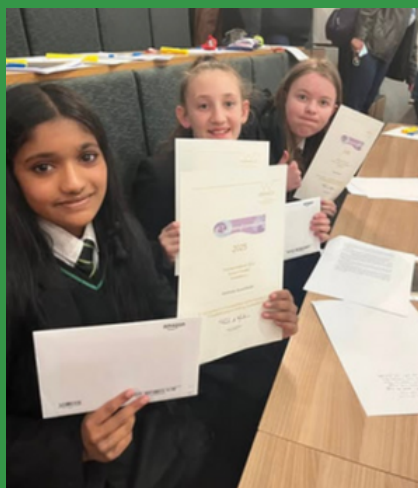
WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Cardinal Newman students provided St Patrick's Day entertainment at Mauricare Ashfield House. Our Irish musicians were superb in providing entertainment which got everyone clapping! Fun was had by all involved!



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Three Year 7 students went to Warwick University with Miss Neville to celebrate their achievement in Warwick Transformations Creative Writing Club. They had a great afternoon exploring the campus and taking part in a University Writing Masterclass. One of our students, Tilly, won the year 7 and 8 category overall! We are so proud of all students who took part and look forward to seeing their writing in the Transformations Anthology in the near future!





Cardinal Newman
Catholic School

Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

HIGHLIGHTS



Our students had a brilliant day at Wembley Arena at the CYMFED conference. They joined just over 400 other young Catholics from across our diocese and thousands more from across the country for a day of reflection on the year of the Jubilee. A huge thank you to our Lay Chaplain Alfie for accompanying them!



World Book Day

We had a brilliant day celebrating WBD and as always, had lots of events/competitions going on including, Year 7 Dress the Door Competition, Post 16 Flash Mobs, activities in the Library, staff dress up, book themed lessons/pastoral sessions and much more!





Christ the King
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Big Clean Up

Christ the King pupils have been supporting the 'Big Clean Up' at lunch time by litter picking in small groups with a member of staff. Children have been enthusiastic and eager to help keep our local area clean and tidy. We are so proud of their dedication and commitment to this each lunchtime.



Lenten Charities Stalls and Games

Christ the King pupils are always excited for our weekly Lenten Charities stalls and games at break time. Children plan their own stalls and work together to try and raise lots of money for charity. Our younger children from Westhill Road site walk up to Scots Lane to take part in the weekly events too – it is a great way for all the children to come together. We are so proud of all the children for raising so much money for charity.



People who help us

The Nursery children were very excited to welcome two important visitors into their classroom. They have been learning about 'People who help us' and the Police officers came to talk to them about their important role. After learning about how to keep safe, the children all had a turn to try the uniform on.

Family Pray Service

Each year group have welcomed their family members to a prayer service in their classrooms. The children lead the prayer services with their friends, sharing prayers and songs with their family members. Parents have shared how it is a "lovely, calming way to start their morning" and are thankful for having the opportunity to come into school and share this with their children.





St. Augustine's
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Jubilee 2025



The whole school enjoyed the Jubilee 2025 Launch Day and began our journey of becoming Pilgrims of Hope. The children created some wonderful artwork and participated reverently during the diocesan launch live stream. We are really excited for the year ahead!

Eco-Team bird art competition

St. Augustine's enjoyed taking part in the Eco-team bird art competition. The competition was judged by our talented art teacher Mrs Hall. She was really impressed with all the entries. We had four amazing winners, who created incredible images of UK birds.



Father Hudson's Caritas



Our school families have been extremely generous in providing donations for the Parish Hope Project during our Lenten charitable activities. These have provided families with a range of essential shopping items each week across the local area.

We also had a visit from Emily from Father Hudson's Caritas. She talked to the children about all the people they help; explaining in more detail how they support the elderly. During our MAC Charity Roadshow visit with lots of games and fun, we raised funds to support Father Hudson's Caritas and all the people they help. We are very grateful for the generosity of our school community.





St. Elizabeth's
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC



Mary Creagh MP Visit

Following our Houses of Parliament visit for a group of our Year 5 children, we were delighted to welcome Mary Creagh, Member of Parliament for Coventry East to St Elizabeth's in March. Mary met our Year 5 and 6 children and held her own 'Question Time' for our children. Our children asked a variety of questions covering a number of important topics in the news, including issues regarding transport in Coventry, littering problems in Foleshill and also questions regarding national issues on migration and the Government's recent reduction of overseas aid.

Bishop Gerardo Alminaza

In April, our Year 6 students participated in an online conversation with Bishop Gerardo Alminaza, hosted by the Columban Missionaries. This live session took place in San Carlos, central Philippines. The students had the opportunity to ask Bishop Gerry about the significant challenges faced by many people in the Philippines, including the environmental impact of industrialization and concerns about the treatment of those who oppose the Philippine government. It was a valuable experience to hear directly from Bishop Gerry, reminding us of our responsibility to protect creation. We also discussed ways to support endangered people and habitats around the world, particularly during this Jubilee Year.



Ugandan Orphanage Donation

A donation of our books, that were stock from our old school library, has made it to its destination in Uganda. The books were delivered to an orphanage in Uganda, close to Father Moses' South Sudanese home village.

The books have made an enormous difference to children within the orphanage and will support the teaching of basic reading and writing.



St. John Vianney
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Year 6 Writing Competition

Congratulations to Bethany for winning the Year 6 writing category! The Coventry Building Society organised a prestigious competition open to schools across Coventry, and this achievement is a significant honour for her. We are incredibly proud of Bethany and excited about her potential as a future author. She credits much of her talent to her passion for reading, and you can often find her engrossed in a book, showcasing her dedication to her craft. Well done, Bethany!



Year of Jubilee 2025



Our Jubilee Year of Hope has started with the anchor arriving at school. Our year 6 chaplaincy team delivered an assembly to the school explaining the importance of the anchor in our pilgrimage. The cross and the anchor are two important symbols. These symbols are special to us in the Jubilee year. The cross is a sign of Jesus' love for us. The anchor is a sign of hope, because it keeps us steady and secure, no matter how stormy things may seem. When we look at the cross and the anchor together, we remember that Jesus is our hope, and He is always with us, just like an anchor keeps a ship safe.

Fundraising during Lent.

During Lent we have been focusing upon the 3 words Pray, Fast and Share. We have prayed for those who do not have as much as we do. We have given up things such as chocolate, biscuits and cake. Finally, we have shared what we have with others. We have raised money for Fr. Hudson Caritas, brought tins of food to school for those less fortunate than ourselves in our community and we have given money for CAFOD and Mary's Meals. Thank you to Cardinal Newman and Bishop Ullathorne School for a fun morning.



Sporting Successes

We are delighted to say that we have won many competitions in sport this term, but actually, it's more the enjoyment some children have in doing their best and discovering a new talent. A group of 4 children competed in an Archery competition and did so well that they became county finalists. The joy in their faces was just unbelievable!





St. Thomas More
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

GB Athlete – Joel Fearon

St Thomas More was thrilled to welcome GB bobsleigh and sprinting star Joel Fearon! He led an exciting fitness circuit, followed by an inspiring assembly where he shared his journey and the powerful message: **"Be Brave!"**

Pupils had a fantastic time taking part in activities like star jumps, squat jumps, and shoulder tags, bringing great energy and enthusiasm. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and sponsored our pupils - we raised an incredible **£2,803.11!**



Swimming Gala

Congratulations to all 18 pupils who represented St Thomas More Catholic Primary School at the Swimming Gala 2025, including the Boys 3x25m relay team who won the final. A 6th place finish out of 16. Well done children!



Dol-y-Moch

Year 6 had an unforgettable time on their outdoor adventure at Dol-y-Moch in the stunning mountains of Wales! Over three action-packed days, they embraced challenges with respect, resilience, and responsibility, showing fantastic teamwork and perseverance. The children were a credit to St Thomas More, making a great impression on staff and giving their best in every activity.

World Book Day – Author Visit

Our children had an amazing time celebrating World Book Day, filled with creativity and excitement! Dressed as their favourite characters, they enjoyed 'footy and booky' quizzes testing their knowledge of sports and literature.

Key Stage 2 had a special visit from author Cathy Fitzgerald, who inspired them with her journey as a writer of the Pinch Perkins series. The day also featured a chocolate bar competition and fantastic prizes. Thanks to the PTFA.



Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Prayer

Dear Lord

Let us be guided by your wisdom to be united
as the family of God.

Help us to use our gifts and talents to spread
friendship, peace and justice across our Holy
Cross schools and communities.

Give us the strength and courage to always do
our best and be the best person we can be.

Amen

Holy Cross of Jesus
be our hope

