



6th Sunday of Easter: Embracing God's presence everywhere

The Gospel for the 6th Sunday of Easter, John 14:23-29, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In this passage, Jesus speaks about his departure, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the need for his disciples to love one another. He promises that the Holy Spirit will teach and remind them of his teachings.



young-catholics.com

We are encouraged to recognise the presence of God in our lives. We don't need to go to a specific place to find God. Instead, we can feel His presence in our hearts and in the world around us. By being aware of this, we can draw strength and comfort from knowing that God is always with us through the Holy Spirit.

Let us embrace this truth and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we can live our lives with the assurance that God is guiding us every step of the way. This constant presence is a source of peace and strength, helping us to navigate life's challenges with faith and confidence.

As we reflect on the 6th Sunday of Easter, we see how the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, plays a vital role in our faith. Whether guiding the early Church, offering wisdom today, or assuring us of God's constant presence, the Holy Spirit remains our Advocate. Let us embrace the Holy Spirit in our lives, finding peace, strength, and guidance in every step of our journey.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, guide us and fill our hearts with your love. Help us to follow your will and stay true to Jesus' teachings. Be our comfort and strength in all we do. Amen.

You will have read the letter sent out earlier this week that Mrs McBrown, the Headteacher at St Mary's in Tilbury will be the new Executive Headteacher for both St Mary's and St Joseph's. Mrs McBrown was able to spend two days with us this week. I know a few parents were able to speak to her personally at pick up time. I am sure you will welcome her with open arms, as you did you me! This is an exciting time for the St Joseph's community. The ideas for continuing to improve the learning experience for every child, building on the improving attendance and behaviour and ensuring we have strong systems in place to support teachers and pupils to achieve their best are common areas of passion. Mrs McBrown has a wealth of experience of leading a thriving primary school and nursery and I will be working with her over the coming weeks to ensure there is a smooth transition.

Mr Maxfield (Interim Headteacher)

Do you know someone looking for a school place?

We have spaces in some year groups. If you know someone looking for a school, please ask them to get in touch. If you have a friend that is debating if they should accept a place for Reception but is interested in our school, there is a small chance they may be able to get a space.

This week at St Joseph's- 'Inspired by Christ, Working together, Achieving our best'



Year 4, 5 & 6 Stay & Pray

May is the month of Mary and this week we welcomed parents from Year 4, 5 & 6 on Tuesday to stay after dropping off and pray the rosary with their children. The children were excellent in reciting the prayers and knowing how to pray the rosary as a group. Thank you to those parents that were able to join us not just on Tuesday but across the month of May.

Learning in EYFS this week

We acted out the story of Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins - around the pond, over the haystack, under the beehive, through the fence walking down the step from the hen house. Follow this link to find the story being read - [Rosie's Walk - YouTube](#)



Class photographs

Don't forget to place your order. Time is limited to get free delivery on your photos. Just scan the QR code on the order form your child brought home last week and use that to make your order. The school earns commission on every sale so by purchasing a photo, you are supporting the school. Thank you 🙏

Polite notice: Please do not let younger siblings use the sandpit or equipment in the EYFS area when dropping off or picking up children from school. These areas have been set up or tidied up by children and staff. They are for the use of EYFS children during learning time only. We do not want to have to close the gates until 8:40am/3:15pm but may have to if this expectation is not upheld.

School Uniform & hot weather

As the sun gets more intense over the coming weeks, please also remember to ensure your child has a hat and apply sunscreen before your child arrives in school. Staff in school will not be able to top this up during the day.

A reminder that our uniform suppliers have got the new PE shirt in stock if families want to purchase it now. A few other reminders:

- Children wearing a school shirt must wear a tie. That shirt must be tucked into trousers, shorts or skirts.
- All children should be wearing school shoes and not trainers when wearing their uniform.
- Tracksuits must be navy and not black

Details of the uniform policy is on the school website - [Uniform Information - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Redesign](#)

Dates for your diary

Friday 23rd May – INSET DAY. Children not in school.

HALF TERM – Monday 26th – Friday 30th May

Monday 2nd June – Half Term 6 Starts

Tuesday 3rd June – EYFS Stay & Pray, 9am, **parents welcome** to join their children in their class collective worship

Wednesday 4th June – Nite Owls in school (please refer to letter sent previously)

Friday 6th June – Yr2&3 Mass at Our Lady at St Joseph's, 9.15am. **Parents welcome** to attend

Monday 9th – Friday 13th – Yr4 Multiplication Times Tables Checks

Tuesday 10th June – Yr2 Trip to Tower of London, Yr3 Stay and Pray, 9am, **parents welcome** to join their children in their class collective worship, St Thomas More Admission visit to Year 5 boys. **Parents welcome** to attend from 2.30pm

Thursday 12th & Friday 13th June – PTA Father's Day Wrap event

Sunday 15th June – Father's Day

Inspired by Christ, Working Together, Achieving Our Best

Please see the school website for current confirmed calendar dates updated for the academic year - <https://www.stjosephscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk/diary/grid/2024/9/>

PE Update: Children will continue to come into school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. EYFS – Thursday and Friday. Y1 – Monday and Friday. Y2 – Friday. Y3 – Monday. Y4 – Tuesday and Friday. Y5 – Thursday and Friday. Y6 – Tuesday and Friday. [Correct kit must be worn and suitable for outdoor PE.](#)

Calling all Trades

Are you a builder, plasterer, painter & decorator, electrician, plumber etc. and interested in being on a Trades list for the school? If so, please click on this link and fill in your company details <https://forms.office.com/e/5HCLGjWJcB> It might help us put some business your way.



Walk to School Week

Walk to School Week is the annual five-day walking challenge and takes place 19-23 May 2025. This year's challenge saw pupils take **on The Great Space Walk**, encouraging them to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various colourful intergalactic friends along the way, pupils learned about the important reasons to walk or wheel and its benefits for individuals, communities and the planet!

School Dinner Menu

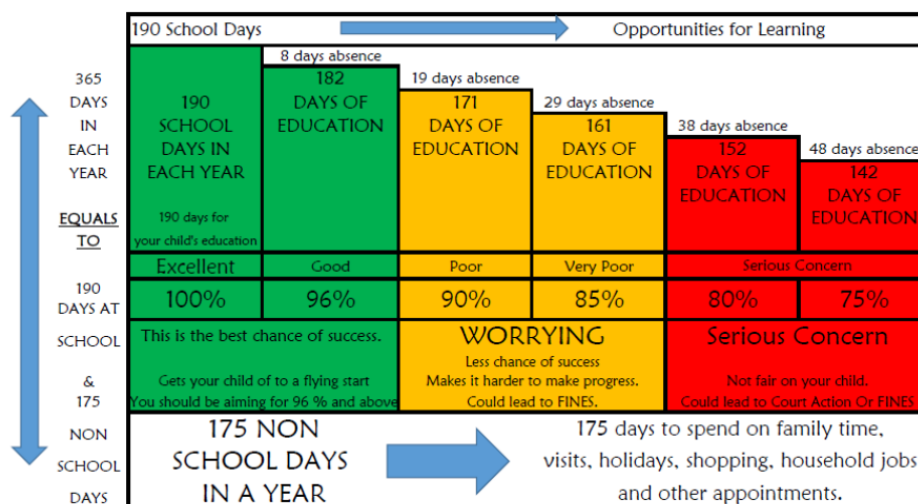
When we come back from half term, **we will be on week 1** on the summer menu – [click here](#) Please make sure you book your child's school dinner using the School Money [website](#) or app [Teachers2Parents - Apps on Google Play](#); [Teachers2Parents on the App Store](#)

If your child is in EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2 and think you might be entitled to free school dinners, please do apply ([Free school meals | School meals | Thurrock Council](#)). While all infant children are entitled to receive a free meal under the Universal Free School Meal scheme, the government gives the school additional funding to cover other costs for these children such as curriculum trips and other enrichment activities. **This additional funding lasts for 6 years – the whole of their primary schooling.** Families in all years can apply if your family circumstances have changed. Follow the link above and check if you might be eligible and complete the online application. **This funding makes a massive difference to the educational experiences we can offer children.**

Attendance

Class	Rec	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Overall	Year to date
% Attendance this week	89.2%	95.1%	92.8%	93.2%	91.7%	92.5%	95.4%	93.4%	93.6%

Congratulations to Year 6 who achieved the best attendance this week. They will be rewarded with extra play next week. The target for each class is to achieve 96% attendance.



Please help us to help you. If you are worried about your child's school attendance, then staff are available at school and within the local authority who can help and support you. Gaps in education can mean your child will not reach their full potential.

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Please follow our school Instagram and Facebook pages: @StJosephsSLH. The school website is still a great source of information although bear with us as we update some key areas.

Local Events

Is your little one taking their next step into school or nursery this year?

Join this free event designed to help you prepare them through the power of play!

Learn from award-winning trainer Ben Kingston-Hughes.

Book your place today: <https://bit.ly/HLE-conference> or click the image here



PTA News - Support St. Joseph's PTA – Make a Difference Today

Dear Parents and Carers,

The St. Joseph's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) plays a vital role in enriching our children's school experience through events, resources, and support for key projects.

To continue this important work, we are kindly asking families to consider making a one-off donation or setting up a regular standing order to support the PTA. Every contribution, big or small, directly benefits our school community.

How to donate: Please find the bank details below. We thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a lasting impact for all our children.

Lloyds Bank
St Josephs - Parent Teacher Association
30-18-34
00271941



Please consider supporting St Joseph's raising **free** donations for the school every time you shop online. Over 8,000 retailers, including Etsy, Not on the High Street, Just Eat and Argos will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford-Le-Hope Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#) or click the image here

We are excited to announce that preparations for this year's summer fete are underway! The event is a highlight of the school calendar and a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and have fun whilst raising valuable funds for our school.

To make the day a success, we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the stalls, the set up and the tidy up. If you are able to volunteer please email us at stjosephs.pta.01@gmail.com



Thank you for your continued support, we couldn't do it without you!

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The PTA and St Joseph's community.

Parish Links

Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Church
Father Anthony Cho
30 Southend Rd
Stanford-Le-Hope
Essex
SS17 0PF
Tel: 01375 672167
Email - stanfordlehope@brcdt.org
Website - <https://www.ourladyandstjosephchurch.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday

6.30 p.m. TILBURY

Sunday

9.00 a.m. TILBURY

11.00 a.m. STANFORD

5.30 p.m. STANFORD

Baptisms: We are aware that due to COVID restrictions some families did not baptise their children but still wish to do so. If you, your child or anyone you know would like to become a baptised Catholic then please contact our local parish via stanfordlehope@brcdt.org.

Online Safety Guide - What Parents Need to Know about: Violent Content Online

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

VIOLENT CONTENT ONLINE

Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year – often from as young as primary school age. Just 6% actively seek it out; most encounter it through group chats or social media algorithms. From fights and pranks to hate speech and graphic media, exposure to violent content online is more widespread – and more harmful – than many adults realise.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA

Children and young people report feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame or fear after seeing violent content. For some, these effects may be short term, but for those with existing vulnerabilities or past trauma, the impact can be more severe. Many also feel pressured to 'laugh off' violent content to fit in with friends, even when they find it distressing.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGES

Exposure to online violence can lead to fear and avoidance behaviours – such as skipping school or staying indoors. When children see weapons used in videos, it can heighten their perception that the world is unsafe and, in rare cases, increase the likelihood they'll consider carrying a weapon themselves, such as a knife for protection.

ESCALATION AND PARTICIPATION

Violent videos often go viral quickly. What begins as an online argument can spill into real-world fights – which are sometimes filmed and shared to gain views or status. Some children even admit to sharing or creating violent content themselves to gain attention or boost their reputation.

DESENSITISATION

Older teens may become numb to violent content after years of exposure, admitting they're unlikely to report it. Younger children also tend not to report it – usually because they don't believe anything will be done or because they're afraid of being labelled a 'snitch' by their peers.

HARMFUL IDEOLOGIES

Violent content online may overlap with racist, misogynistic or otherwise extremist ideas. These messages can dehumanise others or glorify violence as a way to gain power, popularity or notoriety. Over time, this can normalise dangerous behaviours and attitudes among impressionable viewers.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

Not all children are affected equally. Those who are excluded from school, marginalised, disabled or neurodivergent are often more vulnerable to the effects of online violence. It's essential to consider wider context – including home life and access to safe spaces – when thinking about potential harm.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SUPPORTIVE SPACES

Many children feel adults are too busy or won't understand their experiences online. Take time to build trust through non-judgemental conversations about what they're seeing. If they don't want to speak to you directly, gently signpost towards trusted services they can turn to for support.

KNOW WHAT'S ILLEGAL

Some violent content is simply upsetting, while other examples may be criminal or a safeguarding matter that needs reporting. Help children understand the difference by staying informed about online laws and social media reporting procedures. A useful resource is reportharmfulcontent.com.

AVOID HARSH RESTRICTIONS

Fear of punishment is a major reason young people stay silent about violent content. Try not to overreact or threaten to take away devices. Instead, reassure children that they can speak openly and that asking for help won't get them into trouble.

UNDERSTAND TECH AND TRAUMA

Older children may already know how to block accounts or avoid triggering content. Help younger or more vulnerable children learn these tools and encourage habits that reduce exposure. Just as importantly, teach techniques that help them process distress – building resilience and emotional literacy for both online and offline life.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in digital safety, media law, and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit onlinemedialawuk.com for more.



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Around 70% of teenagers say they've seen real-life violence on social media in the past year. Violent content online isn't just something young people are occasionally stumbling across – in many cases, it's becoming a routine part of their digital world. From fights and stabbings to toxic ideologies, disturbing videos are often just a click away on social media or group chats.

This week's #WakeUpWednesday guide highlights the unseen risks this poses to children's mental health, sense of safety, and social behaviours. With insights from a leading expert, it offers practical ways for parents and educators to respond with empathy and support – not punishment or panic.

You can download this guide as a PDF from our website: <https://st-josephs-catholic-primary-school-redesign.secure-primariesite.net/online-safety/>