



What a busy few weeks we've had from Feast Day, the Big Lent Walk and the Book Fair to Lent Stay and Pray, being crowned football champions, a beautiful presentation of the Stations of the Cross and Mad March Hair and Easter Bonnets! We are definitely ready for our Easter Holidays!

The internal work for the heating system has continued this fortnight and will continue through the Easter holidays. A big well done and thank you to Year 4 and 6 for moving out of their classrooms so maturely whilst this work was done. Like all good building projects, it will run into next term, but the end is in sight!!

We are also saying goodbye to Miss Torley, who is stepping away from teaching to spend time with her family in Scotland. Miss Torley has been a huge asset to St Joseph's over the last 18 months— from class teaching and leading hymn practice to being our Christmas elf - she will be sorely missed and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing her well. Year 2 will be taught by Miss Sinfield who has been working alongside Miss Torley for the last 5 weeks – please do say hello to her if you see her.

As always there is lots of exciting and interesting things happening this term, please do the check the fortnightly 'Looking Ahead' dates at the end of the newsletter along with the website diary which is regularly updated [here](#)

Have a super Easter break!
Mrs McBrown

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday



The King Who Rides a Donkey

Palm Sunday remembers the day Jesus came into Jerusalem as a humble king. Crowds welcomed him with palm branches and shouts of praise. They called him the Son of David, showing they believed he was the promised Messiah. Yet, the week ahead would bring both joy and deep sorrow.

This day marks the beginning of Holy Week. It is a time to walk with Jesus in his final days before the cross. Palm Sunday Year A invites us to see the contrast between the cheers of the crowd and the suffering that is to come.

We hold palm branches to remember that Jesus' kingdom is built on peace and service. His way is different from the world's idea of power. As we reflect on this day, we are called to follow him in humility and love.

***Lord Jesus, Thank You for coming to us with love and peace. On Palm Sunday, we remember how people welcomed You with joy. Help us to welcome You into our hearts every day, to follow You with kindness, and to share Your love with others. Hosanna in the highest!
Amen***

Lent Stay and Pray

The Gift team hosted a second Stay and Pray session the Lenten season last week, sharing thoughts, reflections and prayers as we journey through Lent with Easter now in sight. A huge thank you to the team and to Mr Stephens for preparing them so beautifully.



CHAMPIONS!!!!

Not yet an Arsenal good news story but even better...!!! Our girls football team are CHAMPIONS of Thurrock. What an amazing achievement for them all having gone all year without losing a game – absolutely brilliant - and we are so proud of you! A huge thank you to Charlie and his coaches for all of the work that has gone into this as well as all the parents who regularly drive the children to their matches – well done!!



Inspired by Christ, Working Together, Achieving Our Best

Feast Day

On Thursday 19th March we celebrated our Feast Day. The children looked resplendent in their green and were beautifully joyful in Mass which we celebrated with Father Anthony. The children then spent their day working on their STEM skills (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in honour of Joseph being a carpenter. There were most fabulous torches, bridges and chairs to name a but a few! A huge thank you to F. Anthony for leading us in Mass along with Miss Torley who prepared the music and to Mr Lovell for organising our STEM learning – a real team effort!



Big Lent Walk

Friday 19th March saw us take to Hardie Park for our Big Lent Walk. The children walked laps of the park to raise money for CAFOD's Lent appeal, supporting those who must walk miles for water.

The children were brilliant on the walk and joined in with the singing beautifully. If you haven't had a chance to donate to their appeal and you are able to, please the scan the QR code!



Easter Production – The Stations of the Cross

Years 3 and 4 performed their Stations of the Cross to their families and friends on Tuesday encouraging us to reflect, pray and act through Lent.

Through their tableaux, readings and songs they shared the true meanings of Easter and how we can all look forward to eternal life with God. A huge thank you to Mrs Kaur, Mr Stephens and Miss Torley who all helped to prepare the children so beautifully.

RockSteady Concert

Wow! On the very last Wednesday of term, we certainly rocked out to our very first RockSteady concert led by the children and their bands.

The skill and musicality they demonstrated was excellent and it has been a real delight to hear how they have progressed over the last few months.

A huge well done to all of the bands!



Uniform

The children's school uniform is exceptionally smart – a huge thank you to you all for supporting this. Please may you ensure that your child's hair accessories – bows, bands, clips and beads - are in school colours and that your child is wearing their school tie. Thank you. The full uniform list, which was created in consultation with parents last summer, can be found [here](#) if you are unsure.

Please remember that after Easter the children may wear their summer uniform if they wish – **this includes their school blazer.**

Year 2 entry to school

From the summer term, Year 2 will be able to enter the school via the front entrance, which is where parents collect them at the end of the school day. **The only exception to this is if a child brings a bike or scooter into school** – children who bring either of these into school must enter via the main playground gate and store their belongings securely as they do now. No bikes or scooters will be walked through the main front office.

SEND Coffee Morning

A big thank you to the parents who attended our most recent coffee morning with Mrs. Stephens and Mo James from PATT SENDIASS.

| Looking Ahead... summer term | |
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| Monday 13 th April | Back to school! Gates open at 8:40am. |
| Monday 20 th April | PTA EGM – please attend if you can. This meeting will aim to secure the future of the PTA into the 2026-2027 academic year and beyond. |
| Thursday 7 th May | Whole class photographs. |
| Monday 11 th May – Friday 15 th May | Year 6 SATS Week. Our PTA have very kindly funded a SATS breakfast for all Y6 children which school staff will run. |
| Friday 5 th June | Borough Olympics |
| Tuesday 16 th June | PTA Football Fundraiser |

Please remember to check the school website [here](#) for further dates and details.

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 - tilbury@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/OCIA: 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.

Hiring of Stanford-le-Hope Parish Hall

This is open to Parishioners only of Stanford and Tilbury Parishes. The rate of hiring the hall is £25 per hour and £100 deposit, refundable upon satisfactory return of the hall. The person to contact for hall hire is Colette Clark email: colette.9meadowclose@gmail.com

Once you have confirmed your hiring date with Colette all payments must be paid into the Parish Account no later than two weeks before your event. If payment is not made two weeks before your event, then the booking will be cancelled. Hiring of the hall is on a 'first come first served basis'.