

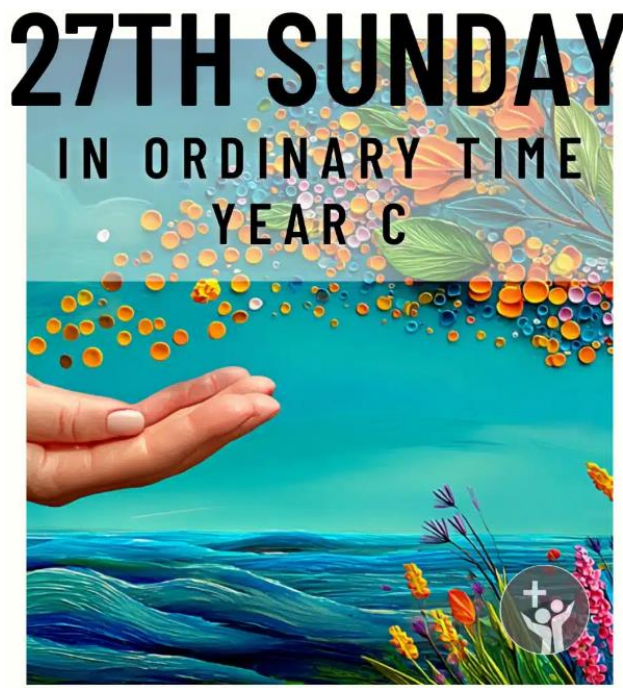


As the first signs of autumn arrive and the cooler weather sets in, our school has been a hive of activity over the past fortnight. This week I have enjoyed visiting each classroom to look at learning and the children have been working exceptionally hard to secure those all-important key foundation skills that will enable them to build on their learning using their learning powers. It has been a busy and productive time, full of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning.

We also welcomed Mr Flavio Vettese, Director of Education for Brentwood Diocese. He met with myself and Mrs Seymour as we discussed the growth and development of St Joseph's and he was delighted to be introduced to some of the GIFT team who shared the Prayer Garden with him.

Looking ahead, there are some key dates for your diaries as we continue to work in partnership with our PTA on upcoming events and activities – please check the school website for regular updates. . We are also pleased to share that our Local Governing Committee is now beginning to take shape, and we look forward to introducing them more formally in the weeks ahead as they play a vital role in supporting and guiding our school community.

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – choosing to follow Jesus.



The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C reminds us to trust God, even when life feels unfair or unclear. The readings speak of faith that waits with hope, worship that listens, and service that does what is needed. Each passage points to a life that relies on God, not on our own strength.

Habakkuk cries out over the violence he sees, but God tells him to wait for His plan. The psalm invites us to worship with open hearts and to listen to the Lord, unlike those who doubted in the desert. Paul encourages Timothy to stay strong in his mission. Jesus teaches that even the smallest faith can do great things.

This Sunday calls us to keep faith alive and active. It is a reminder that faith grows when we trust God and serve Him with simple obedience. The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C invites us to live each day in hope, love, and quiet faithfulness

Heavenly Father,

I place my trust in Your perfect plan, even when I cannot see the way. Help me to surrender my fears and doubts, knowing that Your love and wisdom guide every step. Fill my heart with peace and courage, and remind me that Your timing is always best. Amen.

This fortnight at school

We have thoroughly enjoyed **class liturgies** from year 4 and 5 this past fortnight. Year 5 lead us in worship asking us to consider new beginnings and year 4 invited us to gaze in wonder at God's creations. The children led their worships through thoughtful drama, prayers and hymns. A huge thank you to Mr Lovell and Mr and Mrs Stephens for preparing the children so beautifully.



Pilgrims of Hope

The Jubilee Year is a landmark moment in the life of the global church which occurs every 25 years. Pope Francis invited us to join together as pilgrims of hope, pledging to work together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love.

As part of our prayer, we took part in a pilgrimage to Southend to walk in solidarity with the other Christus Catholic Trust schools. We travelled by train, meeting friends on the way, walked to the seafront and along the water where we indulged in an ice cream! The Gift Team were superb in leading the other children in prayer demonstrating reverence and maturity.



Football!

In the last fortnight both the boys and girls have played football with great success. The boys played Stanford le Hope primary and won 3-0 and then this week played Arthur Bugler and lost 3-1. The girls have played Abbots Hall primary and won 4-0. There have been excitement and drama in all the matches, but the highlights were Zac scoring penalty against Stanford and Annabelle's shot being so amazing it broke the goal!! Well done to all teams and we look forward to hearing more of your success.

Black History Month and Cultural Diversity Day

October is Black History Month and Mr Lovell launched this with the children in assembly this week. The theme for Black History Month UK 2025 is "**Standing Firm in Power and Pride,**" a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people be they leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth. Each year group will be given a specific person to research and celebrate within their classroom and we will come together to celebrate all our cultures on **Friday 7th November - Cultural Diversity Day!**

We will be learning about....

Reception – Saint Kitizio

Year 1 – Mary Seacole

Year 2 – Samuel Coleridge Taylor

Year 3 – Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Year 4 – Professor Dame Elizabeth Nneka Anionwu

Year 5 – Olivette Otelle

Year 6 – Lubana Himid

Improvements to the school

Over the next few weeks, you will see some visible signs of building works within the school as we begin to replace the heating system across the whole school. We met with the contractors this week who are as keen to start as we are - we're looking forward to a warm and toasty winter!

Harvest Festival



We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on 15th October and giving thanks for God's goodness. We will be collecting for Thurrock Foodbank who do such brilliant work within our community.

They are particularly looking for:

Cordial/Squash
Pasta Sauce
Soup
Mashed Potato
Custard
Tinned Potatoes
Rice Pudding

If you are able to donate, please send your donation into school and the children in year 2 will collect and collate them. Thank you.

School Learning Council

Our Learning Council are still collecting for their Quiet Play revamp! We know that at this time of year we begin to have a pre-Christmas clear out; the children are particularly on the lookout for

- toy cars
- action figures
- building bricks – ideally bigger than Lego!
- Small dolls (for a dolls house)
- Dolls house furniture.



If you have any that you are able to donate we would be very grateful indeed. Thank you

Wishing you all wonderful weekend,
Mrs McBrown (Executive Headteacher)

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion 2026: Registration Forms will be available from Fr. Anthony on 30th/31st August after all Masses. Please make sure you have a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate ready. Closing date for First Holy Communion is Sunday 12th October. No late applications will be accepted. Enrolment Masses for First Holy Communion Candidates are as follows:

Tilbury: Sunday 19th October at the 9.00 a.m. Mass
Stanford-le-Hope: Sunday 19th October at the 11.00 a.m. Mass

Attendance is strictly compulsory for the Candidates and their families.



Attendance

Class	Rec	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Overall	Year to date
% Attendance this week	95.8	91.6	95.2	93.4	95.6	95	88.4	93.4	93.4

Congratulations to Reception 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 – some classes have some catching up to do – we can do it!

Pick up arrangements

Can I remind parents to ensure you let us know if someone other than yourself is going to be picking up your child as we cannot release a child to an unknown adult. Just send the office an email on:

admin@stjosephsprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

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.

School Uniform

A reminder that as of this school year, blazers are a compulsory item of school uniform. This follows on from the uniform consultation last year when parents voted for this. Every child in Yrs1-6 will be expected to wear a blazer every day to school. Details of the uniform policy is on the school website - [Uniform Information - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Redesign](#)

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

The children look incredibly smart – thank you and let's keep it up!

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/RCIA: 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.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School PTA AGM 2025

Tuesday, 7 October - 7pm, School Hall

You're invited to have your say!

St Joseph's PTA would love you to join us for our AGM - this is our yearly get-together where we share what we've been up to, how funds have been spent, and our exciting plans for the year ahead. It is also when we vote in the committee (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary).

Attending doesn't mean you'll be pressured to join the committee, it's just a chance to hear more, have your say, and maybe get involved - you could really help to make a difference if you fancy it!

Everything the PTA does helps give our children extra opportunities and resources that wouldn't otherwise be possible - all thanks to parent, teacher and carer support.

We'd love to see you there!

If you can't make it but would like more information, just email us at stjosephs.pta.01@gmail.com

