



IMPORTANT DATES/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Thank you to all those who have already donated to the Comic Relief *Red Nose Day* appeal; if you haven't done so yet, there is still time to donate via our JustGiving page [here](#).
- This Lent, we will be raising money for Cafod by taking part in their 'Big Lent Walk'. Should you wish to donate to Cafod's Lent appeal, you may do so via either our dedicated 'Big Lent Walk' page [here](#) or the Cafod website [here](#).
- There will be a meeting of the Friends of St Mary's in school at 9am on Friday 28th March to discuss plans for our Summer family event. All welcome.
- Parent/Carer voice – please see attached the analysis of our Autumn Term parent/carer voice survey as discussed within this term's Explore the Curriculum sessions. Please share your views with us via our Spring Term parent/carer voice survey [here](#). We would love to have as many responses as possible, so please spare 5 minutes to complete the multiple-choice questions to take part.

LENT 2025:

Prayer

Thank you to Year 2 who lead our first Lenten moment of prayer on the theme of the preferential option for the poor. Through their chosen Gospel story and reflection on the Word, the pupils reminded us that Christians are called to share what we have with those in need no matter who they are. This Lent, we will be donating essential items for local Food Bank projects, as well as raising money for CAFOD, which are both examples of how we are living out this principle at St Mary's.

Our remaining moments of prayer will take place on the following dates:

DATE	CLASS(ES)
25.3.25	Y3
1.4.25	Y6
2.4.25	Reception and Y1
7.4.25	Y5
9.4.25	Y4

*All to begin at 2:45pm

Almsgiving/Fasting

Please continue to send in your donations of the following items for our Lenten Food Bank appeal:

SHORT SUPPLY – UHT milk, cereal, dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, feminine hygiene products, antiperspirant.

OTHER PRIORITY ITEMS – tomato purée, tinned custard, fruit, rice pudding, potatoes, tinned meat, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, tuna, long grained rice, cooking oil, biscuits, teabags, sugar, coffee, toothpaste, laundry powder/liquid, washing up liquid, spray cleaner.

VISIT OF THE RELIC OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS:

As you may be aware, a relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis is presently making a tour of our Diocese. Blessed Carlo Acutis is scheduled to be the first millennial saint and will be canonised in April 2025. Due to his devotion to the Eucharist, his youthfulness and his life in the 21st century, he has been chosen to be the patron of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. The relic of Blessed Carlo will be visiting our Trust, as part of the wider Diocesan tour, between 26th-30th March 2025. This week, pupils from Y6 will represent the school at an event at St Bede's Catholic School, Lanchester at which the relic will be present. This is a momentous opportunity for our pupils, who will then be involved in talking to the school about the experience in the coming weeks.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT:

We have been sharing regular updates with you this year regarding our Personal Development curriculum. As we outlined within our Spring Term Explore the Curriculum sessions, the school visits we plan for our pupils help us to ensure that all St Mary's pupils acquire the cultural capital to support their curriculum learning and enable them to flourish.

This week, our Reception Class pupils will be spending Monday at Hall Hill Farm learning more about the seasons and living things. Year 3 will also spend Monday afternoon at *SafetyWorks!* – a multi-agency, interactive safety centre at which pupils will learn a range of critical lessons about being safe, through scenario-based learning. Both trips are experiences we have planned carefully for all our pupils and form a critical part of our intended Personal Development curriculum.

SPORTS UPDATE:

Well done to our Y6 basketball team who competed valiantly at the finals of the Gateshead Schools competition at Whickham School this week. The team demonstrated amazing skills, teamwork, fair play and resilience, coming fifth place overall.

Good luck to our Happy Feet after school dance troupe who will be performing at the Glasshouse, Gateshead as part of the Gateshead Schools Sports Partnership Dance Festival this week.

Good luck too to our school football teams! The girls' team resume their season as part of the Diocesan Northern Cross competition at St Aloysius school in Hebburn on Tuesday, and the mixed team will be competing in the Blaydon and District League on Thursday.

Keep an eye on our school [X page](#) for updates from all these events.