



IMPORTANT REMINDERS/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- Year 5 pupils will be attending St Thomas More's 'Big Sing' event on 31.3.26. The event is part of an open morning for parents/carers of pupils in Year 5. Pupil should be in their smartest full school uniform.
- Big Lent Walk – **All pupils** should come to school in their **own clothes** on Wednesday 1st April with suitable footwear and outerwear ready to take part in a sponsored walk event to raise money for CAFOD as part of our Lenten Almsgiving.
Reception and Year 1 will be taking part in activities around the school grounds whereas Years 2 – 6 will be taking part in an 'Emmaus walk' around the nearby Watergate Park.
Adult helpers please arrive at school for 9:20am for our 'sending out' Celebration of the Word, before we then set off on our walk.
- There will be **no running club** this Wednesday.
- REMINDER: Last day of term for all pupils is **Thursday 2nd April**. All pupils return on **Monday 20th April**.
- Please find attached term dates (including Inset days) for academic year 2026/27.
- REMINDER: Spaces (Reception or Year 1) are available in gymnastics club to start after Easter. Please contact Georgia on 07896 577832 if you wish to book.

LENT 2026:

On Sunday, we celebrate Palm Sunday: the start of Holy Week. This is a very holy time in the Church, and culmination of our Lenten journey through prayer, action and giving.

You can find Holy Week Mass/Liturgy times for the Parish of Our Lady and St Philip Neri [here](#).

- All donations to our Food Bank appeal must be in school for Monday 30.3.26. A reminder of the items required:
UHT milk, cereal, dried pasta, pasta sauce, tinned garden peas, carrots, sweetcorn, feminine hygiene products, antiperspirant, tomato purée, tinned custard, fruit, rice pudding, potatoes, tinned meat, baked beans, chopped tomatoes, tuna, long grained rice, cooking oil, biscuits, teabags, sugar.
- Donations to CAFOD as part of our Big Lent Walk should be made via our dedicated JustGiving page [here](#).

Thank you for all your efforts and participation during what has been a wonderfully prayerful and purposeful Lent at St Mary's.

PARISH SURVEY:

As you may already be aware, the Parishes of Our Lady and St Philip Neri, and Sacred Heart, Byermoor are undertaking a survey to capture the views of parishioners as part of the Bishop's Diocesan Pastoral

Strategy which focuses on the future of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. You can see more about the strategy [here](#).

Please use this [link](#) to access the survey.

The survey is for all people within the parish: pupils, parents/carers, school staff and all with links to our Catholic churches and schools.

Survey responses are required asap (by midnight on Sunday 29.3.26).

Thank you.

GATESHEAD SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL:

Happy Feet Dance Club represented St Mary's at the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival at The Glasshouse on Wednesday 25th March. All of their hard work at Tuesday's after school club paid off as they pulled off a fabulous performance. Many thanks to everybody involved in preparing the pupils before and on the day and to all who were able to make it to The Glasshouse on Wednesday morning. Roll on next year!