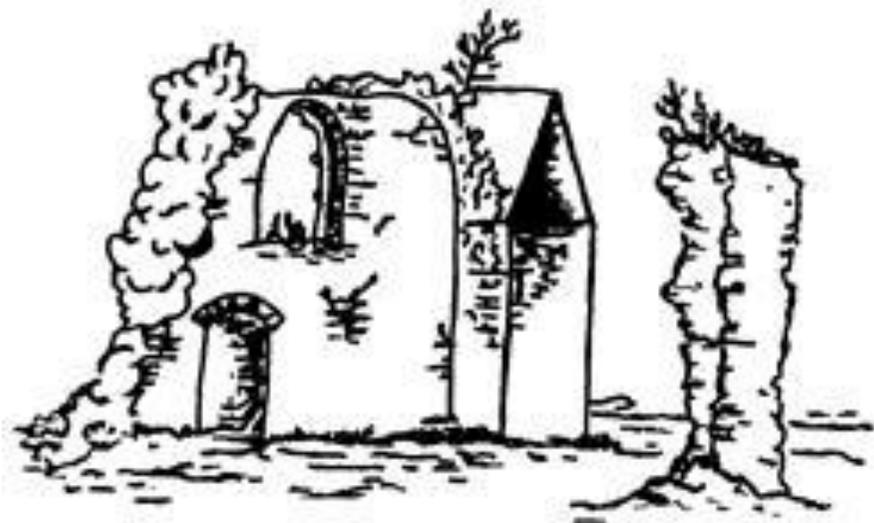


The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter April 2022

IMPORTANT DATES: Term 4: Tuesday 1st March 2022 to Friday 8 April 2022
Thursday 7 April: Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 8 April: Mass at church 9.30 – and Art Exhibition in the parish centre
Term 5: Monday 25th April 2022 to Friday 27th May 2022

Catholic Life

Weekend Mass Times in our parish: Our Lady of Good Counsel Eastwood – Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.15am.

Stations of The Cross: This wonderful Lenten devotion will take place every Sunday during Lent beginning at 3pm at church.

Responding to our Synodal journey: The church will be open every Wednesday between 3-4pm for coffee and cakes. People can wander in and simply have a chat and some refreshments. There will also be the opportunity to say a quiet prayer or experience some easy prayer reflections around the church. Anyone willing to help, please contact Father.

St Blessing of Easter baskets (Swienconka): At 10am on Holy Saturday (16th April) you are welcome to join Father Paul at church for a short service for the traditional blessing of the Easter baskets. This tradition is popular in Poland and Eastern Europe where families come together bringing decorated baskets, lined with white linen, greenery and maybe the palm cross from Palm Sunday. The basket is prepared with different foods; bread, spicy sausage and cold meat, boiled eggs (preferably painted in bright colours), cake, butter (sometimes in the shape of a lamb), salt and some sweet treats. There is information on the internet about the items you can bring along in your basket to be blessed. The idea is to take the blessed food home to be shared with family and friends on Easter Sunday morning.

Festival for Peace: Saint John Houghton Catholic Academy are having an evening of performing arts called 'Festival for Peace'. Thursday 7th April 7 - 9.30pm. Tickets £5.

Monday Exposition: Every Monday during term time the church will be open between 9.30 and 11.30am for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. It's a great opportunity to take time out of the busyness of life for a few moments of quiet reflection. Call into church and be still and spend time in the sacred presence of the Lord. Our upper Key Stage 2 classes look forward to spending some time praying in church in this way, that is very similar to meditation.

Good Friday Walk of Witness: Singers are required for the Walk of Witness on Good Friday beginning at 11.45am at St Mary's Eastwood and walking to the library for a short service. Please support this Churches Together Initiative and help with the singing!

End of term School Mass and Art Exhibition: The Priory Catholic Academy Mass is on Friday 8th April (9.30am). For our exhibition which takes place afterwards, every child from school will produce a piece of work for the exhibition which will be set up in the Parish Social Centre. Come and view their wonderful art-work and purchase their paintings for £1; or donate your own amount as we are raising funds for Ukraine. The Art Exhibition will begin after Mass. As the focus is on raising money to buy food and aid for people in Ukraine, we are dressing in Blue and Yellow on this day – with a £1 donation for the Ukraine charity.

A prayer for Ukraine: God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Altar Servers: Anyone interested in becoming an altar server at church? The church is recruiting and looking for boys and girls from year 4 upwards to be part of the fantastic team of servers at Our Lady's church. Fr Paul or Chris Bradford can give you more information. Full training will be given to anyone who is interested.

Staffing: The end of this week sees Mr Joe Campbell leave us after a term teaching in Year 4 – Assisi Class. He has thoroughly enjoyed his time with us – and equally, the pupils and teaching staff have really warmed to him in such a brief space of time. Good luck and God bless to Mr Campbell from all who work and learn at The Priory. Congratulations to Miss Abigail Worthington who has been successful in being appointed for the recently advertised teaching job in Year 4. Miss Worthington has already been back into school, working with us to prepare for starting in the role straight after the Easter holidays. We wish her much happiness and success in the future, as she works within our school community.

The Gospel Show: Our Easter story is being presented to grandparents, church parishioners, governors and wider family members on Monday 4 April 2022 at 1.45pm. Parents who will not be able to make the following days are also quite welcome to attend; as all parents are invited to see The Gospel Show performed by York and Assisi classes on Tuesday 5 April and Wednesday 6 April – again starting at 1.45pm. This will end the term with the Easter Story fresh in the children's minds and in preparation for Holy Week and the events leading up to Easter Sunday.

School Lunch after Easter: Starting on Monday 25th April, all pupils in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive a school dinner – these are of course free and paid for by the government. You may still wish to send your child with a snack – as already happens for all pupils in school. A recent costing exercise has shown that those pupils in Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 save a massive £460 a year because of universal school meals.

Walk against hunger: In response to CAFOD'S Walk Against Hunger initiative, classes will find time this week to use the school grounds to walk and talk about anything topical in their lives our issues brought out in class. As part of our efforts to raise money for CAFOD, each class has a coin-collection box. We ask that any spare change is sent into school to fill the boxes in each class.

Celebration Assembly: After Easter, starting again on Friday 29th April, parents are welcome to come into school to celebrate pupils' achievements. For children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 this will start at 9am each Friday morning – and for pupils in Key Stage 2 this will begin at 2.40pm. We look forward to inviting more parents back into school to celebrate pupils' progress and hard work.

Easter events: Thursday 7th April – Non-uniform day – all pupils and staff to wear bright, spring colours. There will be an egg hunt in the morning, then an Easter Bonnet Parade for all year groups starting at 2.30pm. This will all take place outside in the school grounds, with prizes awarded for standout bonnets.

Uniform and PE Kit: On our return out of the pandemic, and moving to more normal schooling, the discrepancies regarding the agreed school uniform that we are currently seeing will not be accepted after Easter. In addition, some children have come to school not in the official kit to do their PE lessons – they are lacking either part of, or all of their kit. Spot checks will start again for both uniform and PE kit from Tuesday 3rd May. Please contact the school office to order any items of clothing that you may be missing. I am sure you will agree it is important to maintain high standards throughout the school and I thank you for your cooperation in these matters. Please see the school uniform as set out below.

Food for Thought: Never make your home in a place. Make a home for yourself inside your own head. You'll find what you need to furnish it – memory, friends you can trust, love of learning, and other such things. That way it will go with you wherever you journey – Tad Williams (American author and philosopher)

God bless – Anthony Harrison

The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy School Uniform

Girls: Winter (May be worn all-year round; also see summer uniform below which is optional. Winter uniform must be worn after the October half-term, and up until the Easter Holidays)

- grey trousers or grey knee length skirt or grey pinafore dress
- white school blouse (with collar) and red tie
- red or grey tights; or white socks
- red cardigan or v-neck sweatshirt
- black or grey socks
- sensible black shoes; laced, velcro or buckled are all allowed. These must be plain black, with no visible logo or motif; acceptable school shoes will have a distinctive heel. No slip-on shoes, boots and trainer type shoes are allowed. Please do contact the school office if in doubt before purchasing
- plain winter coat; a red or blue Priory School coat can be worn – but this is optional

Summer (Optional: after the Easter holidays and up until October half-term.)

- red and white checked dress (not striped)
- short sleeve white school blouse (with collar) and red tie
- knee length grey skirt
- red cardigan or v-neck sweatshirt
- white socks
- sensible black shoes; laced, velcro or buckled are all allowed. These must be plain black, with no visible logo or motif; acceptable school shoes will have a distinctive heel. No slip-on shoes, boots and trainer type shoes are allowed. Please do contact the school office if in doubt before purchasing

Boys: Winter (May be worn all-year round; also see summer uniform below which is optional. Winter uniform must be worn after the October half-term, and up until the Easter Holidays).

- long sleeve white school shirt (with collar) and red tie
- grey trousers
- red v-neck sweatshirt
- black or grey socks
- sensible black shoes; laced, velcro or buckled are all allowed. These must be plain black, with no visible logo or motif; acceptable school shoes will have a distinctive heel. No slip-on shoes, boots and trainer type shoes are allowed. Please do contact the school office if in doubt before purchasing
- plain winter coat; a red or blue Priory School coat can be worn –but this is optional

Summer (Optional: after the Easter holidays and up until October half-term.)

- short sleeve white school shirt (with collar) and red tie
- grey tailored school shorts (just above the knee) or grey trousers
- red v-neck sweatshirt
- black or grey socks
- sensible black shoes; laced, velcro or buckled are all allowed. These must be plain black, with no visible logo or motif; acceptable school shoes will have a distinctive heel. No slip-on shoes, boots and trainer type shoes are allowed. Please do contact the school office if in doubt before purchasing

PE Uniform: Plain red shorts, a plain white t-shirt or white polo shirt (with or without school logo), and black plimsolls. Throughout each year, Key Stage 2 pupils will require tracksuits, football boots or trainers for outdoor games (Classteachers will inform you as to when these will be needed as part of their half-termly class' newsletters). Tracksuits must be black or navy.

Jewellery: Pupils may wear up to one pair of earrings, providing they are small and in the lobe of the ear. They may also wear an inexpensive digital and/or analogue watch. (These must not be over-sized or smart watches). All articles of jewellery must be removed for PE and when requested to do so by members of staff, in order for your son or daughter to participate safely in curriculum activities – especially those of a practical nature.

Hair and make-up: Pupils' hair should be no shorter than number 1, and must not cover the face. There must be no tram lines or patterns cut into the hair and no excessive gel styling. A plain red or white, narrow headband or bobble may be worn. Flowers, bright bold hair clips and other hair fashion accessories are not allowed. Long hair must be tied back for PE and practical subjects – hair that is below collar length must be tied back at all times.

No make-up or nail varnish is allowed as part of the dress code at The Priory.

Additional Information: We have just sent an astonishing amount of uniform – from the lost property – to charity. In order to return misplaced items of clothing, please label your child's uniform. Name tags inside items of clothing will suffice, and only these are acceptable. Children should not have their name or initials showing on any exterior part of their uniform.

If you are ever in any doubt about our uniform requirements, please check with the members of staff in the office.