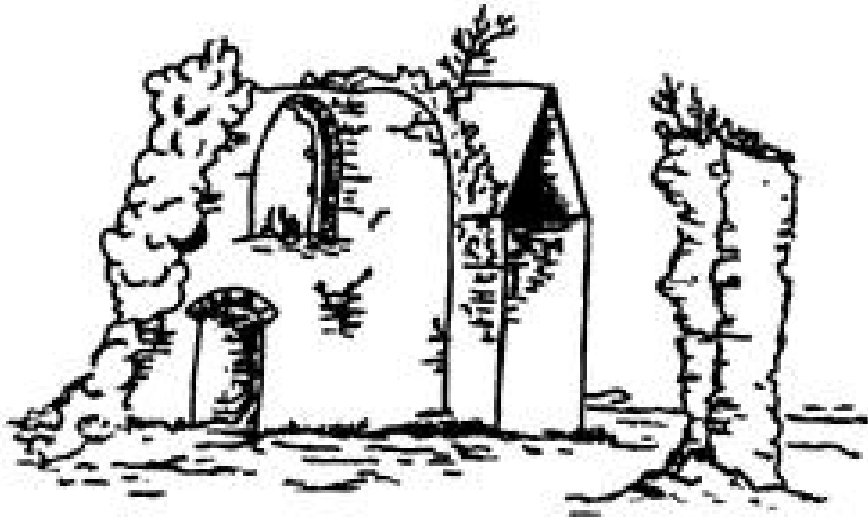


The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



Newsletter December 2023

IMPORTANT DATES:

Inset Days on Thursday 21/12/23; and Friday 22/12/23.

Pupils break up for Christmas on Wednesday 20/12/23.

Pupils return in the New Year on Monday 08/01/24.

**Wishing you a Happy and Holy Christmastide
Anthony Harrison – Head Teacher**

Dates for your Diary

Advent Services either 9am or 2.30pm Everybody is very welcome to attend all services.

November

Monday 27th: Mrs Georgina Taylor visiting school to make the school's advent wreath.

Tuesday 28th: KS1 and KS2 NSPCC Pants Assemblies delivered in-house by Miss Hickling.

Reception Class are going to Church to learn about Baptism.

Wednesday 29th: Advent Service 2.30pm

Thursday 30th: Advent Service 2.30pm St Andrew's Day.

Thursday 30th: Governing Body Meeting at 6.30pm.

December

Friday 1st: Trust Feast Day – all pupils will learn about St Ralph Sherwin and our Academy

Trust – the day will end with Mass being celebrated at church at 2pm.

No Advent Service Today. This is also a non-uniform day in preparation for our Christmas Fair – supported by the PTA. Please bring a bottle into school.

Sunday 3rd: First Sunday in Advent. (Year C)

Monday 4th: Advent Service 2.30pm

Tuesday 5th: Advent Service 2.30pm

Wednesday 6th: Christmas Dinner Day & Reception Nativity 1.30pm **Advent Service 2.30pm**

Thursday 7th: Advent Service 2.30pm

Friday 8th: (1.30pm – School Open Day for prospective new pupils). **Advent Service 2.30pm**

Monday 11th: Advent Service 9am

Tuesday 12th: Advent Service 2.30pm

Wednesday 13th: (9.30am – Year 6 DART Graduation) **Advent Service 2.30pm**

Thursday 14th: Advent Service 9am Father Paul is coming to do Christmas Craft with Year 6

Friday 15th: Advent Service 9am 12.15pm – Christmas Fair run by Year 6 and the PTA.

Monday 18th: Key Stage 1 Nativity starting at 1.30pm. **Advent Service 2.40pm**

Tuesday 19th: Advent Service 2.30pm Key Stage 1 Nativity starting at 6.30pm

Wednesday 20th: Mass at 9.30am at church followed by Key Stage 1 pupils singing for elderly local residents. Sing for Santa at 1.15pm in the school hall as the children break up for the Christmas holidays.

January 2023

Monday 8th: School re-opens to pupils and staff

Weekend Mass: Our Lady of Good Counsel Eastwood – Sundays 11am (streamed).

Food for thought: "Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas." — **Pope John XXIII**

Virtues to live by: Over the next few weeks, we have our virtues to live by for you to discuss at home. Our current virtue from November centres on **Justice**.

Monday 27th November – **Justice** – We reflect on the teachings of Jesus when he taught in Sunday’s Gospel: “Show love, care and compassion for people who are poor, and we will be rewarded in heaven.” (**Matthew 25:31-46**)

KS1: “I share my things with my friends, and I look after poor people.”

KS2: “I will be rewarded in heaven for sharing and caring for poor people.”

This week we have spoken about how we can help the poor. Pupils said that we should collect as much food as possible so that Year 5 can take it to the Food Bank in Eastwood, after Mass on Wednesday 20th December. We will also send tins of food up to the parish church on **Friday 15th December** so that it can be taken to Long Eaton – on its way to supporting the charity: **The Canaan Trust**. Please try to send in some items of food (tinned, dried and non-perishable food) and also toiletries, to help make Christmas a little more special for those in need. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Monday 4th December – (Following on from the first Sunday of Advent) Virtue to live by: **Hope** - “We are filled with Hope as we enter into the season of Advent.”

Monday 11th December (Following on from the second Sunday of Advent) Virtue to live by: **Love** - “We know that God loves us unconditionally, as we are baptised together with Jesus in the River Jordan.”

Monday 18th December (From the third Sunday of Advent) Virtue to live by: **Joy** - “Like John – even in our loneliest times we can be over-joyed by the good news.”

Monday 8th January (Following on from Christmas and The Epiphany) Virtue to live by: **Peace** - “Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Peace will reign in every quarter of the world”.

First Communion 2024: Application forms are available from church for the parish programme of preparation for First Holy Communion. This preparation programme is open for children from Year 3 and above with all sessions for the children taking place in Ilkeston. Details for these sessions and dates for parents to follow can be found out from the church noticeboard, or, by contacting Father Paul. Please complete the forms at the back of the church and return them by next Sunday (3rd December).

A prayer for an end to war: God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of war-torn countries around the world. 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**.

Christmas Cards: The school has a post box which is situated in the entrance hall. Each morning, the children are given the opportunity to post their cards. Mrs Mucha chooses children to take on the role of delivering the cards. With your child’s help, please ensure the envelopes are correctly addressed with the name and year group clearly marked in neatest handwriting.

Wrap Around Care & Dinner accounts: Please can all accounts be settled ready for the new year. If your account is in arrears by more than £20, we will be regrettably unable to offer these services on our return to school. If you are experiencing difficulties in making payments, please make an appointment to see me.

Snow: If snow should arrive at any time in the winter, the school will endeavour to stay open and run as normal. If you think your journey to school will be too hazardous, you must make the decision to keep your child at home – *only you know the potential hazards of your journey*. For news about the school’s decision, a text will be sent out in the morning on the Parentmail service and Class Dojo. Otherwise, please listen to Radio Trent or Radio Nottingham. If there is no mention of our school, please assume we are open as usual. Once at school, your child may wish to play outside in the snow, as we like to make the most of snow days. If it is safe to do so, he or she will only be allowed, if they have boots which cover the ankles and shins and a warm winter coat, as well as a hat, gloves and scarf. If it is too icy to play outdoors, the children stay inside to ensure their safety.

Safeguarding our Children: In accordance with our Safeguarding Policy, from time to time we may need to make a referral to Children & Young People Services at Nottinghamshire County Council. The school’s Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Smith (Family Liaison Lead) Mr Harrison (Headteacher) Mrs Grimes (Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Symonds (SENDCO). You can contact our DSL team directly by emailing the school at: Safeguarding@pri.srscmat.co.uk Your concerns and correspondence will be treated in the strictest confidence. Our safeguarding policy can be accessed on the school website or by following this link: [The-Priory-Safeguarding-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf \(srscmat.co.uk\)](https://www.pri.srscmat.co.uk/Assets/Docs/The-Priory-Safeguarding-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf)