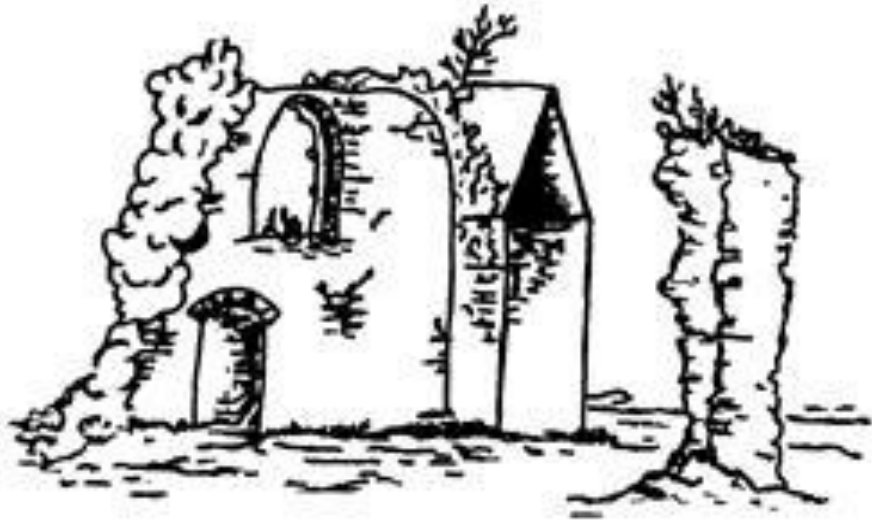


# The Priory Catholic Voluntary Academy



## Newsletter April 2024

### **IMPORTANT DATES:** Summer/Pentecost

Term 5: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Teaching Assistant Vacancy Closing Date: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Beauvale Pilgrimage: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Mass at 3.30pm

Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

School Beauvale Pilgrimage: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Mass at 10.30am

### Catholic Life

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

**Eastwood Food Bank:** Please do send tinned and dried food into school as we continue to collect it in the main entrance. We wish for upper Key Stage 2 pupils to visit the Food Bank; to take our donations before we break for the May half term.

**Virtues to live by:** The virtue to live by during Eastertide is **Faith**. The virtue of **Faith** helps us to know the right moral behaviour to be a disciple of Jesus, while recognising the existence of God's mercy when we fail. Faith enables us to see Jesus in those around us, above all, the poor. Through faith, we recognize the feelings of the Holy Spirit at work within us.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April:** Gospel from the Third Sunday of Easter (LUKE 24:35-48) The road to Emmaus. Virtue to live by: **Faith**.

KS1: I am full of joy because Jesus is alive in me.

KS2: Jesus is truly alive, and I show that I am his disciple.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April:** Gospel from the Fourth Sunday of Easter (JOHN 10:11-18) The Good Shepherd. Virtue to live by: **Faith**.

KS1: I have faith in God – he wants me to do my best.

KS2: I trust in God so that my talents will shine through in life.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April:** Gospel from the Fifth Sunday of Easter (JOHN 15:1-8) Jesus is the true vine. Virtue to live by: **Faith**.

KS1: I am full of joy because Jesus is alive in me.

KS2: Jesus is truly alive, and I show that I am his disciple.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May:** Gospel from the Sixth Sunday of Easter (JOHN 15:9-17) Love one another as I have loved you. Virtue to live by: **Love**. As we think back to the unconditional love that Jesus has for us witnessed in the Easter story.

KS1: I am kind, caring and loving to everyone I meet.

KS2: I follow the Golden Rule: "Love one another as I have loved you."

**A prayer for Peace:** God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. 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. **Amen**.

**Dear Parents,** following the very sad news about Mr McDaid (Owen) and his mum, Rachel, which I sent out on Friday afternoon, we continue to pray as a school community for the repose of Rachel's soul. The children respond very sensibly and show great maturity and respect in the way they conduct themselves.

We also continue to pray for the wider family and friends – and all those affected by this tragic news.

Yesterday, we sent out a “Go Fund Me Page” as we want to do something practical to help the boys. By raising money, we want Mr McDaid and his brothers to be able get by on a day-to-day basis, so this aspect of life comes a little easier. The “Go Fund Me” page created for “Rachel's Boys” should you also wish to make a donation: <https://gofund.me/0b362204>

This is just one page that has recently been set up by Rachel's close friends.

Please continue to remember Rachel, Mr McDaid, and his brothers, in your prayers; as well as all those who have been affected by this tragic event.

May Rachel's soul rest in heaven and be at peace with Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

**Questionnaire:** Thank you to those who completed the recent questionnaire – the governing body is pleased to see that, in the main, parents and carers are overwhelmingly satisfied with their children's education (with an average of 0.9% of parents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with aspects of their children's schooling). Like last year, ***The school has effective procedures for dealing with complaints*** was the area of most concern (with 2.4% of parents unhappy).

Governors wish that your attention be drawn to the Academy Trust Complaints procedure: <https://www.theprioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2022/06/Complaints-Policy-and-Procedure-NRCDES-PRI-2021.pdf>

Linked to this, 1.9% of parents were unhappy that the school does not take account of suggestions and concerns. Please do email into the school office if you do have any suggestions or concerns – and we will take these on board and act accordingly. Governors have asked the that the handful of parents use these two ways to make their concerns known, and therefore the school can act accordingly. Overall, however, as mentioned, the governors are ***very pleased*** that the parents' survey produced very positive and pleasing results as well as some very pleasing comments. This was very much the case for the parent questionnaire for SEND pupils with only one parent out of forty being unhappy about their child's provision. Again, the statistics show that, overall, parents are overwhelmingly pleased with their child's SEND provision – my sincere thanks go to these parents for working in strong partnership with class teachers and Mrs. Symonds – our Special Educational Needs Leader.

**School morning drop off:** In the interests of your child's safety, please do not leave them unattended on the school drive before a member of staff comes out onto the drive to close the green gate – half way down the drive – at 8.35am – when Year 5 and Year 6 (with siblings) are sent into school. Year 3 and Year 4 (and siblings) are sent in at 8.40am; whilst Year 1 and Year 2 are sent into school at 8.45am. Reception Class pupils start school at 8.50am – so they need to start lining up at the green gate, half way down the drive (usually with Mrs Smith) at 8.45am. Some children are standing on the school drive from as early as 8.10am. We have contacted parents individually about these pupils – as we do bring them into school as a duty of care. In future, if your child is left unattended before 8.30am, they will continue to be brought into school – but parents will be charged the breakfast club rate for the child-care being provided.

A few parents have asked that we return to pre-covid timings and routines. We have met as senior leaders and governors and decided not to return to this system as its disadvantages outweigh any advantages. Having all families arrive in a short space of time may cause more disruption to residents and have increased pressures on the traffic and parking. The system in place requires parents to keep as close to the timings as possible, park up, drop off, and then leave the immediate area as soon as possible. In saying this, I urge you to make use of the co-op “free 2 hours” parking each morning, as when I have monitored this on three occasions, sadly only one Priory parent was found to be using it – and each time it was the same parent. Each time I counted up to 20 spare bays. The church carpark was used a little better – with on average 7 parents using this as an option. We will ensure that the church carpark is open every school day so that you are able to use both these spaces in order to help alleviate traffic congestion around the school.

**Prayer for Saint George:** Lord helps us to rejoice in the glorious victory of Saint George and give us courage to follow the example of our Patron Saint. Help us to be as brave and fearless as St George and to always work for what is right. Amen.

**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 at ANY TIME by emailing directly to: [Safeguarding@pri.srscmat.co.uk](mailto: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.prioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/06/The-Priory-Safeguarding-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf)

**School Beauvale Pilgrimage:** On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, all pupils in Year Groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 will make the pilgrimage to the ruins of Beauvale Priory. This will take place to honour our Priory School Patron Saints: John Houghton and Robert Lawrence. Parents, grandparents and people from the parish are invited to join us – either at The Priory remains at Beauvale at 10.15am, or to join us on our walk from school at 9am. This day marks the most important event in celebrating our school’s heritage, as we now undertake this every year on, or around our feast day of May 4<sup>th</sup>. Father Paul has kindly offered to celebrate Mass with us, and this will begin at 10.30am – the location is Beauvale Abbey Farm, New Road, Moorgreen. NG16 2AA

To get to Beauvale for this time, our Key Stage 2 pupils will depart from school at 9am in the morning and walk the 2.3 miles to Beauvale Abbey Farm; parents and carers are more than welcome to join us on our walk, or instead, join us for Mass. If you would like to volunteer to aid the children in walking, then please email or see the office staff; you can even Do-Jo your child’s Classteacher.

After celebrating Mass, the children will be ready for something to eat. We aim to eat outside and have a picnic, and so we ask that all pupils in Key Stage 2 bring a packed lunch to take on the pilgrimage. After lunch, each class will head back to school by 1.00pm – we should arrive back at about 2.15pm.

In addition to needing volunteers to help walk to and from Beauvale, we also need two or three volunteers to help take down the marquee from where Mass will take place. This will be carried out straight after Mass – if you have some time to lend a hand, then this will be very much appreciated.

As Mass will take place outside in the open-air, and as the children are walking from school, it will be a non-school uniform day. All pupils must also come with some sensible footwear for walking and a raincoat in case it rains. Raincoats can also be used to sit on during Mass, and for when having our picnic.

Whilst Key Stage 2 are out in Beauvale, Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 will be staying in school and holding their own service, in honour of our patron saints. They too will be walking the perimeter of the school grounds as they have their own pilgrimage. Therefore, it will be a non-school uniform day for all classes in school. However, school dinners will be served as normal for pupils in these classes.

Finally, please do pray for good weather, as if it rains on the day, we have a plan in place to have our Mass at 10.30am in the parish church.

**Diocesan Beauvale Pilgrimage:** On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, people from all over the Diocese will be making the pilgrimage to the remains of The Priory. This is the diocesan annual pilgrimage, and all pupils, parents and members of staff are invited to go and take part in this important part of our school’s heritage. People are encouraged to gather at the farm from 3.00pm onwards – as the afternoon begins with a procession to the martyrs’ stone at 3.15pm when prayers are said. This year Bishop Patrick will be celebrating the Mass.

**St John Houghton CVA:** You are invited to go along to our partner secondary school – St John Houghton in Kirk Hallam for a coffee morning on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April from 11.30am-12.30pm. The guest speaker is Maria Kirk – a parishioner at our church in Eastwood. Maria is taking along her painting that was restored by The Repair Shop on BBC Television. Everybody will have the opportunity to chat to Maria and hear her wonderful story. Our school will be represented by a group of Year 6 pupils and Mrs Taylor who will be accompanying them. If you are unable to attend on the 26<sup>th</sup> then you may be pleased to know that Maria will be at the Beauvale Pilgrimage on May 5<sup>th</sup> with the painting.

**Teaching Assistant Vacancy:** If you – or you know of anybody who is a TA and is looking for a job – then please do consider the role that is currently being advertised for us by the Academy Trust. Information is provided on the trust website: <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/work-with-us/vacancies/> The closing date for applications is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April with interviews being planned for Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Do pass this information on to friends and family members.

**Pupil Premium and Free School Meals:** For each pupil who receives free school meals, the government send the school a sum of money to help pay for resources and in-school provision. For more information about how this money is spent, please take the time to read our Pupil Premium Report posted on the school website. You can find the report by following this link: <https://www.theprioryeastwood.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2023/12/The-Priory-Catholic-Academy-Pupil-Premium-Strategy-2023-2026-2022-2023-review-of-provision.pdf>

**Food for thought:** “The moment you stop trying to become a better person, is the moment you start to become worse than what you already are.” Carroll Bryant

**God bless.**  
**Anthony Harrison**