

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

192, Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR

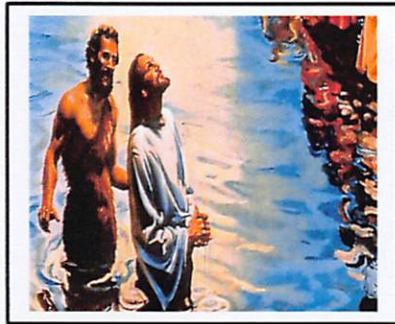
Tel: 020 8804 2149

Email: pondersend@rcdow.org.uk Parish Priest – Fr John Shewring

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or 07784186406

Live streaming: <https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>



The Holy Name of Jesus



January

Weekend Mass Intentions

Sat: - 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – For the Holy Father's Intentions

Followed by Confessions until 11.00am

5.00pm – Pat Molloy - Anniversary

Sun – The church opens at 7.00pm

8.00am – Giuseppe Salustro - Anniversary

9.30am – For the Intentions of Parishioners

11.00am – Intentions of Araba Adjaye

5.00pm – Intentions of Brendan & Clare Carberry

Mon – 8.15am - Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Intentions of Betty Freeman

No Exposition Today

Tues – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Intentions of Kathy Culbert & Family

Followed by Exposition until 11.00am

Wed – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – For the Repose of the Holy Souls

Followed by Exposition until 11.00am

Thu – 8.15am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.30am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Jose George & Smitha Jose – 25th Wedding A

Fri – 5.00pm – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

6.30pm – Evening Prayer & Rosary

7.30pm – Evette Madelaine Simon - Anniv

Sat – 7.00am – Church opens for Quiet Prayer

8.15am – Morning Prayer & Rosary

9.30am – Intentions of Eileen Lacey

Followed by Confessions until 11.00am

5.00pm – Thomas Jules - Anniversary

Sun – Church opens at 7.00am

8.00am – Fr David Barnes - RIP

9.30am – For the Intentions of Parishioners

11.00am – Peter Thorpe

5.00pm – Intentions of Gerard & Teresa Carberry

From 18th January until 25th January we will be following the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

21st Jan – St Agnes – Virgin & Martyr

24th Jan – St Francis de Sales – Bishop & Doctor

25th Jan = Conversion of St Paul – Apostle - Feast

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone more powerful than me, who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

The evangelists introduce the public life of Jesus with his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan, in this way setting the tone for the whole of their accounts. After thirty years of hidden growth, here is a surprising happening, and one full of consequence. Here among the crowds of people called to repentance by John, Jesus undergoes an indescribable experience. The Precursor's baptism becomes for Jesus, the sinless One, a kind of door through which he passes in search of sinners. He will share in their lot and redirect towards God a creation, now, at last, on its true course. So, Jesus descends into the Jordan to 'do all that righteousness demands' (Mt 3:15). To this humble inauguration of a new and purified future, the very heavens open and reveal divine secrets. The Holy Spirit comes down on Jesus and a voice speaks: 'You are my Son'.....(Mark 1:11) Jesus has always been the well-beloved of the Father, but today he finds himself established in his role as servant – like a new Isaac ready for sacrifice. Jesus will show himself to be truly the Son and Servant of his Father as, under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, he forms step by step a new and entirely filial humanity. 'There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress until it is over' (Luke 12:50).

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION CONFESSION

Saturday 18th January from after Mass until 11.00am

Saturday 25th January from after Mass until 11.00am

Please do take advantage of these times. Always a very special time of the year and so good for us to put things right with God and with ourselves. Face to face or private confessions in the sacristy.

SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL

Weekend 11/12th January 2025

Every year we try to help the SPUC in their work of reducing the number of unborn children who are aborted and to promote the teaching that all are created in the image and likeness to God and that all life is sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of a natural death. Please do support the appeal

PEACE SUNDAY

Weekend 18/19th January 2025

PAX CHRISTI – are a Catholic charity that promote peace in the world. We support them every year. There will be a collection on their behalf.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

January 2025 – For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and join with many people worldwide for praying for this intention each month. The Holy Father has entrusted these intentions in a particular way to the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, an organisation that works to encourage Christians to respond to the Pope's appeal and to deepen their daily prayer

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE 2025 with trips to Mostar & Surmanci

29th April to 7th May 2025

9 days/8 nights – half-board

Price – Approx £850

Departing from Luton airport. Twin room sharing. Check in luggage 23kg + hand carry. Included are flights, transfer, entrance fees as per itinerary. Single room supplement £225. Not included – travel insurance, lunches; tips & gratuities will be added to invoice. **Prices will increase at the end of December so book early!**

Always a wonderful spiritual experience Do join us for a very special time. Our first pilgrimage together for some time.



PARISH GIVING

If you use Planned Giving Envelopes please do try to keep up with your giving. The parish relies on a regular income from these envelopes each week. If you are away or do not attend church please make up your giving and that is what **Planned Giving** means. Please, if you can, take out a Standing Order to the parish. Our bank account details are **HSBC Bank plc**. To credit our account: WRCDT – Mary Mother of God Ponders End: 81308432, Sort Code: 40-05-20. Add surname and first name as a reference. Thanks.

THANK YOU

For your kindness and generosity to me and to the parish over Christmas. Cards, gifts and offerings. I am grateful for the love and care that you show. Fr John

MARY'S MEALS

An appeal

Mary's Meals can make money for their work by collecting any unwanted mobiles/ipads/jewellery/watches/cameras. If you have any of these and would be willing to donate them, pop them in a bag. Mark the bag Mary's Meals and hand it in next time you are at Mass. David Chapman will pick them up and deliver them to the Mary's Meals office.

FRIDAY LUNCH

Our Friday Lunch Club is very popular but we are in desperate need of help for a short time to move heavy tables and to help unload food off the van when it is delivered – for about an hour and half from about 9.00am.

MAGNIFICAT

Because of the change of translation the cost of Magnificat has increased in price from £4.99 to £6.50. Sorry!

YOUNG ADULTS DEANERY MEETINGS

Ages 18 – 35

The idea is for young adults (ages 18-35) to meet up once a month at one of the parishes in the Enfield deanery on a weekday evening for a time of prayer, worship (with a talk) and a social. This will allow young adults to grow and develop in their faith with mutual support and friendship. The venue for the next meeting has not yet been revealed, as soon as information becomes available we will let you know. For further details please contact: annamcmullan@rcdow.org.uk

THE PRICE OF VOTIVE CANDLES

For quite some time we have been subsidising the price of votive candles in our church. The cost of these candles has increased and so we going to have to raise the price of the candles. We cannot afford to lose income any more so the cost of these candles will increase to £1 each.

LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom

Meeting on Sunday 9th February 2025 at 2.45pm in parish hall

An opportunity to meet together and say our Legion prayers and to give our reports on the work we have achieved over the past few weeks or so.

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The **CCS** are a charity providing young people and children with counselling and therapy, emergency grants for families and carers and adoption and aftercare. There will be a collection box in the church Crib for any offerings you might like to make

Parish Shop – open for statues, candles, rosaries, crucifixes, cards and more.

You can help your marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue – or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom 27th February to 2nd March – Email: info@retrouvaille.org.uk
Call or text: 07887296983

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Friday Evenings

from 5.00 – 7.15pm

Saturday Mornings

from 7.00 – 8.30am

*As we are now in the Jubilee
Year do try and give a
little more time to Our Lord*

MASS INTENTIONS

Wanting a Mass said for a person or occasion is good but a reminder that if you wish a special date then you must hand in your request well in advance if you do not want to be disappointed. Thanks

Introductory Sessions for Parishioners

Anna Dupelycz from the Agency will be visiting the parish talking on 3 subjects

5th Dec – A look at Liturgy

Understanding the Liturgical year

16th Jan – Reflecting on the Eucharist

Understanding the Sacrament of the Eucharist

13th Feb – Reflecting on Reconciliation

Understanding the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Evenings will run from 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Prayers please:

Sick: Mary Lovett, Agnes Robinson, Peter Thorpe, Joe Harper, Mary Conway. Suzi Modi, Agnes Guveya, Liz Freeman, Adreina Sifari, Margaret Felgate, Mark Keighrey, Marilyn Theodore. Sara Malaki, John Keighrey, Dan Heath, Geoffry Nwachukwu. Maureen Walker, Eamon Fitzpatrick. Eileen Lacey, Jacqueline O'Donovan.

Recently Dead: Agatha Durowaa, Angelo D'Vito, Daphne Sullivan. Thomas Lawlor. Brid McGonagle, Kathleen Fitzsimmons, Phyllis Robinson, Jennifer Browne, Liam Sullivan, Fr David Williamson. Anne Rutland, Frank Sebaggala, Fr Maerin Hayes, Elvera Nardone, Fr Joseph Carter, Fr Damien Crimes, Patrick Mukasa. Eileen Kerrigan, Peter Thorpe, Fernando Iannelli, John Charlery, John Gerard Pender.

Anniversaries: Yvette Simon, Solomis & Eleni Djerkallis, Pat Molloy, Debbie Dirwin, Theresa Ragbir, Marie Mendy, Vermeil Joson, Alice Audu, John Baptist Yaweh, Margaret Paul, Diane Bunker. Peggy Power, Cyril Ibekwe.

Morning Prayer & Rosary – is said before all weekday Masses. Monday to Thursday and Saturday mornings at 8.30am and Friday evening at 6.30pm before Mass.

Legion of Mary – the next meeting of the Legion of Mary is on Thursday 9th January at 7.00pm in the hall.

Friday Lunch – is served every Friday in the hall from 11.30am onwards – open to all comers – no cost!

Contactless Offerings to the Parish – you can find the Dona Contactless Terminal in the porch of the church for any donations you may wish to make to the parish and for payment for any purchases from the parish Repository. Not for special collections
Please remember: Please take advantage of the times of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our church. So important as a help to building a relationship with Jesus.

Nightingale Hospice & School of Joy: These are two charities that we support every year at this time – the NH a local charity, and the **S of J** a school for children with learning difficulties in Bethlehem – a special collection this Sunday at all Masses.

Finance Committee Meeting – the Finance Committee will meet on Monday 6th January at 2.00pm in the Sacristy

Parish Council Meeting – the Parish Council will meet together on Tuesday 14th January at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall. All parishioners are invited.

SUNDAY PLUS

One in hope

Something different

By Michael George



Sixteen and thirteen years ago, the baptisms of my children took place during Sunday Masses. The whole regular Sunday Mass congregations were witnesses to their baptisms: my children were immediately and physically united with the whole parish as baptised members of Christ's Church. We were all together as one community or as one body, one in prayer, one in faith and one in hope.

I am reminded of my daughter's and my son's baptisms by the fact that today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The sense of "oneness" and community enters my mind when reading St Paul's words in today's second reading. There need be no sense of competition when it comes to salvation; through God's grace salvation is possible for all.

In the Gospel, people were baptised by John; then they were awakened to the realisation that Christ was still to come. When my daughter was baptised, she was asleep as I carried her in my arms to the font. She awoke, startled but silent, when the priest, who was standing right beside us and was not wearing a microphone, raised his voice while speaking so that everybody could hear. She awoke with a jolt, even as a little baby realising that something different was taking place. Her baptism involved a literal awakening.

One in hope, may our hearts be awakened today, that we may build one another up and support one another, as together we seek to attain the salvation made possible by Christ.

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for 25 years, as teacher, Headteacher and chaplain.



Jesus is more than a friend. He is a teacher of truth and life who shows us the way that leads to happiness.

Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025

Church of St Prisca

St Prisca's church in Rome is approximately one mile from the Mamertime Prison, where Sts Peter, Paul and other early Christians were held captive. Notorious for its terrible conditions, as elsewhere, prisoners depended on food supplied by people whom they knew "on the outside". Was Prisca, a first-century young martyr

whom, as a thirteen-year-old, St Paul apparently baptised, one of those who helped to bribe the guards and feed those who would soon die for their faith? We don't know. Concrete information about Prisca is hard to find, especially as her death is surrounded by legends of miraculous – and perhaps unlikely – events such

as the Coliseum lions refusing to attack her. People wanted to show that power and brutality can be overcome by gentleness – and so the stories appeared. It seems that Prisca was possibly tortured and eventually beheaded. The church of St Prisca is considered one of Rome's most important Christian sites – hence its choice as a Jubilee Church.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25 January

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17:21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together


to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it,

for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople, in AD 325. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the creed formulated during this council.

The World Council of Churches

Dearest Lord, none of us can live without hope. Give hope to those who cannot find it and give them a reason for laughter.  Amen.

Today: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: Hebrews 1:1-6
Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday: Hebrews 2:5-12
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday: Hebrews 2:14-18
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday: Hebrews 3:7-14
Mark 1:40-45

Friday: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday: Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

Wednesday 8th January 2025

THE *Wednesday* WORD



Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 12th January 2025

THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Taken from Luke 3:15-16. 21-22 The Baptism of the Lord, Year C

2

Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Luke does not tell us who baptised Jesus. In Luke the story of John the Baptist ends with his promise of one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit - then John is arrested. At the baptism itself all Luke's concentration is on the coming of the Spirit. Indeed, it is hardly an account of the baptism at all, for the baptism is only a time marker for the coming of the Spirit when "Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer". Jesus' mission begins with the coming of the Spirit. In the same way, Luke's second volume (the Acts of the Apostles) begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. It is as though Luke wants to show the importance of the Spirit from beginning to end of the Christian life. And this is the case: in both books the part played by the Spirit directs all the action. The same is still true in the Christian community today, though sometimes human stubbornness and blindness does its best to impede the leadership and guidance of the Spirit. Most of us are artists at blocking the Spirit when the Spirit's promptings are inconvenient!

What does Luke's account of Jesus' baptism tell us about the Holy Spirit?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is BAPTISM !

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Jubilee
Year of Hope**

Share the Prayer: Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 12th January 2025**



1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

Console my People, Console them

"Console my people, console them," says your God. "Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes." A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God." Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him; his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The reading from Isaiah for today is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile the people of Israel are looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the desert at Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. For Christians the excitement is that John the Baptist picks up this message as he prepares for the coming of Christ. We can see the fulfilment of this passage from Isaiah in the coming of Christ in history and in his future return in glory. Christ brings about his Kingship of God, but it is for us Christians, as we await his coming again, to show by our lives the glory and the love and the generosity of God to a world which refuses to see the splendour of his coming. This is the daunting responsibility of those who bear the name of 'Christian', who see in Jesus the manifestation of God's reign.

How today do we best manifest God's reign and fulfil our mission as Church?

**Jesus baptism is
the model of your
and my baptism.**



2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Reborn in the Cleansing Waters

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what he have to do is give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The phrase in this reading which seizes the attention is "he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit". Is this referring to Jesus' baptism or to yours and mine? My guess is that in the original letter it referred to our baptism, but that, by putting it forward on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church is referring it to Jesus' baptism as the model of your and my baptism. We received in our baptism the same re-birth as children of God and the same renewal in the Holy Spirit as Jesus did in the Jordan. The image of birth from the waters is a fascinating one, and can be taken on many levels: the ocean as the great, turbulent place from which all life derives, the source of life and fertility for plants, animals and humans, the 'waters' of each mammal's birth. By the waters of baptism we are given a wholly new life as adopted sons of God. We have seen how, in Luke's account of the Baptism of Jesus, the coming of the Spirit is the main focus. On us too the Spirit comes at baptism and empowers us to do all kinds of good works beyond any human ability.

How do we see the Holy Spirit at work in our own particular local Church community?

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**



**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
ENTRUSTED TO THE WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK
FOR THE YEAR 2025**

JANUARY

For the right to an education.

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

FEBRUARY

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MARCH

For families in crisis.

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

APRIL

For the use of the new technologies.

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

MAY

For working conditions.

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

LOVE, LISTEN AND LEARN

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have some places in our Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 3 2024/2025 year groups.

Please contact the school if you wish to apply for a place for your child.



**THANK YOU PARENTS AND PARISHIONERS FOR
RECOMMENDING OUR SCHOOL AND HELPING TO BUILD
UP OUR PUPIL NUMBERS.**

Phone Number: 020 88042396

E-mail: office@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

'Pupils are eager to come to school each morning because their teachers do their best to help them learn...Pupils learn in a calm environment. This is because the school has high expectations for pupils...Pupils conduct themselves well because they know what is right and have been taught how to behave well. Pupils achieve well across a range of subjects. They are proud to talk about their work which is presented with pride...Warm, caring relationships permeate the school... Pupils are confident that adults will listen to their worries and help them. This means they feel happy and safe...The curriculum is ambitious and well structured...Adults have secure subject knowledge...Leaders have high expectations and are ambitious for pupils...Safeguarding is a priority here.'
(OFSTED Inspection, November 2023).

LOVE, LISTEN AND LEARN

'A. Classroom religious education is outstanding

- *The school has adapted and developed the themes of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory in an excellent manner to meet the learning needs of the pupils' of St Mary's.*
- *The religious education programme in use fully delivers this content and the use of De Bono system in religious education pushes pupils to develop their understanding further.*
- *After carefully analysing the needs of their pupils, the school has developed a curriculum and teaching programme that has reached outstanding achievement by the pupils in religious education.*
- *Teachers have high expectations and plan lessons that deepen pupils' religious literacy.*
- *Since the last inspection, staff confidence in recording and assessment has been demonstrably achieved with the evidence of the clarity and confidence on the part of the staff in planning imaginative lessons based on the religious education programme followed in the school.*
- *The headteacher is also the religious education curriculum coordinator and she takes the closest interest in developing the excellent teaching and learning of religious education in the school.*
- *The chair of governors is a recent appointment but with her years of experience on the governing body she is clear in her role of both support and challenge in pursuing the special responsibility of governors of a Catholic school.*

B. The Catholic life of the school is outstanding

- *The curriculum fully conforms to the classroom curriculum time of at least 10% for religious education and teaching is fully in line with the requirements of the Bishops' Conference.*
- *The previous inspection asked the school to develop pupils' understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and to help pupils understand the ethics of the market place and fair trade. The school has fully addressed these priorities, both in their classroom teaching and in the encouragement offered when choosing charities to support.*
- *The pupils of St Mary's enjoy an outstanding experience of prayer, liturgy and Catholic worship.*
- *Pupils and staff have a deep understanding of the call to 'human flourishing' and are given opportunities to develop and celebrate their gifts and talents.*
- *Partnership with the parents is excellent; they appreciate and support all that the school provides for their children.*
- *The leadership and management of the school are very effective in promoting the Catholic life of the school. The head is strong and devoted in providing both oversight and support on all aspects of Catholic life. The contribution and regular visits of the parish priest provides a strong and stable reinforcement of the foundational position of Catholicism in the life of the school'*

(OFSTED Section 48 Inspection, September 2019).