

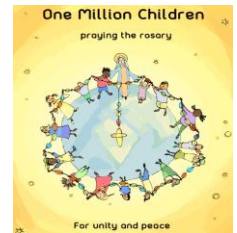


At the beginning of the week, we proudly celebrated some of our new pupil leaders for the year. Children who wished to take on a pupil leadership role nominated themselves, and, in keeping with the British Value of Democracy, were voted in by their classmates. During a special leadership assembly, the following groups were presented with their badges: School Council, Eco Stewards, House Captains and Vice-Captains, Librarians and Junior Road Safety Officers. These leadership opportunities are vital in helping our children develop key skills such as responsibility, communication and teamwork. They also help to build the confidence that will serve them well in the future. A big thank you to all the families who were able to join us and celebrate this special moment with the children.

St. Therese Class visited Aylesford Priory, joining other schools in our KCSP Trust to celebrate the start of the academic year. The theme of the celebration was this year's Trust Catholic Social Teaching focus: 'The Preferential Option for the Poor.' Bishop Paul Hendricks celebrated Mass, which was followed by a retreat activity. We were incredibly proud of our children for their wonderful, reverent participation as they sang and signed throughout the Mass.

St. Simon Stock Class enjoyed a fantastic day out at Kent Life for their Stone Age Theme Day, which linked directly to their history topic. During the day, pupils ground their own grain, learnt how Stone Age weapons were made, debated the pros and cons of hunter-gatherers versus early farmers, and explored how religious practices changed over time.

Yesterday, we took part in 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary', joining children all over the world to pray the Holy Rosary. Together, we asked Mary, our Mother, to intercede for us and to pray for peace and unity throughout the world. When we pray together, we are united as one family of God and our prayers have great power. For the first time, the campaign spans an entire week, running until 7<sup>th</sup> October. Perhaps you might like to join in this worldwide chain of prayer at home as well.



A huge thank you to St. Therese's Class for leading our collective worship today. It was wonderful to hear Year 4 share the 'Little Ways' inspired by St. Thérèse, showing how they are making a difference at home and at school. We all enjoyed their beautiful singing and signing – well done, Year 4!

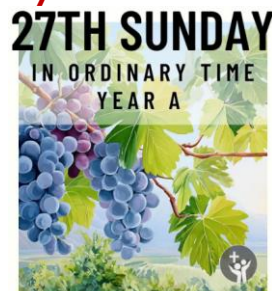
I hope Year 4 parents found this week's times tables workshop informative and useful. If you were unable to join us, the PowerPoint presentation is available on St. Thérèse's Class Page on our website for you to view at your leisure.

As we approach Harvest, we will once again be supporting Medway Foodbank. Our Harvest Mass will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October and we would be grateful for any donations you feel able to offer. The shopping list of food items most needed by the Foodbank can be found further on in this newsletter. Next week, a donation box will be available on the playground for your contributions. Your generosity helps support families in need within our local community. Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026**



"The kingdom of God will be given to a people that will produce its fruit." (Matthew 21:43)

**Prayer for the Month  
September**



**For the care of water**

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

## Dates for your Diary

### Friday 9th October

#Hello Yellow

(Children can wear something yellow with their school uniform)

### Tuesday 13th October

2pm Harvest Mass

(Seats bookable through the Arbor shop -  
No payment required).

### Wednesday 14th October

5:45pm SBA AGM Bingo Night

### Thursday 15th October

Year R and Year 6 Height and Weight Check.

### Wednesday 21st October

9:10 am Celebration of Achievement

(Invited parents only)

Parents/ Carers Evening

### Friday 23rd October

INSET DAY (No children attend school on this day)

### Half Term

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

### Friday 13th November

Flu immunisation YR – Y6

### Friday 27th November

TAG Day (no uniform day)  
(KS1 Chocolates/ KS2 Bottles)

## Attendance Winners for Last Week

|                 |        |        |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Year 4 | 98.4%  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Year 6 | 97.5 % |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Year 2 | 97.3 % |



## St. Benedict's Catholic Primary



### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Our school is committed to safeguarding all members of our community

We have a detailed Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and work hard to ensure that this is followed.

If you have a concern about a young person in school and believe that they may be suffering or are at risk of harm or abuse you should report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):

Sarah McAlpine (Headteacher)



DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DDSL):

Becky Howell



Assistant  
Headteacher

Claire Read



Assistant  
Headteacher

Jayne Stuart



SENDCO



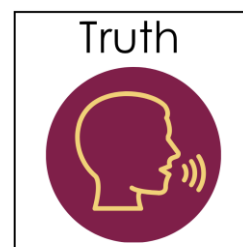
SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:

Lisa Brett



Please speak to us if you have any concerns.

## Value of the Week Next Week



We always tell the truth.

## Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Sharing fairly  
Distributive Justice

## Newsletters

Our Newsletters can be easily accessed on the homepage of the school website.

# Learners and Superstars of the Week

## Year R

**Learner:** Tiwa for beautiful writing, showing perseverance until she was happy with her letter formation and writing a super sentence with very little help! We are so proud of you.

**Superstar:** Lavinia for being a kind friend and thinking about other people's feelings. We are so lucky to have you in our class.

## Year 1

**Learner:** Joey, for showing great independence when completing his 'greater and less than' work in maths. Well done!

**Superstar:** Kairo, thank you for following our class rules and for always being ready to learn. Keep it up!

## Year 2

**Learner:** Aria for focusing so well on creating an excellent Moon Buggy design in our DT lessons. Your design was detailed, clear and you remembered to label all of the key features. Fantastic independent work.

**Superstar:** Tami, for working extremely hard on improving your handwriting and presentation! You blew us away with your beautiful writing. We are so proud of you! Keep it up Tami!

## Year 3

**Learner:** Parker is our learner this week as he has been such an independent, focused learner, participating in class discussions and giving 100% effort in everything he has done.

**Superstar:** Darcie is our superstar this week- she demonstrates all of our school values all of the time! She is a hard-working girl and a pleasure to have in our class. She is a kind supportive friend to all.

## Year 4

**Learner:** Olivia produced some fabulous writing this week when we were drafting our persuasive speech. Well done!

**Superstar:** Thank you to Ashley for not only working hard all week but for also supporting a friend during our class assembly today.

## Year 5

**Learner:** Our learner of the week is Eliana for showing our value of independence by being self-motivated with her work. Well done!

**Superstar:** Our superstar of the week is Caris for showing our British Value of Mutual Respect as she is always ready to help anyone in need.

## Year 6

**Learner:** Our Learner of the Week is Yan for truly demonstrating this week's value of independence. He has quietly got on with his work, showing excellent focus and taking responsibility for his learning. Well done, Yan!

**Superstar:** Our superstar this week is Anabel for showing great effort and attitude towards her homework and going above and beyond with her reading comprehension responses in her Reading Diary. She has also impressed me by applying new vocabulary from her reading to her English writing to elevate the standard of word choice. Fantastic job, Anabel!

## Times Table Rockstars

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Fastest</b>          | Rocco Y6     |
| <b>Highest Score</b>    | Audrielle Y5 |
| <b>Most Improved</b>    | Bethany Y6   |
| <b>Star of the Week</b> | Frankie Y6   |



## Jumpers

Please ensure you check that your child has the correct jumper at home. We have had a lot of parents saying their child's labelled jumpers have gone missing from school. If you find a jumper that does not belong to your child, please return it to the school to the lost property box under Mrs McAlpine's office window. Thank you.

## Cycle to School Week 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October

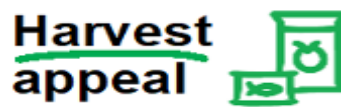
With the cost of the school run continuing to rise for many families — from fuel and parking to the time spent in traffic — cycling to school offers a simple, healthier and more affordable way to travel. It also helps children build confidence, independence and positive lifelong travel habits. We would like to invite all children to take part in Cycle to School Week 2026 by cycling or scooting to school.



## Harvest Mass Donations

Please send in donations of the items below for our Harvest Mass. After the Mass, the food items will be donated to Medway Foodbank. The donations can be brought in week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> October. A table will be available on the playground for your donations.

Thank you in advance.



Please donate an item or two from the list to help local people left without enough money to live on.

### Harvest Shopping list 2026

- Long-life milk
- Pasta sauce
- Coffee
- Tea bags
- Instant mash
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- Tinned ham
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned spaghetti
- Cup-a-Soup
- Pot Noodles/Packet noodles
- Jelly
- Angel Delight
- Savoury snacks

### TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD:

- Shampoo
- Washing-up liquid
- Deodorant – male and female
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

**THANK YOU!** for joining us to help stop UK hunger!

[medway.foodbank.org.uk](https://medway.foodbank.org.uk); 01634 757057

Registered Charity No: 1166505

Please book seats for the Harvest Mass in the Arbor shop.  
Just enter the quantity required for the seats. No payment required.

# Pupil Leadership Assembly



JRSO



Eco Stewards



School Council

We are called to follow the example of Jesus, who taught us that true leadership is rooted in love and service. We pray that our pupil leaders will be wonderful role models and will lead with kindness, humility and compassion throughout the year.



Sports Captains



Librarians



## One Million Children Praying the Rosary



## Arriving Late to School: Procedures and Expectations

To help every child make the best possible start to their school day, we are introducing a new Late Arrival Form for pupils arriving after 8.50am.

Any child arriving late must be accompanied to the school office by an adult, who will be asked to complete the form before the child is registered.

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for learning, and we thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring children arrive at school on time and ready to learn.



## Well Done Callum

Well done to Callum in Year 4 on his football achievements.



# KCSP Trust Mass Aylesford Priory



# Your School Photograph is Ready!

Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711 however if you do not have an existing account with Van Cols you will need to contact the school directly for the website photo code.

Regards

Vancols Photographers



## EYFS Parent Phonic Workshops



Mrs Pierce will be hosting a series of phonics workshops where parents and carers are invited to see the teaching in action. The workshops will be held on one of the following dates:

Tuesday 6th October  
Wednesday 7th October  
Thursday 8th October

We have allocated 5 slots on each date. If you haven't already booked a space, please see Mrs. Pierce.

The sessions will run from 9.05 - 9.30 am.

After dropping your child off, please sign in at the school office for your chosen session.

# Kent Life Trip

## Year 3

We had a fantastic Stone Age Day at Kent Life!

We learned how to grind grain to make flour, we enjoyed tractor rides, explored weapons, artefacts and even created our own Stone Age dance!

One of our favourite workshops was meeting 'Claw' a man from the Stone Age!



# Annual School Fund Donation

Help us make a difference  
for our school!

Just  
**£20**  
per family

Your donation will go towards  
important things like:



Resources  
for our children



Improving  
our facilities



Technology  
and equipment



Enriching  
school activities



Arbor

Please pay through the  
**Arbor shop.**



Thank you for your support!





# St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith.

**2026/2027**

## School Tours for September 2027

for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September  
2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

Parents of children of all faiths are invited  
to visit the school for a tour with our  
headteacher, Mrs McAlpine.

### Dates and Times of Tours:

|                                         |        |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|
| Thursday 1st October 2026               | 9:30am |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2026  | 9:30am |
| Thursday 22nd October 2026              | 9:30am |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2026  | 9:30am |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2026 | 9:30am |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2026 | 1:15pm |

Please book via the office:

01634 669700

[office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk)



Ken  
Catholic  
Schools'  
Partnership



'Academies in Christ'  
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark

## ATTEND AND ACHIEVE

School isn't just a place  
to be – it's where you learn  
most, grow in confidence,  
build friendships and  
create your future.



# Thrive under 5



Students who have **fewer** than 5 days  
off per year, statistically **thrive** within education.



#### BETTER PROGRESS

Excellent attendance  
leads to stronger  
learning and higher  
achievement.



#### CONFIDENCE GROWS

Being in school  
regularly builds  
confidence and  
resilience.



#### STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Attend, belong,  
and build positive  
relationships.



#### MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Good attendance  
opens doors to more  
choices and brighter  
futures.



Every lesson counts.  
Every day shapes your future.  
**Thrive under 5. Be here. Succeed.**

Application dates:  
Tue, 1 Sept  
2026 to Fri, 15  
Jan 2027

## Admission to primary school **September 2027**

# apply online

Was your child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?  
If the answer is yes, then now is the time to apply for a school place.

### School applications for Medway residents

Apply online for your primary school place at  
[Medway.gov.uk/Admissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/Admissions)

You will get an email to confirm your application  
has been submitted.



Scan the QR code  
to complete  
the survey

After you've applied  
Complete the school readiness  
questionnaire to let our partners at  
Medway Community Healthcare  
know whether you need any support  
or have concerns about your child  
starting school.

[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



## Admission to primary school **September 2027**

- You must apply to your home local authority (ie if you pay your council tax to Medway Council you must apply to Medway). If you pay your council tax to one of the district councils of Kent (for example, Swale or Maidstone) then you must apply to Kent County Council.
- You can name schools in any area but you must apply to your home local authority.
- Medway residents can apply from **9am on Tuesday, 1 September 2026**.
- Please make sure that you have submitted your application by **5pm on Friday, 15 January 2027**.
- If you do not want to apply online and would prefer to complete a paper application form, please contact the School Admissions and Transport Team. **Please note:** Medway Council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications in writing or over the phone.
- Please read primary admissions 2027 information available at **[Medway.gov.uk/PrimaryAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/PrimaryAdmissions)** to find out more about the admission process and Medway's primary schools.

If you would like any further advice you can speak to School Admissions and Transport Team, who will be happy to assist you.

**Medway Council School Admissions and Transport Team**

Phone: **01634 331110**

Email: **[admissions@medway.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@medway.gov.uk)**

[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



Application dates:  
Tue, 1 Sept  
2026 to Sat, 31  
Oct 2026

## Admission to secondary school **September 2027**

# apply

### Online admissions for Medway residents

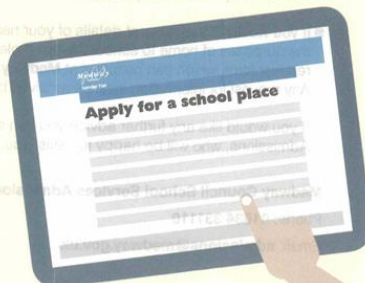
Was your child born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016?

The quickest, easiest and safest way to apply for your secondary school place.

**Last year 99 per cent of applications were made online.**

If you give us your email address when  
applying you will:

- receive confirmation your application  
has been received;
- receive details of the school offered  
on the offer day by email without  
having to wait for an offer letter.



## Admission to secondary school **September 2027**

- You must apply to your home local authority (ie if you pay your council tax to Medway Council you must apply to Medway). If you pay your council tax to one of the district councils of Kent (for example, Swale or Maidstone) then you must apply to Kent County Council.
- You can name schools in any area but you must apply to your home local authority.
- Medway residents can apply from **Tuesday, 1 September 2026**.
- Please make sure that you have submitted your application by **Saturday, 31 October 2026**.
- If you do not want to apply online and would prefer to complete a paper application form, please contact the School Services Admissions Team. **Please note:** Medway Council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications in writing or over the phone.
- Please read the secondary admissions 2027 information available at **[Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions)** to find out more about the process and Medway's secondary schools.
- If you would like to request details of your nearest qualifying school(s) for the purposes of home to school transport please complete and submit the request form, which can be found at **[Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions)**. Any request for information must be received by **Thursday, 1 October 2026**.

If you would like any further advice you can speak to School Services Admissions, who will be happy to assist you.

**Medway Council School Services Admissions**

Phone: **01634 331110**

Email: **[admissions@medway.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@medway.gov.uk)**

[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



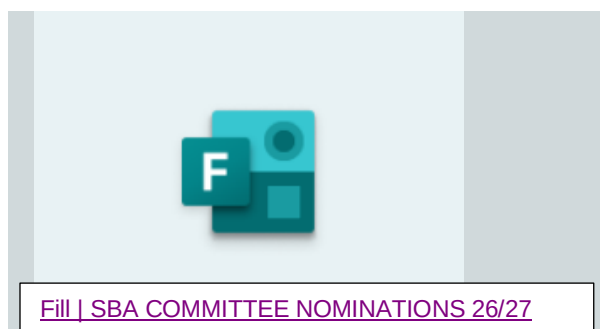
## SBA AGM Bingo Night

The SBA's AGM will be held in the school hall on **Wednesday 14th October** from 5:45pm. There will be free Bingo, a free welcome drink and nibbles, alongside sharing all the successes from last year. We look forward to seeing you there!



We are inviting nominations for the SBA Committee for the 26/27 school year. Please complete this form by Monday 12th October 9am (please complete even if you do not wish to nominate for a role).

Thank you for getting involved and supporting our school community! We look forward to welcoming you at the AGM Bingo Evening on 14th October.



# Forest school Year 2

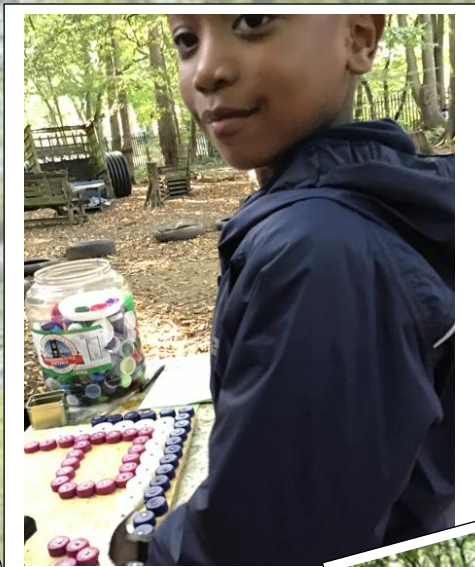


# Forest School Year 1

Dear God,  
Thank you for our wonderful world.  
Thank you for making the sun and  
helping our plants grow.  
Thank you for our friends who we  
play with in Forest School.

Lord in your mercy.  
Hear our prayers.

*Amen*



SCHOOL

# Parish News



27<sup>th</sup> September 2026

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A



This is the QR Code for First Collections for your convenience and flexibility. Please scan to donate. You can still donate using the gift aid envelopes or the contactless machines in the church lobby (please insert your card in this one) and the hall, or just by putting money in the offertory bag.

The Parable of Two Sons has had a range of interpretations over the years. Their father asks them to go and work in his vineyard. The first says "No," but later changes his mind and goes. The second says 'Yes,' but does not go. Our mission is to say 'yes' to our Faith not only with our lips, but with our lives.

**World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees.** The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The theme this year is 'Even Just One of These Children'. To read Pope Leo XIV's message for today, and a Guide for Parishes and Catechists developed by the Caritas Social Action Network, please visit: [cbcew.org.uk/wdmr](http://cbcew.org.uk/wdmr).

Now everyone can read and hear the Word of God. We have bought new Parish Mass Books for the seasons of the year. There are 100 copies of each set. Please make sure you take good care of them and return them to the shelves in the foyer after each Mass. Thanks to the co-ordinator, April Redding and all the members of the 100 Club who have paid for this. May God bless them all. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: [josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk)  
Deacon Martin Smith.

**Please note: Parish Office is located in the new church extension**

Tel: 01634 862910. Mob: 07305 831925. Website: [www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk](http://www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk)  
Email: [walderslade@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:walderslade@rcaos.org.uk) Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder  
Primary schools: St Benedict's Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700  
St Thomas More Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701

## St Simon Stock RC Church

Tel: 01634 862910 Mob: 07305 831925

### KEY DATES & EVENTS 2026-2027

**Archbishop's July 2026 Pastoral Letter states that focus on the youth is key, so the 1st Sunday of every month at 11am will be Youth Mass except in October**

#### October 2026

- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October – Youth Mass (11am)
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October – World Mission Sunday: Welcome Mass for New Parishioners (11am)
- Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall

#### November 2026

- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Christmas Fayre 11am – 3pm
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November – First Sunday of Advent

#### December 2026

- 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – 8.30pm Holy Family Week (NB: Weekly Masses at 10am except on Friday – 8pm; Wednesday Adoration 2pm to 10pm)
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Advent Penitential Service & Confession 7.30pm
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Children's Nativity Mass 6pm Midnight Mass 11am
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December The Nativity of the Lord Mass 9am, 11am
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph & Renewal of Marriage Vows at all Masses
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (10pm) & Vigil Mass (11pm)

#### January 2027

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January – New Year Mass 10am, 8pm
- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany Carol Carol Service 3pm
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January – First Reconciliation Service 11am
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January – Fr Joseph's Christmas Break

#### February 2027

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 06 February Ash Wednesday Mass (10am and 8pm), Adoration 2pm – 10pm)
- NB: During Lent, there will be stations of the Cross on Mondays after 10am Mass and on Fridays at 7.15pm.

#### March 2027

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March Mothers' Week (UCM facilitators)
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March Penitential Service & Confession 7.30pm
- Holy Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Mass of the Lord's Supper 10am
- Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Children Stations of the Cross (10am); Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm; Stations of the Cross 7pm (led by KSC)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Vigil Service 8pm
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Sunday Mass 9am – 11am
- 29<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April Fr Joseph's Easter Break

#### May 2027

- 6<sup>th</sup> May Ascension of the Lord – 10am and 8pm Mass
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost Novena (Programme will be available nearer the date)
- 11<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Mass at 11am
- 16<sup>th</sup> May Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Mass at 11am (Bishop Paul Hendrick to Preside)

#### Feast of St Simon Stock

- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Vigil Mass 6pm
- Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Mass 10am followed by Parish Celebration until 3pm
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – FHC (Group 1) Rehearsal & Reconciliation 5pm
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May – FHC (Group 1) Mass Noon
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Corpus Christi Mass

#### June 2027

- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June – FHC (Group 2) Rehearsal & Reconciliation 5pm
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June FHC Mass 12 Noon (Group 2)
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June FHC Thanksgiving Mass 11am (Group 1 and 2 to attend)
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June Fathers Week (KSC facilitators)
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June Father's Day Mass (11am)

#### August 2027

Fr Joseph's Annual Leave

A welcoming community centred around Christ, seeking to help the people grow in faith, live in hope and love.