



Encounter At St Mary's School

The children and staff at St Mary's will be helped to discover the importance of a personal 'Encounter' with Christ in the following ways during the school year:

Celebrations of the word



There are weekly celebrations of the word for the whole school, classes and for staff and parents. These follow the theme of the Liturgical year and have a Catholic social teaching action and virtue highlighted each week. Some have a particular focus of the month- such as the Harvest, Rosary, Advent wreath and crowning of Mary celebrations of the word. They are mostly child- led. A group of children plan it for the whole school for Monday, Tuesday groups plan for their classes and on Thursdays a group leads it from their class for the whole school. Parents are invited to all our celebrations of the word and masses.

Masses

Masses are sometimes in school or as we are very blessed to have the church next door to the school are mostly in church. Whole classes attend and classes go at least once a year for the Tuesday morning mass. St Mary's children love reading at masses and we join with the parish once a term in the weekends to welcome and read at the masses. Our pupils were very privileged to read the prayers of the faithful at the Jubilee Deanery station mass at St Mary's church, led by Bishop Patrick. Year groups plan for their class masses and we are working on having a mass for our year group in our classrooms.



Eucharistic Adoration

Depending on the age of the children in the year group, St Mary's pupils experience Adoration in church or in the school hall. Fr Paul has taught us all about Eucharistic Adoration, the monstrance and the Benediction. We are working on experiencing adoration in different ways.

Residential Retreats, in school retreats and one day retreats.

Our Year 6 class in May spend 3 days to a week at the Briars, developing their faith. The school's chaplaincy team has 1 day in the Advent term at the Rosmini Centre developing their chaplaincy with another school's chaplaincy team. Each term, every class has a retreat session with the school's chaplain.



Weekly Christian Meditation takes places in all classes – Sr Anna has visited our school and delivered training to our Chaplaincy team and in each class to help them lead this form of worship and support their classmates to do the same. We aim to carry on this good work of Sr Anna, as she left so many of her resources to us. The Chaplaincy team and groups of children often lead Christian meditation in our chaplaincy area at lunchtimes.

Lectio Divina takes place bi-weekly in classes and are led by members of the chaplaincy team initially, before supporting their peers to do the same. Staff are trained by Tom Shannon, the CMAT chaplain every couple of years on this.

Prayers

Morning, lunchtime and end of day prayers are daily. St Mary's has a school prayer and the chaplaincy team endeavour to teach new daily prayers each term and have written a prayer for each class saint. There are also more opportunity for prayers in the chaplaincy area at lunchtimes or outside in the KS1 area by the statue of Mary or by the

outdoor stations on the junior playground. In October and May, there is a rosary club at lunchtimes. There are two boxes of rosaries which are passed around the classes. Year groups will also say the rosary. In June, the pupils say the divine mercy and have opportunities in Lent to join in with a weekly stations of the cross led by the Chaplaincy team.