



WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Today, Year 3 complete their Forest School sessions, Mrs Harrison and Mr Jessop have posted many photos of these engaging sessions and we know how much the children (and staff) look forward to this part of the week. As the January weather can be very unpredictable, we take a short break from Forest Schools. We begin again after February half term when it will be the turn of Year 4.

This morning ten children have been invited to participate in a under 10's football tournament at Derby County Academy. **Well done to Bryan, Daniel, Ethan, Filip, Liam, Medet, Oliver, Prince, Roman, and William. We look forward to hearing how you get on when you return this afternoon,**

As we enter the final few days of a very busy term, we look forward to some festive treats. This afternoon we have our Christmas Disco afternoon. This will be a non-uniform day for all children. However, Year 3 will need to wear their Forest School clothes and bring disco clothes to change in to.



Thank you to those who have paid £4 already to cover the cost of this and the pantomime the children enjoyed last week. For those children in Year 6 who normally walk home alone, they will need to return their slips to inform staff if they will be collected at the end of their disco at 4:30pm. A few weeks ago, Mr Della Spina wrote to you asking you to complete a parent survey. If you have not completed it yet, it remains open until 19th December. We thank you in advance for your feedback. <https://forms.office.com/e/5a3R7GqMj2>

WORD OF THE WEEK: JOY

3rd Week of Advent Year A

Word of the Week

Joy

First Reading
Leviticus 19:11-13

Gospel Reading
Matthew 11:2-10

Hebrew Bible
Zechariah 3:14-20

New Testament
John 16:16-24

Reflection
This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday and it means 'Rejoice'. Joy is more than just happiness; it's a deep and lasting feeling that comes from knowing God and living in His love. It helps us to see the good in everything, even when things are tough. Joy is found in prayer, in serving others, and in our journey through Advent. It's a choice to trust in God's plan for our lives and to find hope in His promises.

Prayer
Think of something you can do for someone else to bring them joy and find time to make it happen this week.

Daily Breakfast Club 7:45-8:45	EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	
Monday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Gymnastics (Year 1, 2 and 3)	3:30 - 4:30
Tuesday Breakfast Club	Music Tuition TB Sport: Cricket (Year 4, 5 and 6)	All day 3:30 - 4:30
Wednesday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Dodgeball (Year 1,2 and 3)	3:30 - 4:30
Thursday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Dodgeball (Year 4, 5 and 6)	3:30 - 4:30
Friday Breakfast Club	No afterschool provision	

TRANSFER TO RECEPTION CLASS IN SEPTEMBER 2026

The window for applying for a reception place for your child for September 2026 is now open and closes on 15th January 2026. If you apply after the deadline this may reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school, particularly if it is popular. Failure to apply will mean the City Council will place your child in a school within Nottingham City where there is a space available. This may mean your child moving to a school a few miles away from your family home. Although your child currently attends our nursery, **this does not guarantee you a place in Reception.** We follow the admissions criteria from the diocese, so it is important you visit other schools and list them on your application too. Priority is given to Baptised Catholic children. To be placed in this category you must complete a supplementary form and bring your child's original Baptism certificate including church stamp into school and Mrs Barfield or Mrs Rogers will take a copy of it and return it straight back to you. We are unable to accept copies to ensure validity of our admissions policy.

ATTENDANCE SHOUT OUTS!!

Our Education Welfare Officer, Miss Bradshaw, continues to monitor attendance daily. She will make home visits to support parents to ensure their child attends school regularly and on time. **It was lovely to see most children return to school last week following illness. Well done to Year 6 who had the highest attendance with 98.71% followed closely behind Reception with 98.33%. Well done to year 4 with 97.5% and Year 3 with 97.33%**



OUR LADY & ST. EDWARDS PRIMARY AND NURSERY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Guided by Jesus in all that we do. Together, we are one school, one community, one world.



Week beginning:	School Event	Assemblies/Services	After School
1 st September	1 st Sept: INSET DAY 2 nd Sept: INSET Day 3 rd Sept: School opens to pupils	3 rd Sept Welcome back Celebration of the Word 4 th Sept	
8 th September	10 th Sept – 12 th Sept Hathersage residential – Year 3 and 4	8 th Sept:C.O.T.W 10 th Sept Swimming commences for Year 6	
15 th September	15 th Sept – Meet the Teacher 3:20-3:45pm 17 th Sept – Individual and family photos 19 th Sept – Jeans for Genes Non-Uniform day.	15 th Sept Mass led by Year 6 9:15am in church 18 th Sept Year 6 retreat afternoon 19 th Sept: Celebration Assembly	EXTENDED SERVICES CLUBS BEGIN 17 th Sept Year 6 Information Meeting at The Becket 18 th Sept Year 6 Information Meeting at Christ the King
22 nd September	24 th September EYFS Phonics meeting for parents 2:30pm 26 th Sept: International Day	22 nd Sept: C.O.T.W 25 th Sept: Year 1 Retreat afternoon 26 th Sept International Day Assembly 2:30pm	22 nd Sept – Year 6 Information Meeting 6pm.
29 th September	3 rd Oct St Francis Feast Day 3 rd Oct: Fairtrade Tuck Shop	29 th Sept C.O.T.W 1 st Oct St Therese of Liseux House Feast Day 3 rd Oct – St Francis Hub Mass 3 rd Oct: Celebration Assembly	
6 th October	10 th Oct: World Mental Health Day	6 th Oct: C.O.T.W 8 th Oct: Harvest C.O.T.W led by Year 5	
13 th October		13 th Oct St Edward Feast Day Mass in church 9:15am 17 th Oct: Achiever of the Half Term Awards	
20 th October	HALF TERM		
27 th October	HALF TERM		
3 rd November	6 th Nov: Flu Immunisations 7 th Nov – Fairtrade Tuckshop	3 rd Nov: C.O.T.W 7 th Nov: Celebration Assembly 2:30pm	
10 th November	Anti Bullying Week 11 th Nov Remembrance Day Liturgy 9:45am	11 th Nov: Remembrance Day Liturgy 14 th Nov.: House Point Prize afternoon	
17 th November	Judaism Week in school 21 st Nov Youth Fun Day	17 th Nov C.O.T.W	23 rd Nov: Feast of Christ the King. School lead parish Mass 9am.
24 th November		24 th Nov C.O.T.W	
1 st December	5 th Dec Fairtrade Tuckshop	1 st Dec Advent C.O.T.W led by Year -6 5 th Dec: Celebration Assembly	
8 th December	11 th Dec EYFS Nativity 9:45am 12 th Dec Christmas jumper day	8 th Dec: Advent Mass in church 9:15am 12 th Dec Advent C.O.T.W. led by Year 5	
15 th December	18 th Dec Christmas Dinner and party afternoon 19 th Dec INSET Day	18 th Dec: Achievers of the term awards 18 th Dec Christmas Carol Service led by Year 3 and 4	



BAKER'S IN THE MAKING

Last week the children in the Haven room had a wonderful time making Christmas cookies 🍪 🍪

They measured out the ingredients, mixed everything together, rolled the dough, and cut out festive shapes. Next job is to decorate and enjoy!!



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PARISH NOTICES:

Our Second collection taken last weekend for the Poor & Needy parishes of our Diocese raised £288.23 Thank you.

Building Update on St Augustine's hall roof: due to the persistent rain over the last few weeks, the decision was made to undertake the major repairs urgently needed to make it watertight costing over £40,000. The scaffolding is up so please take care in the car park. The Diocese have agreed to loan us the money, but we will be paying interest at 6%.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24th December St Augustine's Church 5pm Sacred Heart church 7pm

Christmas Day: Thursday 25th December Our Lady & St Edward's Church 9am, Sacred Heart Church 11am

Sacred Heart Church – Italian Mass 12.30pm, Our Lady & St Edward's Church Vietnamese Mass 1 pm

Christmas Mass time leaflet and Advent services is available from the back of church. Do take a copy and share with family and friends - they are waiting for your invitation.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Please return your tickets by Friday 19th December Thank you for your support

Raffle Prizes required: could you donate anything to our Christmas hamper? Wine, waxed cheese, crisps, chutney, luxury biscuits, cheese biscuits, tea, coffee. Please bring to church or office. Thank you.

Please pray for:

• Mafalda Coronato, funeral on 23rd Dec at 12.30 at Sacred Heart and then 2 pm at Gedling Crematorium.

• Filomena Francesco di Marino, who died recently. May they rest in peace.

This week:

• Carol Service: Monday 15th December 7 pm Our Lady & St Edward's

• Community Café at Our Lady & St Edward's this Wednesday: 12 – 3

• 24/7 Holy Family Youth Group: Wednesday 17th December, Sacred Heart Community Centre 7.30 pm. The group will be assembling the

Christmas bags for the homeless. Thank you for the gifts received so far.

• Community Café at Sacred Heart Community Centre this Thursday 12 – 3 pm. All welcome.

• Meditation Group: our next meeting is this Thursday 18th December in the Sacred Heart Community Centre 7.30 pm. All Welcome

Trinity school: Carols by Candlelight on Tuesday 16th December at 7pm at St Teresa's Church. Please do join the pupils for an evening of Carols, readings, and reflections by candle light, with Mulled wine and mince pies served from 6:30pm in the hall. NG8 3EZ

Christmas Gift collection for Emmanuel House: We require donations of new hats, gloves, scarves, socks, plus toiletries, gift bags and sweet treats. They can be put in the containers in church before the 15th December or brought to the office. Thank you!

Fr Chris' letter to parishioners regarding Mass times is still available to take from the back of church and is also on the website, under 'NEWS'. Please send your comments to Fr Chris or Diane or speak to one of the Pastoral Team by Sunday 21st December. Your opinions matter!!

Are you getting married next year? If so, please contact Fr Chris as we require at least 6 months' notice and you will need to attend a Marriage Course. The dates of the Marriage course, held at Sacred Heart are 21st & 28th January and 4th February.

Journey through Advent with the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with a printable Advent prayer journal produced by the Team. To download your free copy visit www.ndcys.com/advent2025

Parish Census: forms are still available from the back of church to complete or process on-line:

<https://forms.gle/gRTmmBr7K5YdG84c7> to enable us to update our database for the Diocesan Enabling Mission Campaign – more details on this over the next few months. A copy of the letter from the Bishop is available at the back of church and on the website under 'news'. Thank you to those who have indicated on the form that you are interested in helping out in the parish, you will be contacted in the new year.

Do you need help with your English speaking? Free courses for Gedling Borough Residents. The classes are:

• Employability skills start 13th January 2026 Tuesdays 6 – 8 pm at Arnold Library

• IT skills start 14th January Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 at Arnold Library

• Speaking and listening for beginners starts 14th January Wednesdays on-line 6 – 8 pm

• Get Creative starts 28th January Wednesdays 1-3 pm at Arnold Library

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Holy Family Parish Carol Service this Monday 15th December 7 pm

Our Lady & St Edward's Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the cafe.

Volunteers required: to put up the Christmas tree at Sacred Heart, week beginning 15th December and the Christmas tree at St Augustine's 10am on 20th December. If you can help out, please contact the office. Thanks.





SEASON OF ADVENT

Last Monday our young people who prepared & led our community in our Advent Mass. You reminded us to be like Mary and say yes to God even when we don't know the whole plan. During Advent let's be kind, loving and compassionate to those we meet.



On Thursday our hall was full of proud parents, grandparents, family members and friends as EYFS shared their nativity. We were all very proud of them as they shared the story of Jesus' birth with such confidence. Well done to all our children who sang and danced throughout – a super choir performance.



Year 5 shared their Celebration of the Word with our community on Friday afternoon on the theme of peace. Just as Jesus is known as the Prince of peace, we will offer and accept peace during this Advent season.



On Thursday, Year 3 and 4 will lead us in Scripture reflections and carols at 2:20pm All families are welcome to join us as we celebrate together before breaking up for the Christmas holiday.

MASS TIMES & LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday 15 th December	11am (OLSE)	MASS Requiem Mass for Maureen Lankester RIP
Tuesday 16 th December	9:30am (SA)	MASS Service of word and Communion
Wednesday 17 th December	6pm (SH) 7pm (SH)	MASS Exposition and Confessions Deceased members of the Doyle & Pykett Families
Thursday 18 th December	9:30am (SA)	MASS Thomas & Catherine's Intention
Friday 19 th December	9:30am (SH) 1:45pm	MASS Anna De Rosa RIP, Vincenzina Sarno RIP, Maria De Rosa RIP Sacred Heart School Christingle Service
Saturday 20 th December	9am	MASS
Sunday 21 st December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9am (OLSE) 10:15am (SH) 11:30am (SA)	MASS Ned Bowe For the People Kitty O'Sullivan

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!

Children break up for Our Christmas holiday on Thursday 19th December. On behalf of all the pupils, staff and governors we wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year. School reopens on Monday 5th January.

