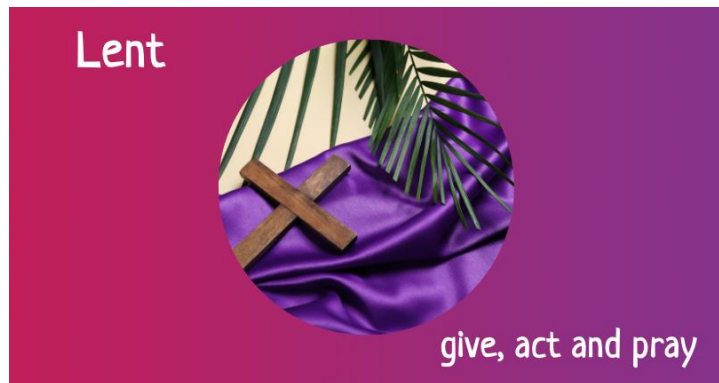


Academic Year 2025-26

Friday 27th March 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Catholic Life



Some lovely feedback



You may recall that Fr Stephen and Fr Pius visited our school last term to share with our children the relics of St John the Baptist during the Parish Mission. Fr Stephen sent Fr Francis a lovely letter to thank us for welcoming them and complimenting the children. I thought I'd share it with you in its' entirety as I believe it speaks loudly of the faith of our children. Thank you, Fr Francis for sharing this with us and arranging the visit. How lovely!

"Fr Pius and Fr Stephen (from the Norbertine community and parish of Peckham) were delighted to visit Margaret Roper school as part of the Mission Week at St John the Baptist parish, Purley, which the parish priest had invited us to lead. The welcome of the Headteacher and staff was particularly warm and cordial, and we were able to speak to several classes at once, explaining the purpose of the Mission, the life and witness of St John the Baptist, and various spiritual lessons to be

drawn from these. The classroom teachers were most impressive, and had obviously prepared the children well for this encounter, as we found them very receptive and eager to participate.

The pupils' contributions were extremely impressive, showing excellent knowledge of St John the Baptist and his role in the Advent liturgy, as well as answering - and asking - questions on all the topics we covered. When we prayed together, they showed an excellent aptitude for collective worship, and they were devout and recollected during this. We were able to offer a relic of St John the Baptist, and also an icon of the saint, both of which were passed around the classes for the children to venerate.

As well as marvelling at the explanations of these sacred objects, they showed extraordinary piety in handling them, and knew how special the occasion was. Fr Pius and I were extremely impressed with the visit, and will remember it for a long time as an example of what proper Catholic education is all about - eager minds, keen devotion, fervent prayer, and the joy of a special and memorable encounter with God and his Saints. We pray that the high standards of teaching and learning, as well as of prayer and worship, which we encountered at Margaret Roper continue for many years to come. The staff are to be highly commended for their excellent efforts in all of those areas, which are truly exceptional. This is a wonderful school, and we look forward to being able to visit again at some point in the future."

Stations of the Cross

Thank you to our Faith Leaders for leading very prayerful Stations of the Cross before school. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend. I attach to this newsletter the Stations we used – it would be tremendous during Holy Week if you were able to read these with your children; you don't need to read them all at the same time – perhaps a few a day, every day during Holy week to focus your prayers, working through them during the week. Please also try if you are able, to attend some of the Easter Triduum services in your parish – the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the solemn liturgy on Good Friday or the vigil on Easter Saturday. I attach again the services at St John the Baptist for Holy week. This will support our work with our children to help them understand the centrally important nature of Holy week and Easter to our faith and help them to make the connection with God's message of redemption through Jesus death and resurrection.

Way of The Cross

St Joseph Class, Y5, led us in a beautiful Way of the Cross liturgy on Thursday morning. The reverence and dignity they showed was very evident and moving. Well done to St Joseph Class for their careful preparation.

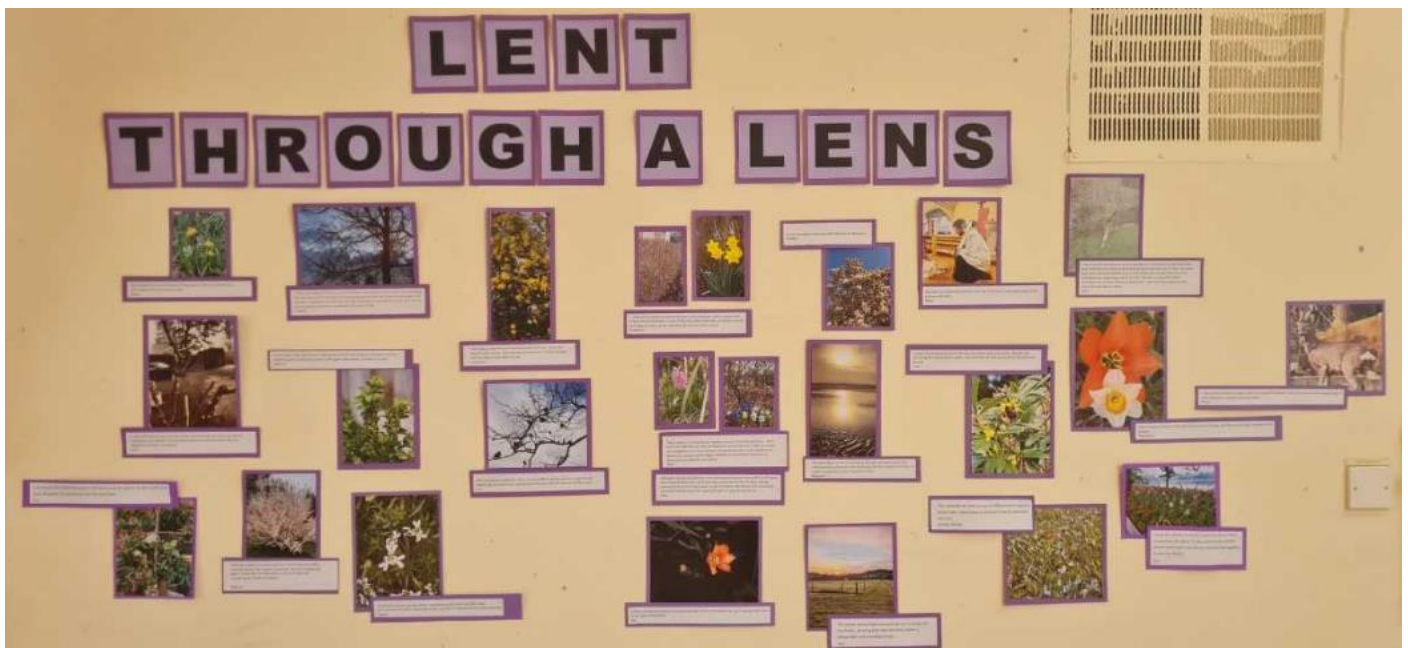


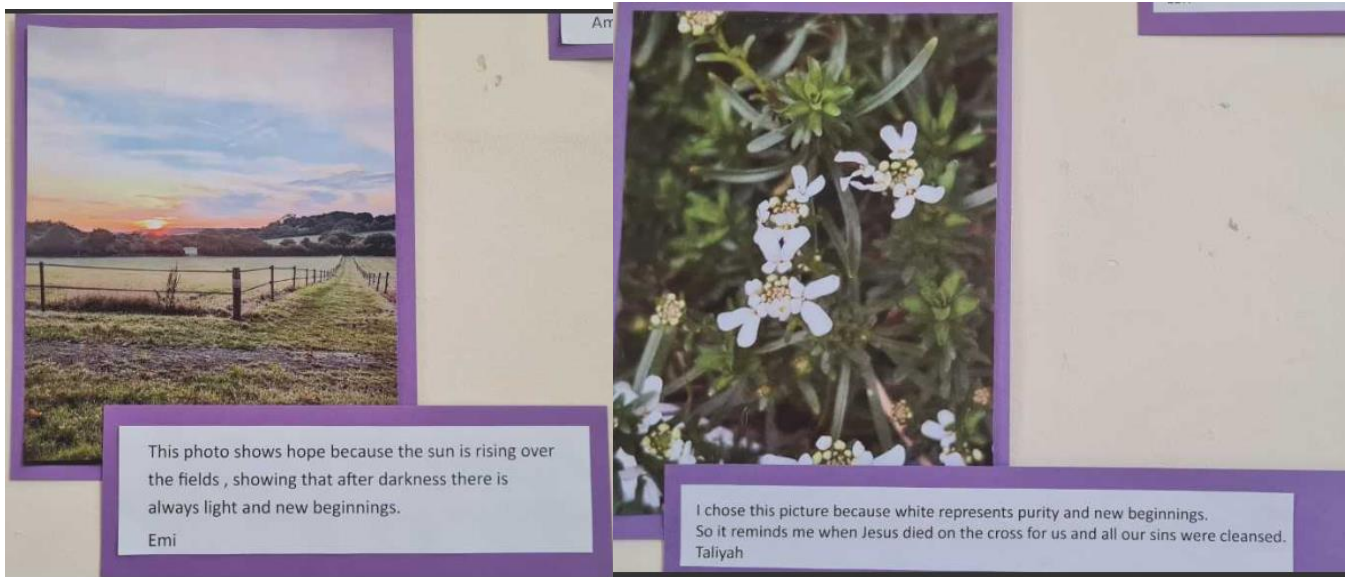


Lord Jesus,
As we end our term and commence our journey with you in Holy Week,
help us to carry the message of the Cross into our daily lives.
May we live with kindness, forgiveness, and love,
reflecting your example in all that we do.
Stay with us, guide us, and strengthen us
as we continue our journey of faith.
Amen.

Lent Photo Competition – Lent Through a Lens

Thank you to everyone who supported their children to enter our Lent through a lens competition. All the entries were beautiful. Miss Holloway awarded certificates to all entries and prizes to our winners this year – Emi & Taliyah.





PTA News

Please see the attached newsletter from Louise, our PTA chair. The PTA do such amazing work. Please try hard to support our upcoming bingo night on the 17th April (the Friday back after the holiday).

Parish News

St John the Baptist Youth Club: Join us this Sunday 29 March (16:15 - 17:45) in the parish hall (48 Dale Road, Purley) for our last session this term - a fun afternoon of gardening and games. After this, our next session will be 19 April. All young people 8-16 years old are welcome. Get in touch: jtbyouthclub@gmail.com

St Gerard's Society at St John the Baptist Church welcomes all women to a night of fun, sharing and mutual support on Friday 10 April, 19:30 in the church hall. This month's optional activity is egg painting. Light refreshments included. Get in touch for more info: purley@rcaos.org.uk.

Sports Reports

On Thursday Margaret Roper football team played against Harris Benson in the Primary Cup. Each and every player gave their all, but unfortunately Benson beat us 5-2. It was a very tough game but fair and played in good spirit. One of their players was really excellent, up to the standard of an academy player and Callum and he battled throughout the match. Miles was our goal scorer with 2, assists were Stanley and Callum. We are now out of the Primary Cup at Quarter-Final stage, but on the good side, we still have league play-offs to end our season and before the big 5-a-side competition we host in May. Report by Callum & Ronan.


Award winners this week:

Class	Stars of the Week	Star Writer	Star Mathematician
St Rose	David & Harry B	Ari	Kiana
St Martin de Porres	Mattia & L'Meliah	Kendra	Nalah
St Benedict	Hana & Catalina	Adyan	Gloria
St John Paul	Lillie & Will	Dylan	Julian
St Carlo Acutis	St Carlo Class	Matteo	Doninic
St Joseph	Michael & Pavel	Josh	Ryan

Very well done everyone!

Happy Birthday to, Mirin, Avah, Joni, Cyrus, Jude, Noah L, Isaac, Aadhis, Freya, Eva-Marie, Lucy, Noah S, Emmy, Kendra & Jeremiah who have had their birthdays recently or through the Easter break.

This week's Attendance Awards are as follows:

 **Attendance** Reception & Y3 - 99.5% Highest Attendance Award
Y2 & Y6 - 100% Punctuality Awards

Spring Term 100% Attendance Awards - certificates were handed out in assembly this morning to 63 children - a special congratulations to you all 🏆 ☆

We wish you all a happy and holy Easter break. If you are travelling, travel safely. We look forward to seeing you again on Monday 13th April for the start of the Summer Term.

Class contact email addresses

The best way to contact your child's class teacher, if the matter is not urgent, is to email them. Class email addresses correspond to the class colour followed by @margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk. Class email addresses are for routine matters; if you wish to discuss anything more complex, please email the school office. If you cc in the class email when sending a message to the office, that also helps!

Therefore, they are as follows:

Reception)	Mrs. Chandler	red@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 1	Miss Kelly	orange@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 2	Mrs. Wallace	yellow@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 3	Miss May	green@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 4	Mr. Bathmaker	blue@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 5	Miss Jackson	indigo@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk
Year 6	Miss Holloway	violet@margaretroper.croydon.sch.uk

The After-School Club telephone number is 020 8668 0945

If you need to contact the team, after 3pm, please use this number.

Attachments:

PTA Newsletter

Stations of the Cross

St John the Baptist Parish Holy Week services.