St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2026

With God, everything is within our reach!

Dear Parents and Carers,

The fourth week of this term has flown by. Today, we thoroughly enjoyed the Year 4 Advent and Celebration of Work Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many families able to join us. The children led the assembly beautifully, demonstrating great confidence, pride and enthusiasm. We look forward to class assemblies resuming in the new year, beginning with Year 3 on Thursday 14th January at 9:15am.

At the end of this newsletter, you will find the Dates for Your Diary for the remainder of this year and the first term of 2027. Please make a note of these dates. Further information and reminders will be sent nearer to each event.

All classes are now very busy preparing for the season of Advent, reflecting on the meaning of this special time as they look forward to Christmas. Children are also enjoying rehearsing for their Nativity and Carol Concert performances, which we very much look forward to sharing with you in the coming weeks.

Mrs O'Dwyer

Headteacher









Headteacher Mrs A O'Dwyer
St Francis RC Primary School
Ellenbrook Close, Gorton, ML2 5LZ
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Email: admin@stfrancisrcps.co.uk

Celebration of The Word: Matthew 25: 31-46

In our Celebration of the Word this week, we reflected on the Christ The King and thought about practical ways we can help others.



Thursday 3rd December 2026 – **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

Sunday 29th November 2026 **– First Sunday of Advent**

Parish Christmas Fair

On Sunday 29th November, following the 10:30am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, our parish will be holding its annual Parish Christmas Fair in the Parish Centre from approximately 12:00 noon.

This is always a wonderful community event, and it would be lovely to see as many families as possible there. We hope you can join us to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season together. 🎄 ✨

Thank you so much for your generous chocolate donations for the Parish Christmas Fair, organised by our Chaplains. We received so many wonderful donations that we will be keeping a few of the chocolate donations back to make up Christmas hampers for our school Advent Raffle. Thank you for your kindness and support. 🎄 🎁



What a Busy Week!

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Manchester Museum to explore classification as part of their Science learning.







School Council – Film Night



What an incredible response we have had to our School Council Film Night on Monday 7th December, 3:30pm-5:00pm! We are delighted to say that all places have now been allocated. If you would like your child to attend and have not yet secured a place, please contact the school office and we will add your child to the waiting list. Should a place become available, we will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you in anticipation of your support for this School Council event. 🍿🎬

Advent Carol Concert



Just to confirm that as with the past few years there will be no charge to our annual Key Stage 2 Carol Concert, (Years 3 – 6) being held on Thursday 17th December.

We are delighted that this year we will be welcoming a theatre company into school on **Wednesday** to perform **Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*** for our children. This promises to be a memorable and engaging experience, bringing this much-loved Christmas classic to life.

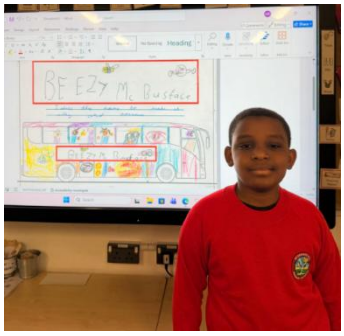
To help cover the cost of the performance, we are asking for a contribution of **£2.60 per child**, which can be paid via the **Arbor app**. Thank you for your support in helping us provide this enriching opportunity for our pupils.
🎭📖🎄

"Design a Funny Name for Our Coach" Competition

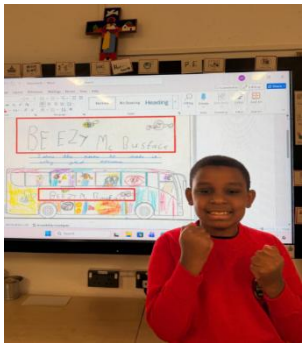
"Beezy McBusface"

We are delighted to announce that Peter in Year 4 has won the 'Belle Vue Schools Get Creative and Win Big' competition. Back in September, children were invited to create a funny name for the new Belle Vue coach and design a promotional poster to accompany it.

As the winning entrant, he has secured a free school trip for his class and another class, a fantastic reward for both for him and our school. We are incredibly proud of his creativity and success and look forward to sharing photographs of the trip with you in the New Year. Well done Peter!







Nursery and Reception Places

If your child will be 4 years old on or before 31st August 2027 and you are looking for a Reception school place, we still have places available for September 2027.

We also have places available in our Nursery for children aged 3 and above. If you would like to find out more or arrange a visit to see our school in action, please contact the school office. We would be delighted to welcome you and show you what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Clubs This Half Term:

Day	Club	Year Groups
Tuesday	Sunshine Games Club	Y1
Wednesday	Art Club	Y3 and Y4
Wednesday	Dodgeball	Y5 and Y6
Thursday	Choir	Y5 and Y6
Thursday	Dodgeball	Rec, Y1, Y2 and Y3
Thursday	Sunshine Games Club	Y2

Keeping Our Children Safe

During Road Safety Week, our School Council helped to lead learning across school, reminding everyone of the importance of staying safe on and around roads. Children took part in activities and discussions about how to cross roads safely, travel responsibly and make sensible choices when walking, cycling or travelling in a car. Learning these important safety habits helps our children to keep themselves and others safe every day.

Attendance: Every School Day Matters

Each week, every child who attends school every day and arrives on time receives a raffle ticket. At the end of each term, three lucky winners from across the school are drawn and receive a prize.

A huge well done to **Year 6** who achieved an outstanding **99.2%** attendance this week.

Attendance Lead: Miss Deighan

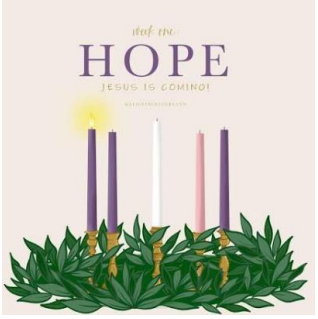
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs O'Dwyer

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Miss Deighan and Mrs Blake

Attendance this Week						
Reception	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**	**Year 6**
91.0%	92.7%	97.1%	92.0%	92.0%	94.5%	**99.2%**
Whole School Statutory total: 95.6% Year to date						

Let Us Pray

Loving God,
As we begin this season of Advent, help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Fill us with hope, patience and joy as we wait for the celebration of His birth.
May we be kind to others, thankful for our blessings, and ready to share Your love each day.
Amen.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Activity	Additional Information
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Year 4 Poetry Together	Gorton Monastery
Tuesday 17th November 2026	SEND Coffee Morning (invites sent out)	9am School Hall
Wednesday 18th November 2026	Year 1 and Year 5 Mass	9:15am St Francis Church
Wednesday 18th November 2026	Year 1 Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Year 1 Classroom
Thursday 19th November	Nursery and Reception Open Day	9am - 10am in our Early Years
Friday 20th November 2026	Year 5 Class Assembly	9:15am School Hall
Wednesday 25th November	Reception Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Reception Classroom
Wednesday 25th November	Year 4 Mass	9:15am St Francis Church
Friday 27th November 2026	Year 4 Class Assembly	9:15am School Hall
Friday 27th November 2026	Own Clothes Day	Chocolate Donation
Sunday 29th November	Parish Christmas Fair	Sacred Heart Parish Centre 12pm
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 3 Mass	9:15am St Francis Church
Wednesday 2nd December	Nursery Celebration of The Word	2:45pm Nursery Classroom
Monday 7th December	Christmas Film Night	3:30pm – 5pm £2.50 per child
Tuesday 8th December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity	1:30pm School Hall
Wednesday 9th December	Years 3 - 6	KS2 Show for Children: A Christmas Carol
Thursday 10th December - 1:30pm	Nursery and Reception Nativity	1:30pm School Hall
Monday 14th December	Whole School Christmas Craft Afternoon	2pm Children's classrooms with refreshments in the school hall

Date	Activity	Additional Information
Wednesday 16th December	**End of Year Mass**	TBC – please note the change of day from the letter sent out at the end of last term
Wednesday 16th December	Whole School	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 16th December	Whole School	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 17th December - 9:15am	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Carol Concert	1:30pm School Hall
Thursday 17th December - 1:30pm	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Carol Concert	1:30pm School Hall
Friday 18th December 2026	School closes for the end of term	1:30pm
2027		
Monday 4th January 2027	School reopens for the new term	8:40am
Thursday 7th January	Nursery and Reception Open Morning	9am - 10am in our Early Years
THURSDAY 14th January – 9:15am	Year 3 Class Assembly	Celebration of Class Work
Friday 29th January – 9:15am	Year 1 Class Assembly	Celebration of Class Work
Friday 5th February – 9:15am	Reception Class Assembly	Theme - Love Celebration of Class Work
Tuesday 9th February – Thursday 11th February	Year 6 Residential	The Lake District
Thursday 11th February	School closes for the end of term	3:20pm
Friday 12th February 2027	EMMAUS Trust INSET Day	School closed for pupils

"My Kingdom is not of this world"

SUNDAY NOV 22ND 2026 - CHRIST THE KING

These were the words uttered by Jesus before Pontius Pilate as he awaited his execution by crucifixion. Pilate considered himself as a man with considerable power who held the life-or-death fate of thousands of human beings under his control. He was baffled by this "king" that he had before him. How could it be possible that this tortured, bloodied son of a carpenter from Nazareth be a king. If he was a king, then what kind of kingdom did he reign over?

The Gospel of today on the Solemnity of Christ the King paints us a picture of what the Kingdom of Jesus looks like. It is a kingdom where the hungry are fed, the thirsty are given to drink, the stranger is welcomed, the naked are clothed, the sick are visited and the prisoner cared for. If the Church is indeed the embodiment of Christ on earth today, then we are all called to continually create the Kingdom of God wherever we find ourselves. Our homes, parish, school, places of work should be places which reflect the virtues of the kingdom of Christ.

As a parish community we should be continually asking ourselves if we are indeed faithful servants to Christ our King. Are we as individuals and a community the sheep or the goats? Is our community one which feeds, gives to drink, welcomes the stranger and reaches out to the marginalized of our community? I think the reality is that most of the time we are both sheep and goats. But we keep trying and it requires all the members of our community to build such a kingdom.

Let us take our inspiration from the crucified King with his crown of thorns. Bloodied broken and dying so that we might have life and build God's Kingdom here on earth.

Fr. John sx.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith (currently Catholic or not) we invite you to join us at our group starting **Sat 28th Nov 15:45 at Saint Francis Church.** The group meet approximately twice a month. Email: parish@sacredher

SCHEDULE		
SUN 22ND	**Christ the King** **09:15** Adoration, Confession & Morning Prayer **09:45** Rosary & Benediction **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
MON 23RD	**Requiem Mass** **12:00** Cosimo D'Alessandro Parisi	
TUE 24TH	**Saints Andrew Duñg-Lạc and his Companions** **09:15** Mass	
WED 25TH	**Ordinary Time: week 34** **09:15** Mass with SF School	
THU 26TH	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	Ordinary Time: week 34 **11:30** Rosary & Adoration **12:00** Mass	
	Parish Community **12:30** Friendship Group	
FRI 27TH	**Ordinary Time: week 34** **09:30** Mass	
SAT 28TH	**Community Garden Open** **10:00-12:00**	
	Ordinary Time: week 34 **11:00** Confession & Adoration **12:00** ***Mass in Spanish***	
	1st Sunday of Advent **15:45** RCIA **16:45** Adoration: Confession, Evening Prayer and Rosary **17:30** Vigil Mass	
SUN 29TH	**1st Sunday of Advent** **09:15** Adoration: Confession, Evening Prayer and Rosary **10:30** Mass & Choir **11:30** Church Clean	
	Parish Community **12:00 Parish Christmas Fair**	

SUPERVISOR OF RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLORS

Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support are looking for volunteer Supervisors to provide supervision and mentoring to our relationship counsellors who support couples experiencing relationship distress. For this role you would need to be professionally qualified and experienced in counselling supervision, and also be a qualified experienced relationship counsellor. www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year, the Fair will take place Sunday November 29th. In advance we will ne donations of prizes. These can be given in at the piety shop before/after Sunday Mass, or to the sacresty in the week. We need volunteers to help on the day. Please let us know if you can help..

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

As is customary people feel free to place the names of loved ones and an offering in an envelope at the alar. The Fathers will be remembering these especially throughout the month of November.

CARITAS ADVENT APPEAL 2026

Caritas Salford #BeeThere bees are retelling the story of the Nativity and asking us to help change the script for local people facing hunger or homelessness. This Advent, could you #BeeThere for a child or adult in need? Watch the animation, created with Doodledo and featuring the voices of local children, at http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere or donate at http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/donate

CONTACT US

PARISH PRIEST: FR MAURICE CESAR NDJE NDJE, SX.
PRIEST IN RESIDENCE: FR JOHN CONVERY, SX.
PRIEST IN RESIDENCE: FR PADDY DUFFY, SX.
PERMANENT DEACON: DAVIE NALIKATA
ADMINISTRATOR: MINNA MOFFATT-FELDMAN
SAFEGUARDING REPS: KATE OSEMWENGIE, ANN TODD
TELEPHONE: 0161 223 0338
EMAIL: PARISH@SACREDHEARTSTFRANCISGORTON.CO.UK
WEBSITE: WWW.SACREDHEARTSTFRANCISGORTON.CO.UK
FACEBOOK: SACRED HEART & SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
PARISH OFFICE: SACRED HEART PRESBYTERY, LEVENSHULME ROAD, GORTON, M18 7WJ.

MASS OFFERINGS & PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like a mass offered for a specific intention, enclose an offering with a description, noting if it should be kept private. Pass it to Minna/Father.

- **Health:** Private

Please also pray for our brethren who are unwell: Janet McCarthy, Jennifer Hunter, Martin Brennan, Tommy Loftus.

MEET THE MISSIONARIES: FR JOHN CONVERY XS.

Born and raised in Coatbridge, Scotland, I studied with the Xaverians in London, Italy and Chicago USA. After Theology University, I spent my diaconate year in Cameroon. On return to Scotland, I was ordained priest on the 29th of June 1991 and returned to spend another 3 years on mission in Cameroon. Since then, served in London, Preston, Scotland and now here in Manchester. I am deeply convinced of our founder's wish to 'make of the world a single family' and thus I have worked in youth ministry, school chaplaincy, prison chaplaincy and interfaith dialogue. I consider it a privilege to now find myself in the parish of Sacred Heart and St. Francis to continue my mission work and to be a humble servant to this community.

VISIT OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

To mark the 300 year anniversary of the birth of St Gerard Majella, a nationwide tour of his relics is taking place, and the Diocese of Salford is one of 11 dioceses in the country to receive them for a visit. The relics will be visiting four of our churches, Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich, St Mary (The Hidden Gem), Manchester, St Brendan's, Bolton, - Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella, Lostock.
For more information, website:
https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

In preparation for Christmas, the Xavarian Missionaries will be giving us **TWO** opportunities to learn more about their Charism and how this can support our spiritual development. After Mass we will have a break for lunch, and then 12:45-13:15 in the Parish Centre. **Sunday December 6th** and 20th.

OFFERTORY

For card payments, use the QR code. If possible, please set up a standing order:
TSDT SACRED HEART & ST FRANCIS GORT
20-55-34
20707600