



*I am special in God's eyes and I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

## St Joseph's and St Edward's Chaplaincy Newsletter Advent Term 2025

### Staff INSET

At the beginning of term, staff from both schools, had the chance to prepare both spiritually and mentally for the term ahead. This involved indoor activities (such as singing and prayer time) and outdoor activities (such as contemplation time in the forest school area).

### Harvest

At the end of the first week of term, parents, staff and children, collected apples, pears and plums from our orchard to take home. The idea for this event was generated during our staff INSET. It was a wonderful sight, to see so many people, from different parts of the community, working together to get the fruit down from the trees. Later in the term, Year 4 prepared a Harvest Assembly at St Edwards and Y2 prepared a Harvest Assembly at St Joseph's, which were thoroughly enjoyed by parents and carers. Both schools also collected a large contribution to the Food Bank; following an assembly given by Mr Andrews from the Chiltern Food Bank. He shared the story of the loaves and fishes to teach us that if we share what we have there is enough for everyone.

### New School Year Mass

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Fr Jais celebrated Mass at St Edwards to mark the beginning of a new term. Mr Grexhammer led a new school year Liturgy at St Joseph's. The children participated well during both celebrations.

### MacMillian Coffee Morning and Reverse Advent Calendar

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Heritage organised a coffee morning in aid of the MacMillian Cancer Support Charity. Many people enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of donated cake. During Advent, children also used the Reverse Advent Calendar, to know what food donations to bring in for the Aylesbury Food Bank.

### St Edwards' Feast Day

We celebrated the feast day on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October (nearest school days to the 13<sup>th</sup>). This year's theme was St Edward's faithfulness to Catholicism. The children learnt about St Edward by completing activities in class and by mounting a stick cross (lashed together with string) on card.

### The Bishop's Schools' Mass -Jubilee Year

Bishop David invited all Catholic Schools in the Diocese, to attend Schools Mass, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October. During the Mass, he blessed our Mission Team, and during the parade, at the end of the Mass, he blessed the jubilee banners of St Joseph's and St Edward's.

### Mission Team

The Mission team met to update the prayer book, so that it reflected the prayers said at both schools. Many of the children organised themselves efficiently to produce a number of cross-school prayer books. The Mission Team also attended Faith Ambassador Training at St Michael's School and made our Bishop a birthday card.



Community Fruit Harvesting



St Edward's Feast Day 2025



Faith Ambassador Training



Prayer Book Updating

### Mini-Vinnies

Mr Osborne and Mr Grexhammer met with the Mini-Vinnies (Mini Vincent De Paul members) to discuss the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and to plan and create a hamper for a valued member of our community. This act of kindness relates to CST Principle 1: Strengthening those in our community and Principle 5: Sharing what we have. The hamper was presented to Sister Bernadette during our Christmas Carol Service.

### Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Mrs Finn led the blessing of the advent wreath at St Joseph's. The children prayed and sang songs. The wreath was then lit each week as a sign of our preparation for Advent.

### Advent Prayer Space

During Advent, the Oratory was open on Thursdays and Fridays for an Advent themed prayer space. There were six prayer stations, for the children and adults to pray and be mindful with.

### Christmas Carol Service

The end of Advent term Carol Service was organised by Mrs Ramsbottom and Mrs Fahey. The children involved performed all their contributions confidently. The service was attended by a variety of our parish community, many of which contribute their time to our schools which we really appreciate; thank you.

### Senior Mission Team – Joint Mission Statement

During the second half of the term, a number of staff met to discuss and create a joint Mission Statement and Value statement for both St Joseph's and St Edward's. This work is ongoing.



Bishop David's

Schools' Mass, Dunstable



Advent Prayer Space