



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



Monday 13th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Strike Action for 28.2.23 Update:

Since our last update – no teachers are planning to pursue industrial action on the 28.2.23, therefore, school is open. **We will endeavour to keep you abreast of further developments, should matters change for the subsequent industrial action dates.**

Staffing Updates from Easter 2023:

The local governing committee has appointed Mrs Maddock as the schools' new permanent assistant headteacher. Mrs Maddock has a wealth of teaching, leadership and governance experience across all age ranges - having been SENCO, English subject leader and writing moderator, in a different local authority. She will be starting in her new role after Easter and will begin her journey with us as acting deputy headteacher, when Mrs Nutton commences maternity leave, shortly after Easter. Mrs Maddock will initially teach in Year 2, alongside Mrs Graham.



Additionally, Mrs Peacock will also be joining the leadership team, on secondment, as acting assistant headteacher, after Easter. Mrs Peacock will be a fabulous addition to the team and will initially be supporting the schools, in Year 1, throughout Miss Cameron's maternity leave, which we anticipate will take place around May half-term.

We wish Mrs Nutton and Miss Cameron every blessing as they begin new chapters in their family lives, and we look forward to welcoming our new staff to the team.

School Mass:

Children from both schools will be attending Mass on Friday morning, at 10am, where our Year 3 children will be leading Mass. Please join us. As our Reception children have our gymnastics coach in school, on Friday morning, they will remain in school.

Korean Club:

We have a couple of additional places, if any other Key Stage 2 pupils would like to join us! Please book via School Gateway.

Toddlers:

Don't forget that our very friendly Toddler group takes place on Wednesday mornings, from 9am. 😊



Parents' Evenings:

Parents' Evening slots are available to book for after half-term. Appointment slots are from 3:30pm – 6:00pm. Please book via the SchoolGateway app.

Little Liturgical Prayer:

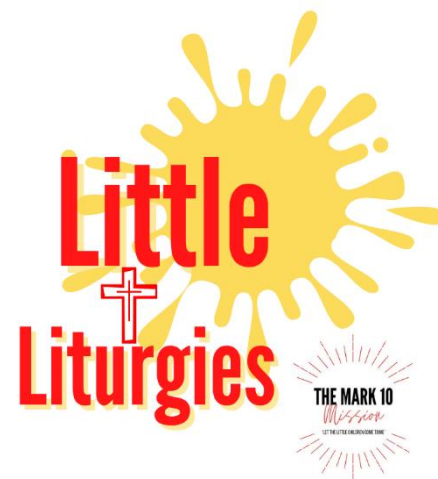
Next term, we will be inviting our families into school to share in liturgical prayer. Wherever possible, we will try and enable you to come in once per term (or more, if timings, rotas or other factors permit).

What is liturgical prayer?

Liturgical prayer will usually be planned and prepared by the children, for the children. Quite often, the children will select the readings, hymns, and responses. It is made up of four components:

- **Gather**
- **Word**
- **Response**
- **Mission**

At the Infant School, it will take place every other week on a Tuesday. At the Junior School, it will take place every other Wednesday. **Parents and families will be able to come to school on the selected dates, once per half-term, to join-in with their child's liturgical prayer, which will take place in the respective school halls.**



Filming on Tuesday 28th February 2023:

The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust are coming into school to film aspects of our provision on Tuesday 28th February 2023. Normally, we would allow our pupils who are partaking in PE to come into school wearing their PE kit; however, on this day, we ask pupils to bring in their PE kit in their bag – and they will change in school. Thank you for your understanding.

Parental invitation for Little Liturgy Prayer Dates:

Tuesday 28 th Feb Year 2	Wednesday 8 th March Year 3
Tuesday 14 th March Year 1 Mother's Day	Wednesday 22 nd March Year 6 St. Joseph theme
Tues 28 th March Reception at 10am in church - Key Stage 1 will attend	
	Friday 31 st March Stations of the Cross – 2pm Year 5 Key Stage 2 will attend
	Wednesday 19 th April Year 4
Tuesday 25 th April Year 2 (Feast of St. George – 24/4/23)	Wednesday 3 rd May Year 3 (Feast of St. Philip and St. James)
Tuesday 16 th May Year 1 (Tuesday of 6 th Week of Eastertide)	Wednesday 24 th May Year 6 (Wed 7 th Week of Eastertide – but Thursday 25 th is feast of St. Bede)
Tuesday 6 th June Reception Tuesday of 9 th Week of Ordinary Time	Wednesday 14 th June Year 5 (Wednesday 10 th Week of Ordinary Time)
Tuesday 20 th June Year 2 Tuesday of 11 th Week of Ordinary Time	Holy Day of Obligations Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul Year 4 to lead (TBC)
Tuesday 4 th July Year 1 Tuesday of 13 th Week of Ordinary Time	Wednesday 12 th July Wednesday of 14 th Week of Ordinary Time Year 3 to lead

Dates for the Diary (Please note that dates are subject to change):

Wednesday 15th February – Year 6 and Year 3 Reading Buddies

Tuesday 28th February and Thursday 2nd March – Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 28th February – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer (please gather in the school hall for 9am) and filming for prospectus

Friday 3rd March – World Book Day

(Children can dress-up as their favourite book character with a donation of £1 to go towards school - to purchase new books)

Friday 3rd March – Reception Parental Mathematics Workshop - 8:45am for a 9am start

Friday 3rd March – Year 4/5 Girls' Football Competition

Wednesday 8th March – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Thursday 9th March – Mr Taylor for KS2 Bible Story – 1:15pm

Tuesday 14th March – Year 1 Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 22nd March – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am start

Wednesday 22nd March – Year 5 Visit to Gibside

W/C Monday 27th March - Shakespeare Week

Tuesday 28th March – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 10am start – in Church (KS1 only)

Friday 31st March – Year 5 to lead Stations of the Cross – 2pm – in Church (KS2 only)

Wednesday 19th April – Year 4 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am start

Tuesday 25th April – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 3rd May – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am

Tuesday 16th May – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 24th May – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am

Tuesday 6th June – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 14th June – Year 5 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am

Tuesday 20th June – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul – TBC

Tuesday 4th July – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am

Wednesday 12th July – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am

Visit: [St Joseph's Birtley Bulletins \(stjosephsbirtley.co.uk\)](http://stjosephsbirtley.co.uk) for more information