



Newsletter

21st November 2025

World Day of the Poor: Living the Gospel of Hope

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of St Joseph's,

This week's Gospel reading comes from Luke 21:5-6, where Jesus reminds us that even the most magnificent buildings will one day fall. He speaks of great disasters, yet His message is one of hope. Whatever challenges we face, we are encouraged to place our trust in Jesus, who is our constant source of strength and peace.

This week's Gospel coincides with World Day of the Poor, a moment to reflect on how we can serve those most in need. As a school community, we pray for the poor and encourage children and families to embrace acts of kindness—whether through service, donations, or simply offering compassion to those around us. Together, we can make a meaningful difference both locally and beyond.

As part of our Advent journey, our Mini Vinnies will be leading the Reverse Advent Calendar (see appendices). This initiative invites families to give rather than receive, offering daily contributions that will be shared with those in need. It is a wonderful way for your family to support others this Christmas and live out the Gospel message of hope and generosity.

In other news, exciting progress continues on the transformation of our old media suite into a new Chapel. This week, the workbenches were removed and a carpet ordered, marking another step forward in creating a sacred space for prayer and reflection. We extend heartfelt thanks to Mr. Byrne, our caretaker, for his dedication and hard work in this very special mission. Watch this space for more updates as the Chapel takes shape!

Thank you for your continued support as we love, learn and follow Jesus every step of the way. Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bridge and the St Joseph's Team.





Class Romero

It has been a wonderfully productive week in Romero Class! We have begun our Nativity preparations and joyfully led a Celebration of the Word. Inviting parents into school made the occasion even more special—the children loved sharing their reflections and missions with their families. In geography, we explored compass directions and had great fun putting our learning into practice outdoors. Year 1 have been diving deeper into addition and subtraction, while Reception have been busy investigating the numbers 4 and 5. In English, the children are thoroughly enjoying their new topic books, which carry a delightful hint of Christmas magic. It's been a week filled with learning, creativity, and community spirit—Romero Class are truly shining!

Miss McEvoy



Class Acutis

Another fantastic week in Class Acutis has come to an end. The children have demonstrated superb knowledge in RE of the prophets Elijah and Saint John the Baptist. They have also enjoyed a really catchy song on the subject. In English we have been busy writing instructions for "How to wash a bear," based on our class novel – Paddington. The children have been very creative about the reasons for keeping a bear clean and have made me laugh a lot. I am looking forward to reading their final sets of instructions. Miss Kantharia delivered an exciting Science lesson on the resistance of different surfaces – the children enjoyed testing the effect of the surfaces as they rolled their car down a ramp. As we look forward to the start of Advent next week, our minds have turned to the Nativity Production. The children should now have their parts and work will start in earnest next week. As always thank you for your support.

Mrs Lawman



Class Kolbe

What a wonderful week it has been in Class Kolbe: lots of learning, fantastic progress and a lot of fun along the way too. RE wise, we have been exploring women in the Old Testament (Miriam and Esther) and linking these to modern-day inspirational women such as Mother Teresa and Rosa Parks. In English, we have been looking at the use of direct speech when developing characterisation – this has been linked to our text 'The Great Kapok Tree'. Maths wise, Y5 have been looking at square and cube numbers whilst Y6 have been adding/subtracting mixed number fractions. Finally, the children have also been enjoying their PE sessions where they have been focusing on team games such as football. All in all, another great week at St Joseph's.

Miss Bottomley





Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

PE Kits: A lot of children did not have their PE kits in school yesterday. Coach Scott is in school every Thursday to teach PE to Class Acutis and Class Kolbe.

If there are any changes to the other PE days, you will be notified in advance via School Spider.

School Nurse Drop In: On Monday 8th December at 9am, our School Nurse will be available for any parents wishing to drop in and discuss their child's health concerns or mental health. No appointment is necessary.

Nativity Tickets: There is a form on School Spider for you to request seats at our performance on Tuesday, 16th December. Each family can have two seats - you can choose to have one at each performance, two for the afternoon or two for the teatime show at 5pm.

Christmas decorations: Mx Lane would like any tinsel you no longer need to decorate The Ark. If you have any decorations you no longer want, please let Miss McEvoy know as she would like them for Class Romero.

Ella Holt drama show: The final performance of Ella's after school club show will be in the school hall on Tuesday. Doors will open no earlier than 3.55pm for the show to start at 4pm - this will allow pupils time for one final practice.

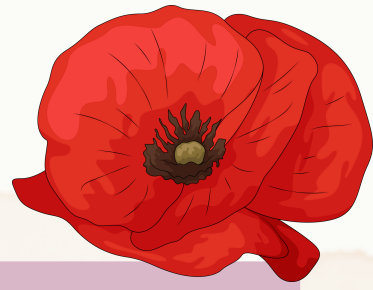
School Uniform: We will soon be consulting with parents about proposed changes to the uniform at St Joseph's. The aim is to make our uniform more cost-effective for families—by introducing one style for all ages and reducing the number of items requiring our badge—while also ensuring it looks smarter and more consistent across the school. Please keep an eye out for the upcoming survey on School Spider and share your thoughts with us. Your feedback will be invaluable in helping shape these changes.



Above: Class Romero's Celebration of the Word

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	95.5%	94%
Year One	93.6%	96.2%
Year Two	93.1%	97.5%
Year Three	89.4%	96.8%
Year Four	100%	95.8%
Year Five	95.5%	93.6%
Year Six	92.2%	95.4%
School Total	93.8%	95.6%

Upcoming Events



Advent Mass: Friday 28th November at 10.30am in the School Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Monday 1st December (pm) Children in class Kolbe will be offered the opportunity to speak with Father Mark and if they chose to, can take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Stay and Play for Class Romero: Monday 1st December 2025 from 9am-10am. Further details to follow.

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 5th December. To celebrate the Feast of St Nicholas, we invite all children to wear their festive Christmas jumpers and bring a gift donation for a child in need. Please ensure gifts are wrapped and clearly labelled with the intended recipient's age and gender, so they can be thoughtfully matched.

Santa Dash: The PTA annual Santa Dash is scheduled for 12th December. Further details to follow.

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Party Day: This year we will be having our festive dinner on Wednesday, 17th December 2025. Children on packed lunches can bring in additional treats to eat providing that they are nut-free. Party games will take place during the day in the School Hall and children are invited to bring a Christmas cracker from home to share with a friend.

St Joseph's Nursery

If you have a child aged three or over, we have places available at our on-site nursery. For more information, to book a visit or to find out about funded hours, please ring 07956 242409 or email: nursery@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk



*St Joseph. most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...*

Children's Liturgy:

This week is the Feast of Christ the King. In the Gospel we hear how Jesus is put to death on a cross and how he is laughed at and made fun of by the people watching. The label above Jesus' cross said he was the king of the Jews. What do you think of when we talk about a king? What do kings wear and where do they live? To the crowds a king is someone who has power, money, land and who dresses in expensive clothes – not someone who ends up on a cross with a crown of thorns on his head. Kings are powerful, but on the cross Jesus seems helpless. He is going to die and the people can't understand it. Jesus is a very different kind of king to one who lives in a palace. He is the king of love. He gives us all a chance of new life with him in heaven. Jesus, the king of love, showed his love for us and for all people by dying on the cross for us. How do you think we can show our love for others as Jesus asks us to? We can be kind, welcoming, generous. We can make sure that when we have power, we use it as Jesus did – for the good of all people – not just to make ourselves rich and important. We can make sure we include others in our friendships and in our games.

This week, when things are difficult, remember that Jesus is always with you. And when you see that things are difficult for others, perhaps you can try to do all that you can to be loving towards them and to help them. What will you do this week to share love? We do hope you can join us – it would be lovely to see you – don't forget Mass is now on a Saturday afternoon – 4:30pm.

Children's Liturgy Team



This Week in Pictures



*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...*

Mental Elf is coming back to Leyland!

**Saturday
29th
November
Worden Park
10am-2.30pm**

Festive Fun Run 2025

Be a part of the county's best festive fun run experience and support vital mental health services across Lancashire!

 **Mind
Lancashire**

JAMES HALL & Co. LTD
— ESTD 1863 —

SPAR 

**Join your family
& friends for some
festive fun.**

**2k, 5k or challenge
your sElf distances!**

- Surprise festive boosts every km
- Bespoke sustainable elf medal
- Goody bags for everyone who finishes



**Find out
more**



**Be the best dressed Elf and
get ready to Ho Ho Go!**

FR Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



★ Friday 12th December after school drop off

★ Please join us for the annual St Joseph's PTFA

SPONSORED SANTA DASH

DRESS FESTIVELY
FOR THE
OCCASION!!



8.50 AM REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL
FOR SCHOOL FAMILIES WHILE THE
CHILDREN PREPARE FOR THE SANTA DASH

9.15 - SPONSORED SANTA DASH IN
MAIN PLAYGROUND



PLEASE SEND IN ANY SPONSORSHIP MONEY TO SCHOOL
HOPEFULLY WE HAVE THE WEATHER IN OUR FAVOUR BUT A PLAN B
WILL BE MADE FOR THE SAME DAY JUST INCASE



BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S

CHRISTMAS ITEM SWAP

DO YOU...

...HAVE OUTGROWN CHRISTMAS JUMPERS?
...HAVE OTHER CHRISTMAS ACCESSORIES OR
CLOTHING THAT YOU WANT TO GET RID OF?

*Donate your Christmas
Items*

WE ARE ACCEPTING CLEAN
CHRISTMAS JUMPERS AND OTHER
CHRISTMAS ITEMS

Donate to Reception (Mrs Cox)

**The Christmas items will be on
sale on Friday 28th November at
3.20pm.**

**£1 per jumper and 50p for other
items**

Holiday activities and food

LANCASHIRE
Winter 2025



HAF Eligibility & Booking Information:

- *For children & young people in reception - year 11
- *Eligible for benefits related free school meals (different to free school meals all children in KS1 receive)
- *Other vulnerabilities (ask your school or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities)

Winter Activities:

Book up to 4 days (minimum 4 hours a day) with a meal included

Important:

Please only book a HAF place if you intend to use it & cancel if you change your mind. If a place is booked and then not used it prevents another child from attending.



Department
for Education

Lancashire
County
Council





Charity Fun Run

at Chorley Fire Station

Sunday 14 December



Race Schedule

10:00am: 1 km children's race
(up to 14 years)

11:00am: 5 km adult race



**Prizes for first place
and best dressed!**

Book your tickets:

www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/christmas-gallop



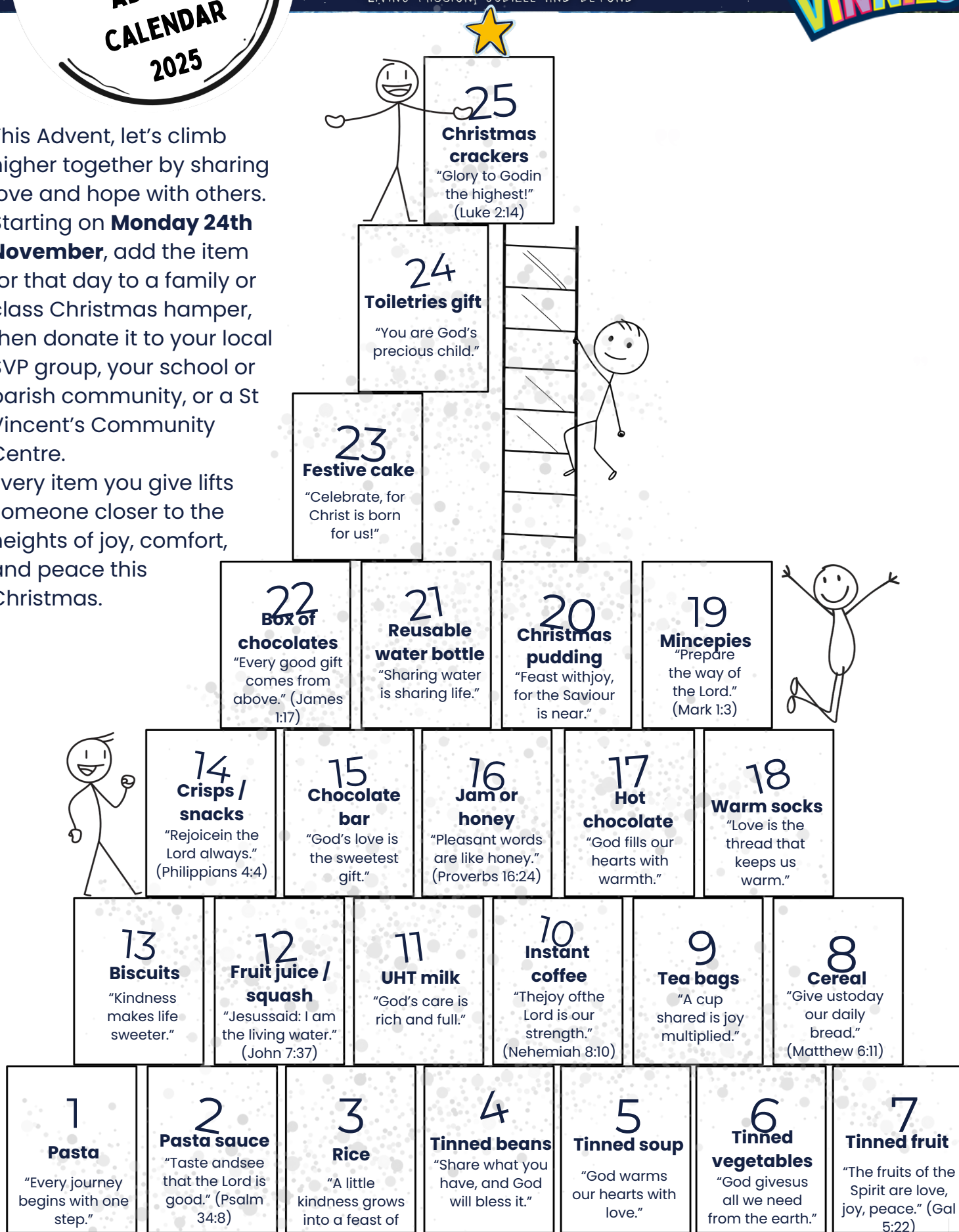
THE VINCENNT COMMUNITY CENTRE

LIVING MISSION, JUBILEE AND BEYOND



This Advent, let's climb higher together by sharing love and hope with others. Starting on **Monday 24th November**, add the item for that day to a family or class Christmas hamper, then donate it to your local SVP group, your school or parish community, or a St Vincent's Community Centre.

Every item you give lifts someone closer to the heights of joy, comfort, and peace this Christmas.



If you or someone you know needs help from the SVP, go to Info@svp.org.uk