



St Joseph's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd July 2026

Weekly Prayer

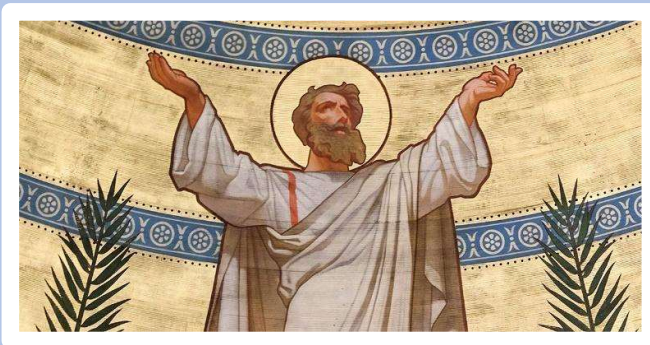
On 3rd July, the Church celebrates the Feast of **Saint Thomas the Apostle.**

Although he is remembered for doubting, when he encountered the Risen Jesus he joyfully declared, *"My Lord and my God!"* His story reminds us that asking questions can strengthen our faith and encourages us to trust in God, even when we cannot see the whole picture.

Loving God,

Thank You for the example of Saint Thomas. Help us to trust in You, even when we have doubts or find things difficult. Give us the courage to grow in faith, to ask questions with open hearts, and to follow Jesus each day with love and confidence. May we, like Saint Thomas, always proclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

Amen.



Dear Families,

We are incredibly proud of our wonderful Year 2 children, who demonstrated our school values so beautifully this week. As part of their learning about our Church community and the inspiring lives of Saints Peter and Paul, the children explored how these great saints courageously shared Jesus' message of love, kindness and hope with others.

Inspired by their example, the children lovingly created special *Kindness Bags* to share with members of our parish community during Mass. Each bag contained a drawing of Mary, a heartfelt prayer or message, a handmade bookmark and a small figure of Jesus as a reminder of God's everlasting love.

The children also wrote and confidently read their own bidding prayers during Mass, showing great reverence and maturity. After Mass, the remaining Kindness Bags were presented to the **St Vincent de Paul Society**, who will distribute them amongst members of our parish, ensuring that the children's thoughtful gifts continue to spread joy, comfort and hope throughout our wider community.

We are immensely proud of the compassion, creativity and faith they have displayed. They truly brought the Gospel to life, reminding us all that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a lasting difference.

Mrs Carder



Lourdes

Miss Hartland

What budding bakers we have in Lourdes class! Inspired by this week's fairytale, *Snow White*, we made some apple bites with pastry, cinnamon, and apples! We have also done some

Knock

Miss Buckingham

This week Knock class enjoyed a trip to the library, the children heard stories and explored the books, they



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<p>apple-printing, made Wicked Witch potions & wands, and explored the number '7' for the seven dwarves!</p> <p>Lourdes also enjoyed a trip to the library where we listened to different fairytales, acted out the stories with puppets, and shared lots of beautiful books with our friends & teachers!</p> <p>Lourdes have been super resilient with their Sports Day practice, and I am so proud of their efforts on the day!</p> <p>Next week we will be reading <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> and going on our school trip to Puzzlewood - how exciting!</p>	<p>completed an activity when they looked for books that matched the statements, e.g. "Find a book that is funny".</p> <p>We also attended our first Key Stage Mass service, following the fantastic example set by Fatima class, Knock class worked hard to be safe, ready and respectful.</p> <p>We loved sunning ourselves in Forest School this week, where we had hotdogs cooked on the fire. We engaged in discussion about barbecues and shared what we like on our hotdogs.</p> <p>We ended the week on a sports day fuelled by our PRAISE values, the children's sportsmanship and positive attitude was i</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fatima <i>Miss Chatfield</i></p> <p>This week, the children have enjoyed beginning their Literacy Instructions unit. They have started writing a set of instructions for Jack's Magic Baked Bean Cake, which they will be making in their DT lesson next week.</p> <p>In DT, the children also created their own Jack and the Beanstalk Healthy Fruit Wands. They had great fun preparing and assembling their healthy snacks while developing their food preparation skills.</p> <p>In Science, the children have been investigating which materials the Three Little Pigs could use to rebuild a house strong enough to keep the Big Bad Wolf out. They explored the properties of different materials and thought carefully about which would make the strongest and safest house.</p> <p>In Maths, we have begun learning about mass, developing our understanding of weighing and comparing objects. This learning will support the children's baking activities next week.</p> <p>On Wednesday, the children attended church, where they proudly handed out their kindness bags to members of the parish. In RE this week, Year 2 have been learning how to write their own bidding prayers. A special well done to Arlo, Emilia, Anis, Sibongile and Daria, who read their beautiful prayers aloud to the parish with confidence and reverence.</p> <p>Of course, one of the highlights of the week was our fantastic Sports Day! The children showed wonderful enthusiasm, determination and teamwork throughout the day, and we are incredibly proud of the excellent sportsmanship they demonstrated.</p> <p>Don't forget to check ClassDojo and our school social media pages for photos of all this wonderful learning and fun throughout the week.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Medjugorje <i>Mrs Hamilton</i></p> <p>This week we have had a lot of fun with PE, Art and RE.</p> <p>In Art we painted like Michaelangelo, underneath our tables like we were painting the Sistine Chapel. Mr Morton gave us a fab History lesson about Michaelangelo and his life- we were all hooked!</p> <p>This has also been a sporty week! On Thursday our Year 5's went off to Carterton Community College to take part in a Carterton-wide sports day. Alongside this, our Year 6's had their cycling proficiency to ensure they are road safe when out and about on their bikes.</p> <p>Friday was full of fun with our Sports Day- thank you to everyone who came to support!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next week ha</p>



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Walsingham

Mr Dillon

Walsingham Class has had another fantastic week of learning. In Maths, we revised our subtraction and multiplication skills, building confidence and fluency before beginning our final topic of the year on Shape. The children have enjoyed exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes while developing their mathematical vocabulary.

In English, we have been exploring the features of non-fiction texts, identifying headings, subheadings, captions, diagrams and technical vocabulary in preparation for writing our own informative reports.

Our Science lessons have continued to focus on plants, where the children have been learning more about how plants grow, reproduce and survive. They have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm during discussions and investigations.

Friday's Sports Day was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Every child represented Walsingham Class brilliantly, showing resilience, encouragement and respect throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of all their efforts and thank our families for their support.

Guadalupe

Mrs Cameron

Lots of different subjects have been covered in Guadalupe class this week. Some children have learnt about measuring mass, comparing kilograms and grams. We searched for items in our class, estimating weight, comparing them to the size of a lap top and a paper clip. We have practised pen/pencil control with our younger children, drawing self portraits and forming numbers and letters.

The children have been artists, painting pictures, painting their pottery and drawing pictures in their Fairy Tale books.

For English the older children have been re writing fairy tales and also sequencing a story.

Have a lovely weekend.



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Attendance

Lourdes: 98%

Knock: 92%

Fatima: 95%

Walsingham: 95%

Medjugorje: 96%

WHOLE SCHOOL
End of the Year
MASS
15TH JULY
9.30AM
Whole School Mass
at
St Joseph's Catholic Church

We warmly invite
ALL FAMILIES
to join us!

Let us come together to give thanks,
celebrate our year and pray as one community.

SUN SAFETY BE SUN SAFE!
Next week
please remember...

WEAR A SUN HAT
A sun hat helps protect your face, ears and neck.

WEAR SUN CREAM
Please come to school with sun cream already applied.

BRING A WATER BOTTLE
Stay hydrated! Bring a refillable water bottle every day.

Let's look after each other and enjoy the sunshine safely!
THANK YOU!

A special day to celebrate **YOU!** Let's celebrate together!

YEAR 6 LEAVER'S ARRANGEMENTS
WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

LEAVER'S MASS
AT CHURCH
9.30AM

We are all an active part of the Mass - families are warmly invited.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS celebration
AT THE POTTERY PLACE
IN WITNEY
4-6PM

Here, we will be **PRIZE GIVING** and **SHARING OUR FAVOURITE SCHOOL MEMORIES!**

What has been your best year at school?
Can't wait to celebrate with you!

IT'S ALL ABOUT US, OUR MEMORIES & OUR FUTURE!
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR JOURNEY!



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Important Dates:

15th July – Whole School Mass 9.30 at St Joseph's

16th July- iRock Concert

s

17th July – End of Term 1.15pm

Headlice

We have recently identified a small number of cases of head lice in school. We would be grateful if all families could check their child's hair carefully over the coming days and continue to do so regularly.

If head lice or eggs (nits) are found, please begin treatment promptly using a high-quality treatment or by following the recommended wet-combing method.

Treating cases quickly helps to prevent further spread within the school community.

To help minimise the risk of transmission, we kindly ask that all children with long hair wear it tied back while at school.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in helping us keep our school community healthy.

Dates for School Masses on Wednesdays (9.30am)



We would like to inform you that the dates listed below indicate when your children will be attending Mass at St Joseph's Church as part of our school's faith life.

These occasions are an important opportunity for our pupils to come together in worship and to strengthen their understanding of our shared values and beliefs.

We would be delighted if you were able to join us. If you are available, please make every effort to come along and celebrate Mass together with our school and parish community.

Your presence helps to show our children the importance of faith, community, and belonging, and it is always a joy to welcome families into these celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing these special moments with you.

8th – Walsingham and Medjugorje

15th July – Whole School Mass

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for students to make good progress, build confidence, and fully engage in school life. **While attendance has been a focus for some time, overall levels of attendance are not showing the improvement we would expect, and this remains a concern for some families.**

We understand that there are times when absence is unavoidable; however, we ask all families to make every effort to ensure children attend school consistently and arrive on time each day. **Good attendance supports not only academic achievement but also social development and wellbeing.**

As a school, we have always prioritised working in partnership with families rather than taking formal action.

However, if attendance does not begin to improve, we may need to review our approach, and the use of penalty notices could become a necessary option in line with national guidance.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to support us in improving attendance so that every child can benefit fully from their education.

Your school leadership is now aspirational for every aspect of the school day; starting with attendance.



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WE'RE TAKING PART IN A
COLOUR RUN

AS A FAMILY, FOR FUN, FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

WE'RE LACING UP OUR TRAINERS AND GETTING COVERED IN COLOUR TO RAISE MONEY FOR A CAUSE THAT MEANS A LOT.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

- HELP US REACH OUR GOAL**
- SUPPORT OUR CHALLENGE**
- CHEER US ON EVERY STEP OF THE WAY**

PLEASE SPONSOR US!

EVERY DONATION, BIG OR SMALL, HELPS US MAKE AN IMPACT!

PLEASE PUT FAMILY OR CHILD'S NAME ON DONATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - IT MEANS THE WORLD TO US!

SCAN TO SPONSOR US

CARTERTON FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, BAKING, CRAFTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Carterton WI Hall
SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

KIDS UNDER 5 GO FREE

FAM FEST LIVE

CHELtenham, IT'S ALMOST TIME

YOUR FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY OUT IS NEARLY HERE

GET READY FOR

TRIBUTE ACTS • INFLATABLE THEME PARK • STUNT SHOW
 ZORB BALLS • NERF WARS • FACE PAINTING • CHARACTERS
 FOAM PARTY • KIDS YOGA • FIRE ENGINES • KIDS DISCO
 & SO MUCH MORE

GET TICKETS NOW

Family day out in Oxfordshire

Take your child to [Crocodiles of the World](#) where you can see different crocodile species and learn all about them – you can even become a keeper for a day!

For younger children, [Fairytale Farm](#) is a great option, with a range of farm animals and plenty of activities. Fairytale Farm is also fully accessible and specially designed with disabilities and special needs in mind. Enjoy a unique sensory experience with their Enchanted Walk – a magical journey inviting you to look, touch, smell and listen along the way.

At [Blenheim Palace](#), the Walled Garden is a joy to visit for all ages, with the Marlborough Maze, Pizza Café and exotic Butterfly House. With plank bridges, ladders, swings, slides and even a sand pit, it is a great place to unwind after a day at the Palace.

Travel back in time to the golden age of the Great Western Railway at [Didcot Railway Centre](#). Savour the sights, sounds and smells of steam as you explore this 25-acre living museum with trains dating from Victorian times to the 1960s.

Near Didcot in Aston Tirrold, [Ridgeway Adventures](#) offers activities for ages 8+, with archery, laser maze heist and more.



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FOOTY KIDS

INFLATABLE FOOTBALL FUN

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

SUMMER HOLIDAYS! FOR AGES 4-12

Ducklington Sports Club, Aston Road, Ducklington, OX29 7US

Dates: Weds 22nd - Fri 24th Jul, Mon 27th - Thu 30th Jul

Tue 4th - Fri 7th Aug, Mon 10th - Thu 13th Aug,

Tue 18th - Fri 21st Aug, Mon 24th - Thu 27th Aug

Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm (drop off as early as 9am, pick up to 3pm)

Cost: £20/day 15% discount for bookings made 1 week prior start date

Daily Tournaments • Fun Games • Themed Days
Plenty of Fun • Lots of Smiles

All of our programmes are based around having lots of fun. No lines, drills or running around cones, instead games where all kids have a ball and are learning basic skills of football whilst having big smiles on their faces. Mini tournaments everyday. Coaches are qualified and DBS checked and are big kids at heart!



To register your child, please go to www.enrolmy.com/footy-kids



www.footykids.org



tomspeers@footykids.org



Footykids



or call and speak to Tom on 07940 070 082



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READ to the BEAT

Carterton Library: Summer Events Calendar

Fun with Fossils with the Oxford University Museum
of Natural History

Friday 31st July at 11am to 12pm

Travels with the Sweet Zombie Horse

Monday 3rd August at 2pm to 3pm

Abingdon & District Model Railway Display

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th

Francesca Gibbons Author Visit

Monday 10th August at 11am to 12pm*

Read to the Beat: Creative Writing Workshop with
Juli Frances Taylor

Thursday 13th August at 10:30am to 11:30am*

Witney Model & Collectors Club

Saturday 22nd August at 9:30am to 12pm

Lego Robots with RAF STEM Ambassadors

Tuesday 25th August at 10am to 12pm*

***Please note these sessions require booking. Call
01865 815125 or pop in to book.**





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The **Library**
Oxfordshire



READ
to the
BEAT



...with a **FREE** children's reading challenge
at your local Oxfordshire library!

4 July to 5 September 2026

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: **Read to the Beat** celebrates the joy of reading with a theme inspired by music. Children can discover how books spark creativity and imagination.



**Finish the challenge and get
your own medal and certificate!**

**Look out for fantastic new
books and activities at your
library!**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

