

# St Mary's R.C. Primary School Newsletter

## Special edition in memory of Tony Cragg



20TH MARCH 2026



### Tony Cragg - Rest in Peace

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of our much-loved Chair of Governors, Tony Cragg, who died peacefully on 19th March 2026 after a long illness.

Tony was a cherished and devoted member of the St Mary's community, giving many years of service, guidance, and care to our school. His commitment to education spanned decades. He began his teaching career as an Art Teacher at Cardinal Langley from 1973 to 1975, before moving to St Joseph's, Rochdale, where he taught from 1975 to 1988. He then joined St Mary's as Deputy Headteacher, a role he held with dedication and warmth from 1988 until his retirement in 2000. Even after retiring, Tony continued to give his time generously as a Governor, eventually becoming our Chair, a role he carried out with great wisdom and kindness.

Tony's faith was at the heart of everything he did. It shaped his values, his relationships, and his unwavering commitment to our school community. He was a man of quiet strength, compassion, and integrity, and he touched the lives of so many children, families, and colleagues over the years.

Tony was a devoted family man. He was married to his beloved wife Anne for 51 wonderful years, having wed on 15th August 1970. Following Anne's passing on 3rd September 2021, Tony remained deeply devoted to her memory. He is survived by his daughters, Nicola and Rachel, and his four granddaughters, all of whom he adored.

Tony had many, many friends and was held in great affection by all who knew him. His kindness, gentle humour, and wise counsel will be remembered fondly, and he will be greatly missed by our entire school community.

We hold Tony's family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, and we give thanks for the remarkable life he lived and the lasting legacy he leaves within St Mary's.



### Prayer for All The Faithful Departed

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

### Lent and Easter Gardens

Keep working on those Easter gardens. We ask that they are brought into school on Monday 30th March. There will not be a mass that week now, but we will announce the winners in school instead so please still send them in by Monday 30th March.

### Church news

The whole school came together for a Lenten themed mass on Wednesday. Next Wednesday, 25th March at 10.00am, we will all join together at mass to celebrate our school feast day - The feast of Mary of the Annunciation. Anyone is welcome to join us.

## DIARY DATES

Thursday **2nd April** - Yr 5 Easter Play

School Closes for Easter **2nd April** and will re open on Tuesday **14th April**

## MASS TIMES

### Services to Sunday 29th March

Monday 23rd March	10am	Mass at St Mary's
Tuesday 24th March	10am	Mass at St Patrick's
Wednesday 25th March	10.0am	Full school mass at St Mary's All parishioners welcome
Thursday 26th March	1.30pm	Mass at Alice Ingham -all parishioners welcome
Friday 27th March	10am	Requiem Mass -Carmela Carr St Patrick's No mass at St Mary's
Saturday 28th March	10-10.30am 12pm	Confession at St Mary's Mass at St Patrick's followed by confession
Sunday 29th March	9.30am 11.15am 7.00pm	Palm Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Mass at St Marys Evening of meditation for Palm Sunday St Mary's No Stations of the Cross

## AWARDS

**Class Champion Awards**  
 Nursery - Luciana & Theo  
 Reception - Elsie  
 Year 1 - Freddie  
 Year 2 - Bobby  
 Year 3 - Connie  
 Year 4 - Eva  
 Year 5 - Bodhi  
 Year 6 - Paddy

**Winning House this week:**  
**St Patrick's**

**This week our special award goes to our fantastic St Mary's Staff!**

