

## Little acts, great love, big difference



St Catharine's  
Chipping Campden



St Joseph's  
Nympsfield



Catholic School of St Gregory  
The Great, Cheltenham



St Peter's  
Gloucester



The Rosary  
Stroud



St Thomas More Catholic Primary  
Cheltenham

## Being Present – And Ready to Learn

At the LWCET, we know that every moment in school matters. But just turning up isn't enough. Children need to feel safe, calm, and cared for to truly thrive. Good attendance is the starting point—but being fully present, ready to learn, ready to laugh, ready to connect, is where the magic happens.

Imagine walking into a classroom and carrying the weight of a sleepless night, an empty tummy, or an anxious mind. It's hard to focus. Hard to join in. Hard to feel joy. These things don't just make learning difficult—they make belonging feel out of reach.

Our children only have one childhood. Every school day is a chance to build friendships, discover passions, and grow in confidence. From science experiments and story time to team games and lunchtime laughter—these are the moments that shape them. But they can only access them when they're truly ready to learn.

That's why we talk about being “present and present.” It means having enough rest, good food, water to drink, a calm start to the day—and knowing they are seen, supported and loved. These small things lay the foundations for big success.

Together, let's make sure our children have everything they need to flourish—not just in the classroom, but in every part of school life. Because every child deserves to feel they belong, every single day.

***This is a powerful reminder that being physically present isn't always the same as being emotionally present.***



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### Holy Week at .....

#### St Peter's



A lot of events took place during the final week of Lent at St Peter's.

St Peter's raised £196.92 through various different funding raising events and collected over 200 boxes of cereal for the Gloucester Foodbank. All proceeds this Lent have been donated to Mission Together - Children helping children.

Children at St Peter's also examined in greater detail the Pilgrim of Hope logo and thought of ways we can all give hope to others.

Pilgrim of Hope Scavenge Hunt—Each class has made a Door of Hope. These are outside our classes. It was very exciting and wonderful to see each class' special door.



The whole school remembered the events of the Last Supper, Washing of the Disciples feet, the betrayal of Jesus by Judas and the isolation Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane.

They then took part in a stations of the cross with everyone taking a station each. Each child experienced song, movement, drama, mime and some incredible writing showing the emotions and events of this terrible time in Jesus' life.



The week culminated in St Peter's Palm Sunday Liturgy which was a huge success. Each child considered, how we can be humble and show humility.



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## Holy Week at .....

### The Catholic School of St Gregory the Great



St Gregory's marked the start of Lent with a service at St Gregory's Church. Last year's blessed palms were burned as part of their whole school Celebration of the Word, sharing with the children how ashes are made and connecting everyone with the graces of the previous Palm Sunday.

Three members of St Gregory's staff team assisted with the distribution of ashes to our school community, after they had received ashes from the four youngest children at the school. This powerful act between EYFS children and staff reminded everyone that the message of repentance and renewal spans generations.



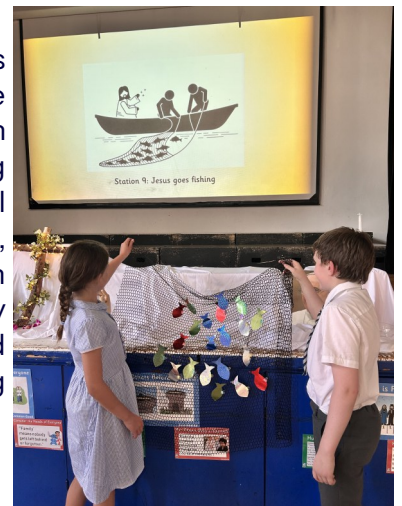
Purple ribbons and 'Pray for Us' signs in pupils' home languages adorned the school gates throughout the Lenten period. Children, parents and staff were invited to add a ribbon representing their prayer dedications, reflecting the important focus on prayer during this special time in the Church's year.

Key Stage 2 children planned and led a Lenten Penitential service, which included acting out the parable of The Prodigal Son

and explaining its significance to their peers. Children learned the importance of God's forgiveness through the washing machine liturgy before Confession was offered by three priests from our neighbouring parishes.



St Gregory's staff and children all participated in a special Stations of the Cross service before Easter and a Stations of the Resurrection service on the children's return from holiday. Prayer areas were built by adding significant objects and symbols, so that all would know the powerful messages of love, sacrifice and hope. Prayers, lessons from Scripture and points of reflection deeply connected the children to the content and made this a very special way of celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection.



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## Holy Week at .....

### St Thomas More



The children of St Thomas more took part in a reconciliation service during Lent and they refreshed all of their classroom prayer areas to reflect the colours and themes of Lent.

Just before leaving school for the holidays, the school took part in a Liturgy that re-enacted the events of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday—such an important part of the Easter story.

### The Rosary

The Chaplaincy Team led a Stations of the Cross around the school grounds. We sang 'Jesus, remember me' between each station and the children took part prayerfully and respectfully. The last station was especially moving as when we bowed our head to remember Jesus' death, the only sound nearby was the birds singing.



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### Holy Week at .....

#### St Joseph's

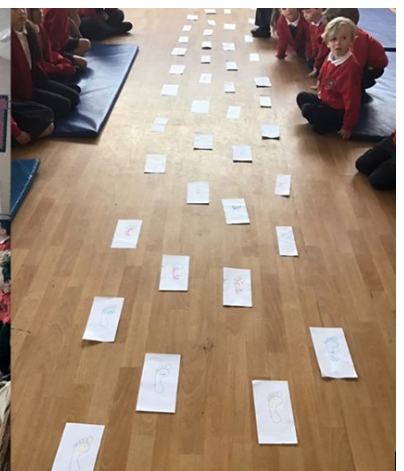


The whole school at St Joseph's took part in a very reverent Stations of the Cross where children took turns to read parts of the story and shared artwork to help us imagine some of the scenes from Jesus' journey. The children had special costumes to wear and acted parts out—this was especially helpful to the younger children to imagine what that journey must have been like.



#### St Catharine's

Last term, each class took part in planning and leading a weekly paraliturgy as part of our Lenten journey. These reflective gatherings gave the children a chance to explore the meaning of Lent and deepen their understanding of prayer. One particularly thoughtful reflection was led by our Year 5-6s and focused on *how* we pray.



Linking to the story of Jesus in the desert, the children considered different ways of connecting with God—quietly, together, or by themselves. Each child wrote a few words about how they personally like to pray, showing a beautiful range of responses, which were visually laid out as footsteps. We also shared the poem *'Footsteps'*, which reminded us that even when we feel alone, Jesus is with us. This helped the children reflect on times of challenge and how faith can bring comfort and strength.