



Life at the Rosary Summer 2025

Rosary Retreat



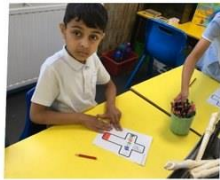
Be joyful because you have hope.

Romans 12:12

Your love must be real. Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give your brothers and sisters more honour than you want for yourselves. Serve the Lord with all your heart. Be joyful because you have HOPE. Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times. Share with God's people who need help.

Pope Francis called for 2025 to be a Year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years, and we wanted to celebrate this! During the year we have been exploring how we are called to be pilgrims and in June we celebrated our retreat day with Dan and Emily from One Life Music. Called, 'We Will Go Out', the retreat celebrated the gift of HOPE and the joy of discipleship, through music, sharing, prayer and activities. The children had a wonderful day together thinking about how they will go out as pilgrims of hope and make a difference in the world.







Rosary Pilgrimage Day



Pilgrimage is a symbol of life. It makes us think of life as walking, as a path. If a person does not walk, but instead stays still, this is not useful; it accomplishes nothing. **Pope Francis**

Pilgrimage Day – A Journey of Faith

On Monday, we celebrated our very own **Pilgrimage Day** – a special time of reflection and discovery as part of our **Jubilee Year of Hope** celebrations.

Throughout the day, we learned about different pilgrimages from around the world, exploring the rich traditions and spiritual significance behind each journey.

We then took part in our own meaningful pilgrimage experience, walking together in faith, hope, and unity.

It was a day of learning, connection, and deepening our understanding of what it means to embark on a journey of faith.

Vatican City



1 - Vatican City

Pilgrimage to Vatican City – Led by Mrs. Price

As part of our Pilgrimage Day, **Mrs. Price led us on a reflective journey to Vatican City – the heart of the Catholic faith.**

Together, we learned about the importance of the Vatican and its deep connection to the life of the Church. We listened to the words of **Pope Leo**, discovering that he had taken on the **seat of St. Peter**, the first pope.

We reflected on the **symbol of the key**, which represents the authority given to St. Peter by Jesus – a powerful reminder of leadership, faith, and responsibility in the Church.





Mecca



Pilgrimage to Mecca – Led by Mrs. Hussain and Mrs. Rajbhai

As part of our exploration of pilgrimages around the world, **Mrs. Hussain and Mrs. Rajbhai guided us on a journey to Mecca**, one of the most sacred places in Islam.

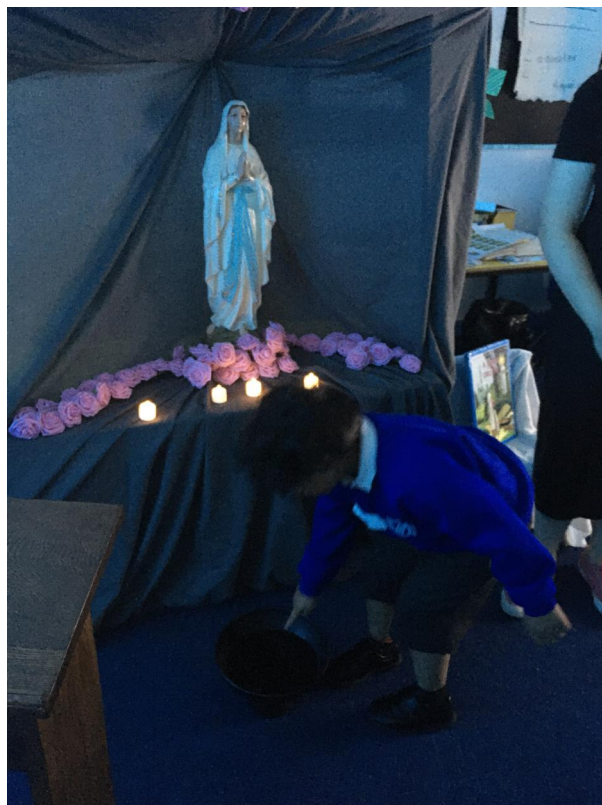
We learned about the **Hajj pilgrimage**, which millions of Muslims undertake every year as a key part of their faith. Through this virtual visit, we explored the **Kaaba**, the rituals performed during Hajj, and the deep spiritual significance the journey holds for Muslims.

It was a valuable opportunity to grow in our understanding and respect for different religious traditions and the shared human experience of faith.





Lourdes



Pilgrimage to Lourdes – Led by Mrs. Liebig

Our next journey took us to **Lourdes, in France**, led by **Mrs. Liebig**. Lourdes is a place of **healing and hope**, and a significant site of pilgrimage for Catholics around the world.

We learned about **St. Bernadette**, who experienced visions of **Our Lady (Mary)** at the grotto in Lourdes. Pilgrims travel there to pray, reflect, and seek healing—both physical and spiritual—through the **miraculous waters** of the spring.

It was a powerful reminder of faith, compassion, and the strength found in moments of prayer and belief.



The Golden Temple



Pilgrimage to the Golden Temple – Led by Ms. Sharp

Ms. Sharp led us on a journey to **the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India**—the holiest site in **Sikhism**. Also known as **Harmandir Sahib**, the Golden Temple is a place of **peace, equality, and community**.

We learned about the importance of **seva** (selfless service), **langar** (the free community kitchen), and the values of **humility, generosity, and unity** that are at the heart of Sikh pilgrimage.

This experience helped us understand how faith can bring people together in service and reflection, no matter their background.





Camino de Santiago



Pilgrimage to the Camino de Santiago – Led by Mrs. Banks and Mrs. Norris

Mrs. Banks and Mrs. Norris took us on a reflective journey along the **Camino de Santiago**, also known as **The Way of St. James**. This ancient pilgrimage route, stretching across parts of Europe and ending at the **Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain**, has been followed by pilgrims for centuries.

We explored the idea of **pilgrimage as a personal and spiritual journey**, where time is taken for prayer, reflection, and connecting with God. The Camino teaches values such as **perseverance, simplicity, and faith**.





Hinduism



Hindu Pilgrimage – Led by Miss Driver

Miss Driver guided us on a journey through some of the most sacred pilgrimage sites in **Hinduism**. We explored the significance of places like **Varanasi**, located on the banks of the **River Ganges**, which is considered a holy city for millions of Hindus.

We learned how pilgrimage in Hinduism is a time for **spiritual growth, purification, and devotion**. Pilgrims often take part in rituals such as **bathing in the Ganges**, offering prayers, and seeking blessings at temples dedicated to deities like **Shiva** and **Vishnu**.

This journey gave us insight into the deep spirituality, tradition, and meaning that Hindu pilgrims find through their sacred travels.



Rosary Church



Pilgrimage to the Rosary Church – Led by Miss Daly

Miss Daly led us on a peaceful and reflective pilgrimage to the **Rosary Church**, where we spent time in **prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament**.

This sacred moment allowed us to slow down and connect deeply with our faith, offering our intentions in silence and stillness. We reflected on how **the Blessed Sacrament is at the heart of our Catholic worship**, and how such moments of adoration are a **foundation stone of our spiritual journey**.

It was a moving reminder of the quiet strength found in prayer and the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.





Sri Pada



Pilgrimage to Sri Pada – Led by Mr. Dowling

Mr. Dowling guided us on a pilgrimage to **Sri Pada**, also known as **Adam's Peak**, a sacred mountain in **Sri Lanka** that holds spiritual significance for multiple religions, including **Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity**.

We learned about the **sacred footprint** at the summit, believed by different faiths to belong to Buddha, Shiva, Adam, or St. Thomas, depending on the tradition. Pilgrims climb the mountain—often before dawn—to witness the **sunrise at the peak**, a symbol of enlightenment, renewal, and spiritual awakening.

This journey reminded us of the shared human search for meaning, unity, and the divine across cultures and beliefs.





Life at the Rosary



Young Hearts Connecting Across Generations



In June, children from Years 5 & 6 brought joy and creativity to the Irish Welfare Association Dementia Help Group during a heart warming visit to St Anne's Club in Digbeth. The young visitors spent quality time chatting with older members of the community, but the highlight of the day was a collaborative arts and crafts activity. Children and seniors joined forces to create vibrant sunflower decorations. The cheerful artwork symbolised warmth and connection, reflecting the spirit of the event. This meaningful interaction not only brightened the day for those living with dementia but also gave the children a valuable opportunity to learn about empathy, kindness, and the importance of community.





Faith Council Visit to Fr Hudson's – A Heartwarming Experience



In May, the Faith Council had the privilege of visiting Fr Hudson's to deliver flowers gathered during our May Procession. It was a truly uplifting experience, offering a chance to explore the wonderful facilities and meet some of the residents and day centre visitors who benefit from the care and support provided there.

A particular highlight of the visit was spending time in the beautiful sensory garden and sensory room—peaceful spaces designed to offer relaxation and stimulation for residents. The visit was a reminder of the importance of compassion, community, and connection.





Refugee Week – A Time for Reflection and Welcome



During Refugee Week, we took the opportunity to reflect on how we can be a community that welcomes everyone. We spent time thinking about the journeys refugees take and the courage they show in seeking safety and new beginnings.

As part of our reflections, we created a *Welcome Tree*—a symbol of hope, inclusion, and unity. It was wonderful to work alongside our families on this project, strengthening our ongoing commitment to community and compassion.





Ambrose Barlow Dementia Café



It has been a true blessing to continue deepening our relationship with our cherished friends at the Ambrose Barlow Dementia Café. Each visit has been a sacred opportunity to share the light of Christ with others. As our children sang, created artwork, and spent time alongside

the elderly members of our community, we witnessed something truly special—God’s love in action. To watch the joy, patience, and tenderness between generations was nothing short of holy. These moments reminded us that when we give of ourselves with love, we are never far from Christ.

Flower delivery!



Following our beautiful May Procession, we found ourselves surrounded by an abundance of flowers—a symbol of devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Inspired by the words of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, *"Do small things with great love,"* our Faith Councillors prayerfully considered how to share this beauty with others.

We brought flowers to the parishioners of Rosary Catholic Church and delivered them to the residents of Father Hudson's, bringing a moment of brightness and grace to those who are vulnerable and in need of comfort.

And the blessings kept coming! With even more flowers to share, Miss F and Mrs L took them to a local care home, where one resident was joyfully celebrating her 100th birthday—a truly God-given moment of joy and thanksgiving.

Spreading Hope in the Community



During Refugee Week, our children reflected deeply on how they can be Christ's hands and heart in today's world. They were moved by the stories of resilience and hope and wanted to reach out in love. Inspired by the Jubilee message of hope, they lovingly created Boxes of Hope—each one filled with prayers, kind messages, and words of welcome and peace. These were shared with the parish, reminding us all that even small acts, when done with love, have the power to transform lives.

It has been a profound honour and a gift to be part of the Faith Council this year.

Through prayer, service and joyful witness, we have tried our best to walk the path of discipleship. We are so proud of the way our children have opened their hearts to others and allowed the Holy Spirit to guide their actions. May God bless each and every one of them as they continue to grow in faith.

RRSA Group – Taking Action to End Poverty



Our RRSA (Rights Respecting School Award) group has been busy leading an outreach campaign focused on ending poverty. As part of their efforts, they created a powerful poster campaign to raise awareness within our school community.



Final Note

As we come to the end of the year, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the love, kindness and faith you have shown. It has been such a joy to witness our Faith Council leading by example—living out the Gospel and being a light to others in both our school and the wider community.

As you enjoy your holiday with your families, I invite you to spend a little quiet time in prayer and reflection. Ask yourself: How is God calling me to serve? How can I bring hope, peace and love to others? Each of us has a unique role to play in God's plan.

If you feel called to join the Faith Council next year, I encourage you to spend time in prayer and think about how you can help bring Christ's message to life in our school. Then write a letter sharing why you would like to take on this important role in our school. May God bless you and your families this summer.