



# *St Joseph's Catholic Primary School*

*'Treat others the way you want to be treated'*

*Matthew 7:12*

20.3.26

**Dear Families,**

**We've had a fun-filled and eventful week here in school, with lots of celebrations, including St Patrick's Day, St Joseph's Feast Day, and our Big Lenten Walk today!**

**A big thank you to all our parents for attending parents' evening this week. We hope you found the meetings productive and helpful. Thank you also to our teachers, who all do a fantastic job in making our children's learning journeys so enjoyable, enabling them to make good progress across the curriculum.**





Happy St Patrick's Day  
St Joseph's Primary



Our children were so lucky to have the opportunity to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style on Tuesday! Dressed in green, orange and white, they each had a turn to take part in a wonderful workshop with Mrs Wilkes.

The children learnt a little about who St. Patrick was and played a 'true or false?' game to consolidate their knowledge. Then they began to explore the ways that we can make music with only our bodies - thinking carefully about different sounds and practising by echoing back sounds and rhythms with Mrs Wilkes. They worked together as a class to create traditional Irish percussion music with their bodies and even managed to split up into parts to create the complete piece!

Finally, they explored the sounds that they could make with spoons and with a tin whistle and they listened to Mrs Wilkes play beautifully for them! This was such a fun way to mark a special day in our calendar.











# CAFOD

Just one world

Catholic

Agency

Overseas

Development

for



On Monday, we were visited by Therese, a representative from CAFOD, who came to talk to us about the amazing work the charity does around the world. She told us about a new project in Bangladesh, where CAFOD is helping families grow crops on floating gardens. These innovative gardens allow communities to continue producing food even when floods destroy their land, a lifeline for families living in areas affected by severe weather.

Therese explained that around £220 can support a family for a year by providing the resources and training they need to grow their own crops.

Through donations from our Big Lent Walk, we hope to raise enough money towards this project and to enable people to access clean water in other parts of the world. By praying and giving, we can play a part in helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Therese also reminded us that although the families we support may never be able to thank us in person, they always pray for us, despite us already having so much.



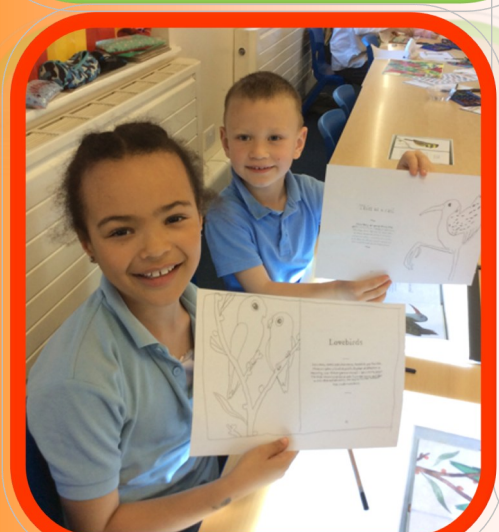




This week in Art Club, we explored the work of illustrator Matt Sewell, who is well known for his beautiful and distinctive bird illustrations. The children looked closely at his style, noticing how he uses simple shapes, soft colours and delicate details to bring each bird to life.

Inspired by his work, the children had a go at painting their own birds using watercolour paints. They experimented with colour blending and brush techniques to create soft, layered effects, producing some lovely and unique pieces.

To finish the session, we had some fun playing Ouisi, a creative game that encouraged imagination, storytelling and teamwork. It was a great way to end a busy and productive Art Club!







**Year 2 had an exciting and hands-on experience at Forest School, where learning came to life through creativity and exploration. One of the highlights was making clay animals, which helped the children understand different habitats. As they shaped their animals, they discussed where each creature might live—whether in woodlands, ponds, or underground—and what it needs to survive. This activity encouraged both imagination and a deeper connection to the natural world.**

**The children also had the opportunity to explore using hand drills, which was a new and engaging skill for many of them. With careful guidance, they learned how to use the tools safely to create small holes in pieces of wood. This activity helped develop their coordination, patience, and confidence while introducing them to practical outdoor skills.**

**To end their sessions, everyone gathered around the fire to enjoy a well-earned treat. The children loved roasting marshmallows and making s'mores, carefully toasting them over the flames before sandwiching between biscuits. It was a fun and memorable way to relax, reflect, and enjoy time together outdoors.**

**Overall, Forest School provided a wonderful mix of learning, creativity, and adventure that the children thoroughly enjoyed!**











# ST JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY

19th March

To celebrate St Joseph's Feast Day, the children took part in a wonderful range of carpentry themed activities. As St Joseph was a carpenter, we were inspired to try our hand at some woodworking of our own, with each class creating something special from wood.

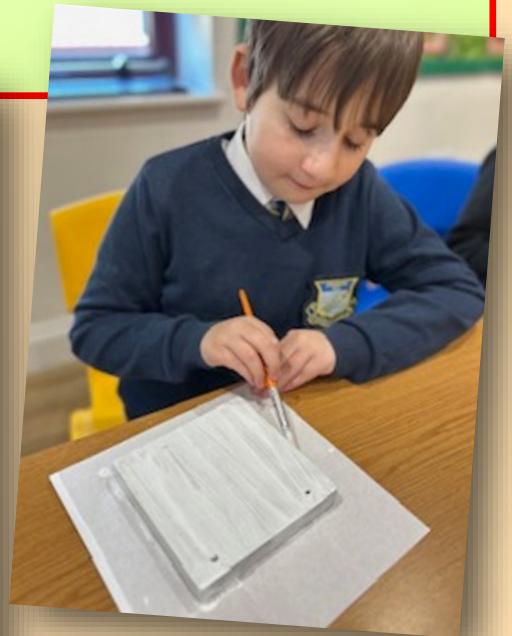
Reception children enjoyed sanding pieces of wood and decorating them with great care and creativity.

Years 1 and 2 worked hard to make their own wooden crosses, wrapping twine around them to complete their designs.

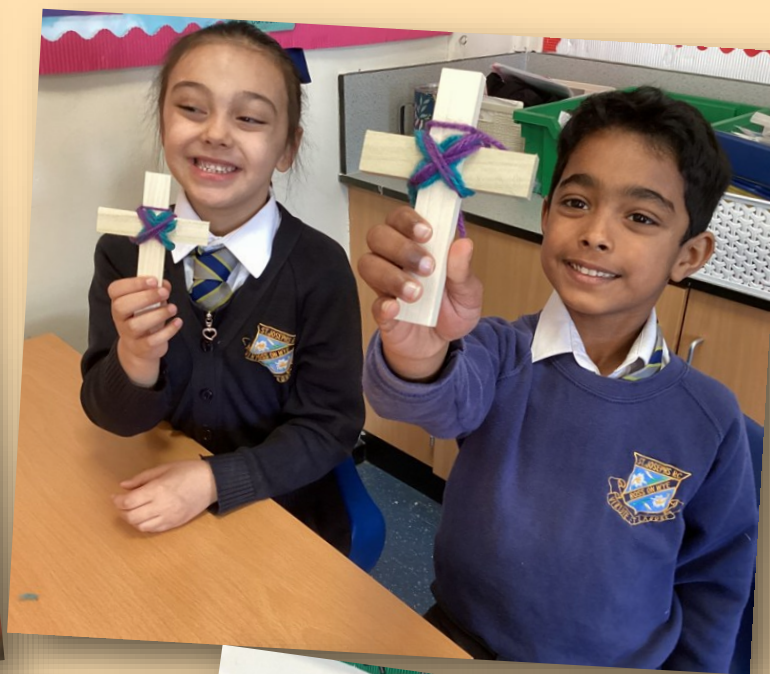
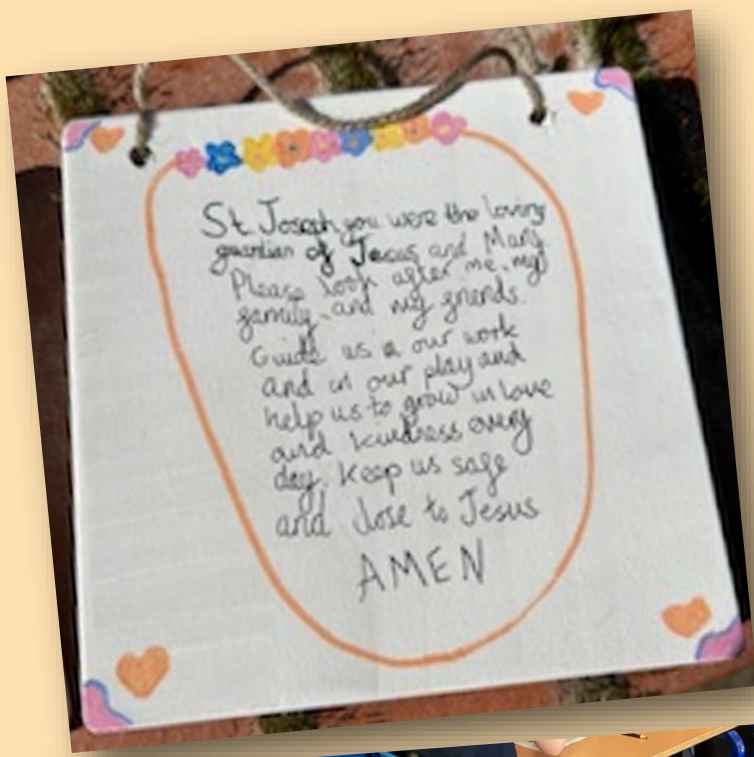
Years 3 and 4 created beautiful wooden cross keyrings, showing fantastic concentration and teamwork.

Years 5 and 6 produced wooden plaques featuring prayers they had written, demonstrating both thoughtfulness and skill.

A huge thank you to Mr Crowther (Freddie's dad) for generously providing and preparing all the wood and resources we needed to complete these fantastic activities.











# Welcome to our Nursery



**The Seedlings have been enjoying exploring the garden in this lovely weather - climbing, playing in the sand and throwing and kicking balls. They have made some lovely footprint bunnies!**

**The acorns and Oakleaves have been finding the correct number of eggs hiding in the sand and making 'easter eggs' with paint and potato mashers!**

**We have loved being out in the garden - playing in the water and the mud kitchen.**

**Acorns star of the week: Wren for taking part in messy play activities**

**Oakleaves star of the week: Bonnie for coming into Nursery confidentially and taking part in all the activities**







  
**OUTDOOR  
LEARNING**  
The Extended Classroom 



# COMING NEXT WEEK!

At St Joseph's



On **Monday 23rd March**, Mr. Mason will be taking a team of Key Stage 2 children to represent St Joseph's in the County Primary Schools Football Tournament, with over 40 other Herefordshire schools! We wish them all the best of luck and look forward to sharing with you how they get on!



Our Year 3 children are looking forward to performing their Easter production of 'The Tale of Three Trees' on **Thursday 26th March at 2:00pm in the sports hall**. -We look forward to welcoming our Year 3 families and hope that everyone will enjoy this meaningful and special retelling of Jesus' story...



On **Thursday 26th March at 3:15pm** in the sports hall, we will be holding a parent meeting for our Big School Camp over experience for Year 3 taking place on 8th May. We look forward to welcoming families then to hear more about this exciting event!



On **Friday 27th March** we will be celebrating the end of our Spring term with a sponsored Bouncethon, organised by our fantastic FSJ!

Children are welcome to come to school in non uniform—ideally something comfortable and easy to bounce in.

It's sure to be a fun filled day and a wonderful way to start our Easter holidays!



CHEESECAKE  
SALE



## Year 6 Easter Cheesecake Sale!

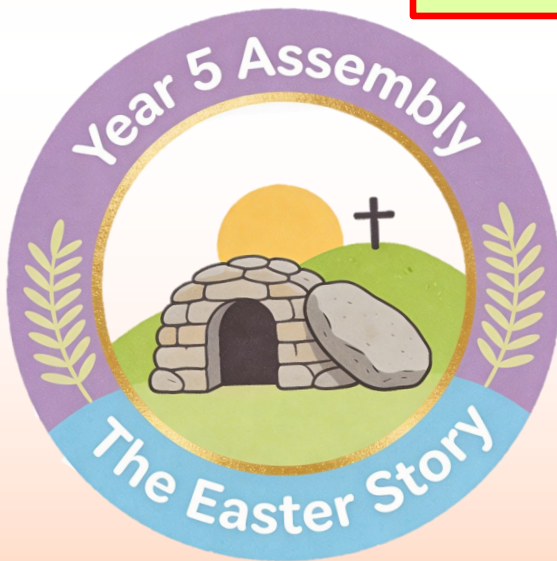
Get ready for a delicious treat! Year 6 will be hosting a Cheesecake Sale on Thursday 26th March to raise money for their end-of-year school trip. There will be a fantastic selection of homemade cheesecakes along with some special Easter-themed treats – think chocolatey delights, mini egg toppings, and plenty of sweet surprises!

We will also have vegan options available to support children with allergies, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

All proceeds will go towards helping our Year 6 pupils enjoy a memorable and well-deserved trip.

Please come along and support us if you can! Every purchase makes a difference.

Thank you for your continued support,  
Year 6



Well done to our Year 5 children who performed their class assembly on Wednesday afternoon, focusing on the Easter story and the significant events of Holy Week. It was a thoughtful and meaningful way to help us prepare for the Easter season, and they all did a fantastic job—thank you!

A big thank you as well to all the families who were able to join us for this special occasion.



A big thank you to all our families who donated towards our foodbank collection for our St Joseph's Feast Day!





St Jos School  
**Something  
exciting  
is coming...**

**Back after the  
Easter holidays!**



**TOY SALE**  
AT ST  
**JOSEPH'S**



**Wednesday 22nd April**

Come and grab a bargain at our  
Toy Sale! Pre-loved toys, games and  
books looking for a new home.

Time: 3:15pm – 4:30pm

Place: Playground

All proceeds support St Joseph's Primary.



**Hosted by the School Council**





On **Thursday 23rd April** we will be celebrating St George's Day here in school. On this day we will be celebrating whole school Mass in the morning followed by a fun filled day of activities from baking scones, to taking part in a design a dragon competition and reenacting the story of St George and the dragon as part of a short play.



**From 23rd—27th April** Year 5 will be completing their bike ability course here in school. Below is the online link to sign your child up. <https://bikeright.co.uk/events/0a5ad119-c201-431a-b182-ce432a327957/>

They will need a bike that is in roadworthy condition and a bike helmet. Further details are available on the sign up link.

The children can bring their bikes in to school from 23rd April and are welcome to leave them at school as they won't all be able to do the course on the same day. They will need to come to school in their uniform and bring suitable clothing to change into.

## FSJ NEWS!



Join us for a fun-filled **Family Bingo Event** on Thursday 24th April here at school. Families are warmly invited to come along for an evening of laughter, friendly competition and prize-winning bingo suitable for all ages. There will be refreshments available to buy on the night. Further details about times and tickets, and how to book your place will be sent home shortly – we hope to see lots of you there!



# SPRING TERM

<b>Monday 23rd March</b>	<b>County Primary Football Tournament– Hereford</b>
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Year 3 Easter Performance @ 2:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 26th March</b>	<b>Year 3 The Big School Camp Over meeting for parents @ 3:15pm</b>
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>FSJ Bounceathon End of Spring Term</b>



We will be delivering our Relationships Education programme during the summer term. This statutory part of the curriculum helps children learn about friendships, families, respect and keeping themselves safe, in an age-appropriate and sensitive way. A letter has been sent home today with information about the programme, including details of how to access the online parent portal where you can view all of the lesson content and resources in advance. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to log in, explore the materials and contact school if you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the programme.





Hello,

I writing to say THANK YOU from myself and all at OCC UK. Our thanks and appreciation go to you all at

St Joseph's R.C. Primary and Nursery School for your fantastic support.

We have had an amazing campaign here in the UK and want to share the wonderful news that 232,844 gift-filled shoeboxes were packed, collected and processed in the UK, and transported to Ukraine, various areas of Eastern Europe including Albania, Moldova and Serbia, plus countries in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Further exciting news is that globally, Operation Christmas Child's 2025 shoebox campaign has collected and distributed over 12.2 million shoeboxes to over 100 countries, an amazing achievement. You have been part of a fantastic mission to bring hope to millions of children worldwide. THANK YOU.

From the 11.9 million shoeboxes collected in 2024 and distributed in 2024/5, just over 6 million children enrolled in a 12 week Bible study course, called The Greatest Journey and half of those made a first time decision for Christ, over  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the shoeboxes distributed lead a child and often their family to Christ! Which is amazing!

God bless you and thank you for all that you have done for OCC. I pray that you will join in with this year's campaign and I am happy to help you in any way,

Thank you again

Sue

Sue Tindall Area co-ordinator for Operation Christmas Child Worcestershire.







<b>DAY</b>	<b>CLUB</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>
Monday	KS1 Football Club	Years R, 1 & 2
Monday	KS2 Football Club	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Monday	Homework Club with Mrs Murray	All year groups (KS1 and 5 KS2)
Tuesday	Drama Club – Fiddler on the Roof	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday	Cricket	KS2 (16 places available)
Tuesday	Cooking Club	years R,1,2 and 3 (KS1)
Wednesday	Running Club	All year groups (KS1 and KS2)
Wednesday LUNCH	Gardening Club	All year groups (Maximum number 5 KS1 and 5 KS2)
Thursday	Dodgeball Club	KS2
Thursday	Dance Club	All year groups (KS1 and KS2)
Thursday	Art Club	All year groups (KS1 and 5 KS2)
Friday	Mr Smith's Cooking Club	Years 3,4,5 & 6 (KS2)





Our Year 5 children had a wonderful visit to St Mary's Church, Ross-on-Wye for an Easter Experience! During the visit on Tuesday afternoon. The children explored the Easter story through five engaging, hands-on activities, decorated a beautiful Easter tree, and joined in singing 'Lord of the Dance'.

The children had a fantastic time and impressed everyone with how much they knew about the Easter story. Thank you so much to all at St Mary's

Church who welcomed us today!







# Summer Term Begins

<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Return to school from Easter holidays</b>
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Beginning of Term Mass and St George's Day</b>
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Family Bingo Night (FSJ)</b>
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>—27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 5 Bike Ability</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Non uniform Day – donations for Summer Fayre</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May—Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Year 3 The Big School Camp Over</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATs Week</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Class photos and leavers photos</b>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>New Reception Class visiting 10am – 1:00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Road Safety Training years 3 and 6</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>Year 4 London Residential</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Reception Class visit Noah's Ark Farm</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>Non uniform Day – donations for Summer Fayre</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>Break up for Half term</b>



<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Summer Fayre</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 1 phonics screening check</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 6 Art Project</b>
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>New Reception Class visiting 10am – 1:00pm</b>
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Nursery Sports Day</b>
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Sports Day</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 3/ Cricket Festival</b>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Whole school Summer Music Concert</b>
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 5/6 Cricket festival</b>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 5 and 6 Residential to Disneyland Paris</b>
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>New Reception class family picnic @ 1:30pm</b>
<b>Thursday 2nd July</b>	<b>Future Naturalists Day</b>
<b>Friday 3rd July</b>	<b>Reserve Sports Day</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Dress rehearsal for Fiddler on the Roof performance – Monmouth Savoy</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Fiddler on the Roof performance – Monmouth Savoy 6pm</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 6 Leavers Mass</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Nursery Graduation</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 6 Surprise Trip!</b>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Whole school Colour Run</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 6 Leavers Assembly</b>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>End of Summer Term</b>



## Allergies – keeping every child safe

We have several children in school with severe, potentially life-threatening allergies. To keep everyone safe, we ask all families to follow our allergy guidance carefully. Please do not send any products containing nuts or sesame into school, including in packed lunches, snacks or treats for birthdays. Some children also have severe milk allergies and cannot be around food that contains milk, so it is especially important that children wash their hands thoroughly after eating lunch and snacks. By following this guidance and talking to your child about why it matters, you are helping us make sure that school is a safe place for every child.



## IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES FOR CHILDREN

Strong attendance is vital for every child's progress and wellbeing at school. When children are in every day, they don't miss key learning, they build their confidence, and feel fully part of class life. Frequent absences, even if they are just a day here and there, can quickly add up and make it harder for children to keep up and enjoy school. Please support us by booking appointments outside school hours wherever possible and by only keeping your child at home when they are genuinely too unwell to attend. Working together to prioritise good attendance now will give your child the best possible foundation for future success.

<b>WYE</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
<b>AMAZON</b>	<b>92.5%</b>
<b>DANUBE</b>	<b>98.8%</b>
<b>TIBER</b>	<b>95.5%</b>
<b>THAMES</b>	<b>96.4%</b>
<b>AVON</b>	<b>95.8%</b>
<b>SEINE</b>	<b>96.9%</b>



## HEALTHY SCHOOL SNACK IDEAS

Fruit, veg sticks, cheese, crackers



### Lunchbox pasta salad

300g/10½oz farfalle pasta

8 sun-dried tomatoes, chopped, plus 3 tbsp of their oil

½ tsp garlic granules

200g/7oz cooked turkey or chicken, cut into bite-sized cubes

1 large red pepper, diced

1 large yellow pepper, diced

200g/7oz baby plum tomatoes, halved lengthways

210g pack mozzarella pearls, drained and halved

handful basil leaves, torn if large

#### Method

*Cook the pasta in a saucepan of boiling water according to the packet instructions. Drain and leave to cool.*

*Once the pasta is cool, stir in the oil from the sun-dried tomatoes, then add the garlic granules. Divide between four lunchboxes.*

*Put the sun-dried tomatoes, turkey or chicken, peppers, fresh tomatoes, mozzarella and basil leaves on top of the pasta. When ready to eat, stir all the ingredients together.*



## SUMMER UNIFORM AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

When we return to school on 13th April after the Easter holidays the girls will wear their blue and white gingham dresses with the St Joseph's light blue cardigan. Please note, you can order these directly from the school office if you need to.

Boy will wear grey shorts and white collar short sleeved shirts with their ties.

Any questions, please ask.

Enjoy your weekend

God Bless

Mrs Francis

World  
Happiness Day

20 March