

Religious Education Newsletter Autumn 1 2023



Dear Parents,

Going back to school after the summer holidays can feel very busy! It's a time of new beginnings: new classrooms, new teachers, new lessons, new schools, new uniform...the list goes on.

The beginning of the school year provides a perfect opportunity to focus on Jesus and to look forward to the school year ahead.

Every day in school there will be an opportunity for children to participate in liturgy and prayer through whole-school assemblies or class prayers led in the classroom by a member of staff or child-led prayer. These collective worship sessions are rooted in and follow on from the Sunday Mass readings or from the Religious Education theme the children are learning about in class.

Gospel message



Key Scripture

“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-35



Pupil Chaplains help Mrs Diver lead the Gospel assembly.

In Sunday's Gospel for the week beginning 18thth September, children heard that Peter asks Jesus how many times we should forgive someone who sins against us. Peter asked Jesus is forgiving someone

seven times enough?

Jesus says that you should forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times - in other words, no matter how many times somebody hurts us, we need to forgive them! Peter's question helps us to understand that daily choices to forgive others are needed.

In assembly we re-enacted how when you make a choice that is not the right one a divide grows between the two involved. Each time the children did not make a right choice they took one step apart. The space got wider and wider with every wrong choice.

Then, the children re-enacted that when you make the right choice the space between the two gets smaller and love grows.

We discussed and shared examples of when we should forgive.

Additionally children reflected and made a link between the Gospel and our school motto - 'Love One Another as I Have Loved You'. Forgiving and forgiveness is one of our school values.

We discussed that when we 'live' our school values, we are following Jesus' example.

Mass celebrating the start of the new school year



The school community participated in Mass celebrating the start of the new year in school on Thursday 21st September.

The Mass was planned, organised and led by Y6.



During this Mass the Pupil Chaplains were commissioned into their roles to serve. The whole of Y6 were commissioned as Pupil Chaplains! We would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of the Mass: Mrs van Den Dreissche, Mrs Fitzgerald, Mrs Galindo-Slim and to all the children who participated. We would like to thank Mgr. Bill for leading the celebration of Mass.



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
"Love one another as I have loved you"

Pupil Chaplains



Our Pupil Chaplaincy continues to be at the centre of the Catholic life of our school.

There is a new team of Pupil Chaplains. The Pupil Chaplains were commissioned into this new role at Mass on 21st September.

The Pupil Chaplains have been working hard organising this half-term fundraising events to support our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Some of the fundraising events that the Pupil Chaplains have organised have included: The Rugby World Cup Challenge and quiz. This event raised over £500 to support the victims of the earthquakes in Afghanistan and the victims who were affected by the floods in Libya. The Pupil Chaplains organised a cake sale to support the charity 'Macmillan Cancer Research'. Over £200 was raised.

Another fundraiser that was organised was 'Brighten Up for Harvest. Every pupil brought in a food donation in return for wearing a colourful item of clothes.

Over 20 full bags of food were donated to the local foodbank.

One of the Pupil Chaplains' aims this year is to embed prayer for the St. Elizabeth's children, families and community.

One of the ways of this has been done through the Pupil Chaplain interactive prayer table.

The focus of the prayer table in the hall is to encourage children to bring in a photograph of their family and place it in the 'St. Elizabeth's Family' book.

Children placed the photograph of their family in the special book. They then light a candle and say a thanksgiving prayer for their family.

More information about the role and work of Pupil Chaplains will be provided in the Pupil Chaplain half-termly newsletter.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention September 2023



The Pope asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. We are invited to answer the Pope's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

Pope Francis' prayer request for September is focussed on praying for people living on the margins of society, in inhumane conditions; may they not be overlooked. People living in inhumane conditions include the homeless, those who live in extreme poverty, those who

are vulnerable because of particular needs etc.



The Holy Father questioned: “How could we have reached this level of indifference?”

He goes on to ask how we as a society have allowed the “throwaway culture” to “dominate our lives, our cities, our way of life?”

At St. Elizabeth’s we endeavour to continue to help our brothers and sisters locally and globally. Some of the ways we have done this since September had been through: The Rugby World cup challenge, The Macmillan cake sale, Brighten Up for Harvest, Food Bank donations and of course through prayer.

How can you as a family, continue helping our brothers and sisters who are living in the margins of society?

Religious Education from Reception to Y6

In September all classes have been learning about the theme ‘Family’.

Reception	MYSELF - God knows and loves each one
Year 1	FAMILIES - God’s love and care for every family
Year 2	BEGINNINGS - God is present in every beginning
Year 3	HOMES - God’s vision for every family
Year 4	PEOPLE - The family of God in Scripture
Year 5	OURSELVES - Created in the image and likeness of God
Year 6	LOVING - God who never stops loving

Please look at the R.E. Knowledge Organisers on the St. Elizabeth’s website to obtain more detail about what your child is learning about in R.E.

Parent Prayer Club



We would like to invite parents to attend a prayer club each Thursday in school starting from 9th November.

The prayer club will begin on Thursday at 2:45 pm in the 'Phonics room'.

Mrs Diver will be endeavour to be present and this will be an opportunity for parents to pray together and talk their faith.



The start of the school year is always a busy time for all the family.

One of the Pupil Chaplains aims this year is for St. Elizabeth's children, families and community to embed prayer more into our daily life.

Why not take some time to pause and pray to God as a family?

Our top tips:

- Sit down together. Light a candle if you want to. Play some gentle music.
- Make the Sign of the Cross together and invite Jesus to be with you.
- Take a few moments of quiet, to listen and be still.

- Say a familiar prayer and/or share highlights of your day.
- Finish with the Sign of the Cross and then share how it felt to pray to God. (Peaceful? Calming? Empowering?)

In school we are praying for our brothers and sisters who have been affected by war.

Let us pray

God of all,

Open our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Open our ears to hear your words of hope and compassion.

Open our mouths to speak up when people are suffering.

Open our hearts, to reach out in love.

Amen.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Diver

Deputy Headteacher, RE and Catholic Life Lead