



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School
"Love one another as I have loved you"
Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter
Autumn Weeks 9 and 10



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word' assembly -Tuesday

Key Scripture:

'Jesus went up on the mountain... And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."'

Matthew 5:1-3



We began our 'Celebration of The Word' by gathering to the Hymn 'A litany to the saints'. The children were invited to listen to the words of the hymn and to make links with the message from the Gospel.

With the help of Pupil Chaplains, we identified what we needed on make our table a sacred space: The liturgical cloth was white indicating that we were

celebrating, the candle to remind us that God is present with us, the Cross to remind us that Jesus loves us and the Bible where God and Jesus speak to us. The children identified that on Sunday we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints. At the beginning of the Gospel assembly we invited the children to talk about a time when they have been part of a cheering crowd - or when supporters have helped and encouraged them. Being encouraged motivates us.

On the Solemnity of All Saints, we celebrated canonised saints, plus all other holy men and women who have gone before us and who now live with God in Heaven. The Saints are our heavenly cheerleaders, supporting and encouraging us to live in God's way.

The saints are holy men and women who put God first in their lives and now live with God in Heaven. We are all called to be holy by putting God first and we can turn to the saints to help us.



Through listening to the Gospel account of 'The Beatitudes' Jesus teaches us what we need to do to live saintly lives.

Through the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches us how to live in God's way - but we can't do it alone. We can rely on God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help us - and we can also ask the saints to help us. The Communion of Saints are our heavenly cheerleaders!

The saints put God first in their lives and we can look to their example to encourage us to do the same! God's plan is that one day we will live together in Heaven as part of the Communion of Saints - and our heavenly cheerleaders remind us that we too are called to be holy. We can turn to the saints through prayer, asking for their intercessions and to seek their help and encouragement.



We identified some of the saints we know: St Elizabeth, St Patrick, St Maximillian Kolbe, St Oscar Romero, St Mother Teresa, St John Henry Newman, and St Josephine Bakhita etc...

We took a minute to pray for our intentions in silence. We asked a saint of our own choice to intercede for us and to pray for us.



Reflection:

How can we be more like the saints in our choices this week?
Can you research a life of a saint and link it to our Catholic Social teaching values?

Catholic Social teaching: Human Dignity and Friendship Week



School Council and Mrs Compton led the 'Positive Noticing' assembly



We began our 'Positive Noticing' assembly, as part of 'Friendship Week', by gathering to the Hymn 'Micah 6:8'. The children were invited to listen to the words of the hymn and to make links to the theme of friendship.

'We are made in the image and likeness of God'. God wants us to be friends with each other and treat each other with love and dignity. This links to the Catholic Social teaching principle of 'Human Dignity' and links with 'Friendship Week'

During Positive Noticing Day children were invited to positively notice each other's skills, talents and values. Each child received a brown cardboard tag.

Positive observations were annotated about each child on the tag.



Response

Can you continue 'Positive Noticing' at home?

Continue to celebrate your children's skills, talents and values.

Catholic Social Teaching: Community and Participation-Visiting Greville House



Infant choir visited Greville House and sang a range of hymns and songs to the elderly residents.

The residents truly enjoyed the visit.



St Elizabeth's Prayer of the Month

Each month St Elizabeth's School community will say a prayer which focuses on the liturgical season. At present we are in the month of November. November is known as the month of remembrance

Let us pray....



Response:

Please continue praying 'The Eternal Rest' prayer during November and remember our loved ones who have died.

November – Month of Holy Souls



November is the Month of Holy Souls. During November we pray for the souls of those who have died. Pupil Chaplains have invited the children to bring in a photograph of a family member who has died to place on the Pupil Chaplains 'Friends in Heaven' table. This is a positive and hopeful experience. Through sharing memories of their loved ones, children see how we continue to cherish those who have died and we pray the Eternal Rest, that they may be happy with God in Heaven.



Response:

Please continue to bring in photographs of loved ones who have died.

Please say the Eternal Rest prayer at home during November.



On Tuesday 11th November it was 'Remembrance Day'.

Year 6 planned and led a special assembly to remember and honour those who have served in the armed forces and died in the line of duty.

Children shared how Richmond was affected during the war.



They also shared their own personal accounts of family members experiences during the war; it was inspiring to hear their accounts of service and bravery.



The Year 6 band played 'I Vow to Thee My Country'.

The children listening learned that through the bravery of the armed forces and their service that we, in the UK, are able to live in peace.

The children learned that the people who serve in all wars should be respected and given our thanks through prayer. It is important that we try to live in peace.

To conclude the liturgy the children wrote and shared some prayers of intercession asking for peace in our world today.

After the Y6 liturgy, the whole school community marked two minutes' silence. During this silence the children prayed for all the people who served in all the wars.

Pupil Leadership Catholic Life and Mission

At St Elizabeth's, pupil leadership is very important. Every week there are many opportunities for the children to get involved in the Catholic Life and mission of our school.

Pupil Chaplains' Prayer Packets

Pupil Chaplains have designed 'Prayer Packets' to support and enhance family prayer at home.

Each packet contains: liturgical cloths, a candle, a hand-held wooden cross, Rosary beads and a Pupil Chaplain Prayer book.



The 'Prayer Packets' are ready for sale.

You can order a Prayer Packet for £12 in the Arbor Pay shop or cash or cheque.



Response:

Please use the 'Prayer Packet' to develop and enhance family prayer at home.

If you would like, please send in a photo of how the Prayer Packet has been used at home.



Pupil Chaplains

Pupil Chaplains wrote a letter inviting our MP, Mrs Olney, into school to share the work that our school community have been doing as 'Pilgrims of Hope' in this 'Year of Jubilee'.



Pupil chaplains have been planning their 'Celebration of Word' for Bible Club for Autumn 2.





Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies have been working hard planning a fundraiser and organising a speaker from CAFOD to visit St Elizabeth's School this half-term.

Eco-warriors

Eco-warriors follow the Catholic Social Teaching principle of 'Caring for God's Creation' where we are all asked to care for God's gifts by looking after the environment.

This half-term, the focus for the Eco-warriors is to turn lights off when a room is unused and to continue litter picking.

They continue to share why these are important to do to in helping to look after our world.

In addition, this week Eco-warriors have been learning about COP30.



Wednesday Word

'The Wednesday Word' is a weekly Gospel 'gift' from school to each family. Each week the Sunday Gospel is sent out via the link below into school family homes through the 'Wednesday Word'.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=163.4>

Through this resource, the key message(s) from the Gospel is shared.



Response:

Please take the 'Wednesday Word' to Mass on Sunday.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for the month of November



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

Pope Leo asks... that, we pray with him for those people who are struggling with well-being and mental health. May they find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life



Response:

Can we take the time to notice and interact with people who are sad and alone?

Thank you for your support of the Catholic Life of our school,

Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains