



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Spring 3 and 4



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word' Monday

Key Scripture:

'I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

John 1:34



With the help of Pupil Chaplains, we identified what we needed to make our table a sacred space. The liturgical cloth was green indicating that we are in ordinary time. The candle symbolises that God is present with us. The Cross symbolises that Jesus loves us and The Bible is where God and Jesus speak to us. An icon of Jesus, the Lamb of God, was placed on the Holy Table to help the children understand the Gospel message. Pupil Chaplains supported during this liturgy.

The children gathered to the Hymn 'What a beautiful name it is'. Throughout the 'Celebration of The Word' children made links between this Hymn and the Gospel message.

As we listened to the Gospel we heard John the Baptist gave witness to who Jesus really is. John the Baptist spent a lot of time with Jesus and he knew that Jesus was the Son of God.



To help the children understand the Gospel message we began our 'Celebration of the word' with questions which showed how well Mrs Diver and Mrs Hines know each other. Through focussed questioning it was proven that Mrs Diver and Mrs Hines know each other really well!

In the Gospel we heard that John the Baptist knew Jesus' true identity and it changed everything. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he recognised that the Son of God was among them!

John called Jesus 'Lamb of God' A lamb represents innocence. Jesus is the 'sacrificial Lamb', which is demonstrated when He was crucified.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We made links between John's title for Jesus and when these words are said at Mass.

At Mass whilst holding up the consecrated host and chalice, the priest says: "Behold the Lamb of God!"

John the Baptist was a witness to Jesus' true identity and he shared this revelation with others — we too can be witnesses for Jesus in the world by sharing the Good News with others!

We invited the children to reflect on how they can be witnesses for Jesus through their words and actions this week. Responses included: holding the door open for adults; including friends at playtime, putting others first etc.. Knowing people well changes our response to them. As people got to know Jesus, like John, they were inspired to follow Him, to live in His way, and tell others about Him — knowing Jesus changes us!



Reflection: How can you live out this Gospel message in your words and actions this week?

Can you spend more time getting to know Jesus?

How can you be a witness for Jesus today?

Can you carry out acts of service?

Pupil Chaplain interactive Prayer Area



As a follow-up from the Gospel 'Celebration of the Word', the Pupil Chaplains have created an interactive prayer table in the hall where the children are invited to record their favourite miracle that Jesus performed.

Through this display the children are encouraged to think about how miracles show us that Jesus is truly the Son of God.

Children have started to record their favourite miracle and display it in the Pupil Chaplain interactive prayer area.

Children are encouraged to think about the message from the miracle and to say one of 'Prayers of The Month' as they add their picture.

Response:

At home, draw your favourite miracle and bring it into school and display it in our Pupil Chaplain interactive Prayer area



Response:

Can your child draw a picture of one of Jesus's miracles at home and add it to this display?

Can your child say one of the 'Prayers of The Month' as they add their picture?



St Elizabeth's Catholic Social Teaching Half-Termly Focus

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is putting our faith into action and living like Jesus did by putting the needs of others first.

At St Elizabeth's, we follow the 'Rooted In Love' scheme to support and enhance our children's knowledge and understanding of what Catholic Social Teaching is.

'Rooted in Love' shares the six principles of Catholic Social Teaching in half termly teaching topics.

This week, the children in every class learned about the principle of 'Solidarity and Peace'.



Response:

Please ask your child about what they have learned in their class 'Solidarity and Peace' lesson.

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 January. Let us pray....



Act of Faith

My God,
I believe in you
and all that your Church teaches,
because you have said it,
and your word is true.
Amen



Act of Hope,

My God,
I hope in you,
for grace and for glory,
because of your promises,
your mercy and your power.
Amen



Act of Love

My God, because you are so good,

I love you with all my heart,

and for your sake,

I love your neighbour as myself.

Amen

These prayers deepen our relationship with the Holy Trinity.

Through saying these prayers we commit to believing in God.(Faith).

We trust His promises.(Hope)

We love God above all things.(Love)

These prayers support us in our commitment to God and our neighbour.

Class- led 'Celebration of the Word'-Year 1 - The Presentation of our Lord'



Year 1 led a 'Celebration of the Word' to all classes and Y1 parents on 'The Presentation of Our Lord'.

Children read 'The Presentation of Our Lord' from Luke's Gospel.

We heard that Simeon recognised Jesus as the saviour and as the 'Light of the World'.

The Y1 children shared how they make their light shine by making the right choices. Y1 children asked how we can all make our light shine and make the right choices too!

Pupil- led 'Celebration of the Word'-The Wedding at Cana.



This Gospel account was planned, led and delivered by Pupil Chaplains in a whole-school 'Celebration of the Word'. This was Jesus' first public miracle. When the wine ran out, Mary's faith-filled response helped others to believe in Jesus. Through a dramatization of the Gospel acted out by the Pupil Chaplains, the children witnessed the water turning into wine.



The children were amazed to see the water being transformed into wine.

Then the children were invited to reflect and respond to what they saw and heard. Children reflected on the significance of Jesus' first miracle.

We discussed: What is a miracle? How do miracles evidence that Jesus is the Son of God? We reflected on how Jesus helped the bride and groom by changing the water into wine and how we could carry out acts of kindness like Jesus did.

Mini Vinnies Faith in Action-Fundraising



Anita, the headteacher from 'Small Step's, gave a presentation in assembly outlining the work of the charity 'Small Steps'.



Anita explained that 'Small Steps' provides specialist developmental support for young children with physical disabilities. Anita, with the support of Mini Vinnies, modelled how some children learn differently.

'Small Steps' also supports the families of young children who have disabilities.

'Small Steps' does not receive any statutory funding and has to raise over £600,000 a year.

For more information about 'Small Steps'- please visit the link below.

Small Steps 'The Movie': <https://vimeo.com/399113015>

Anita was very grateful to the St Elizabeth's School community for their support.

Mini Vinnies shared that on Friday, 6th February, our school community will be coming together to raise vital funds for Small Steps. To show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters, everyone is invited to add a splash of colour to their day.

For a £2 donation, children can come to school wearing a bright orange accessory or sporting a crazy hairstyle. Every pound raised goes directly to helping Small Steps continue their incredible work.

Assembly-Friday Eco warriors



Eco-Warriors led an assembly on recycling. They showed the rest of the school how and why we should use our recycling bins. Eco-Warriors also introduced the 'Big Plastic Count' which is a national survey of plastic waste which the school will be taking part in later this term.

The Eco-Warriors continue to be great role models for the school and their focus on caring for the environment through litter picking, turning lights off and promoting environmental awareness.

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 Bible Club

This week, Pupil chaplains planned, led and delivered a 'Celebration of Word' to a group of Year One children.

The children used the 'Gather', 'Listen', 'Respond' and 'Mission' format to help them plan their 'Celebration of the Word' based on the theme of miracles.

The Pupil Chaplains used the hymn 'Gather Gather' to gather the children.

The Y1 children helped create a Holy Space by placing The Cross, The Candle and Bible on the green cloth.



Pupil Chaplains read the miracle of 'Peter Walking on Water'.

Peter asks to walk on the water to join Jesus. Jesus replies "Come". Peter begins to sink because he is scared and he takes his focus off Jesus. Jesus immediately saves him and Peter is able to walk on water.



Children reflected on times when they felt scared like Peter. Pupil Chaplains emphasized that Jesus is with them always and this will help them not to be scared. The 'Celebration of Word' ended with a prayer of Faith.



Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies have been organising a fundraiser to raise money for 'Small Steps'

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 Eco-warriors will be focussing on recycling.

Eco-warriors have been modelling, supporting and encouraging children to recycle.



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 January



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 XIV's prayer intention for the month of January is for the faithful to pray with the word of God.

In a video released January 7th on X, the Holy Father said that he is praying "that we may learn, practice, and love praying with the word of God."

Pope Leo continues, "The gift of Scripture is God's love letter to humankind," he said. "Let's pray that we all draw from this gift and get to know Our Lord."



Response:

Can we pray more as a family?

With thanks for your support of the Catholic Life of our school,

Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains

