



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Spring 5 and 6



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word' Monday

Key Scripture:

Jesus said to His disciples, "You are the salt of the earth".

Matthew 5:13



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. Salt and a light were 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 'My Lighthouse'. Throughout the 'Celebration of The Word' children made links between this hymn and the Gospel message.

We examined the salt and explained that although salt today can seem very ordinary, it has extraordinary qualities and it's very important for life.

- Preserve — helps foods like meat and fish last longer.
- Cleanse — cleans surfaces and kills germs.
- Enhance — brings out the natural flavours of food.

We heard Jesus speak to his disciples in the Gospel, "You are the salt of the Earth." Jesus wanted his followers to be like salt, enhancing people's lives by being a positive influence on the people they met.

Just as salt enhances and brings out the best in food, Jesus calls us to consider and reflect how our words and actions can bring out the best in themselves and others.

Like a light- lighting up the world , Jesus wants us to use our love by carrying out good deeds and guiding others to God.

Children discussed how they can be a positive influence on others as they grow in faith and love, and that even small actions can help to brighten the world around them.

We shared examples of how our words and actions can be like salt, enhancing the lives of others: examples included; by being a good friend; opening doors for adults, showing kindness and love to all; helping at home; smiling; helping our brothers and sisters in need etc...



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

How can our words and actions be like salt, enhancing the lives of others at home and in school.

Pupil Chaplain interactive Prayer Area

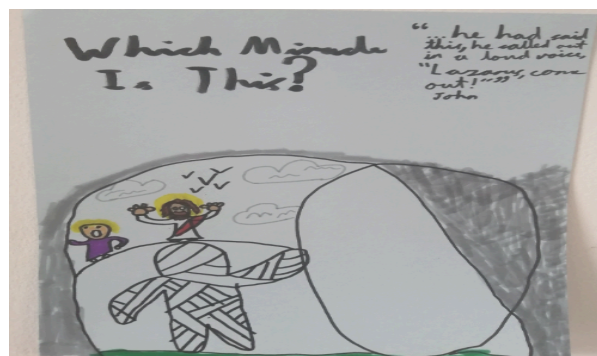


As a follow-up from the Gospel 'Celebration of the Word', the Pupil Chaplains have created an interactive prayer table in the hall where the children are invited to record their favourite miracle that Jesus performed.

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

Children have been recording their favourite miracle and displaying it in the Pupil Chaplain interactive prayer area.

Can you work out which miracles are these?



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



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 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 February. Let us pray....



Nunc Dimittis

**At last, all powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant to go in peace,
according to your promise.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.**

**Give praise to the Father almighty,
to his Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord,
to the Spirit, who dwells in our hearts,
both now and forever.**

Amen

This prayer was said by Simeon when he saw Jesus in the temple. Simeon was an old man who desperately wanted to see the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple, Simeon was overjoyed and prayed this prayer.

Class- led 'Celebration of the Word'-Year 2 - ' Mary, the Mother of God'



Year 2 led a 'Celebration of the Word' to all classes and Y2 parents on 'Mary, the Mother of God'.

Children read 'The Annunciation' from Luke's Gospel.

Children also re-enacted Mary's appearance and visits to Bernadette.

Y2 shared the Gospel message that Mary trusted God completely, even when scared. Mary said yes when was asked to be the mother of God's son.

Y2 shared the ways they have said yes to God.

We were all asked how we can say yes to God today and in the days ahead-just like Mary did!

Pupil Led 'Celebration of The Word'

Every day each class actively participates in a 'Celebration of The Word'.

Prayer leaders from every class(Reception to Year 6) lead a 'Celebration of The Word' each Friday based on scripture readings from Sunday Mass.

The 'Celebration of the Word' follows a four-part structure: Gather (preparing to pray), Word (listening to Scripture), Respond (reflecting on the message), and Mission/Send (living out the message)



Year 6 led a 'Celebration of the Word' in the 'Upper Room' chapel based on being a light and a role model by using their voices to speak God's word loudly.

Response:

Please ask your child to share some of the scripture they heard this week and how they will live out the scripture message from their 'Celebration of the Word'

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 2 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 Y2 children helped create a Holy Space by placing The Cross, The Candle and Bible on the green cloth.



Pupil Chaplains read the miracle of 'Jesus healing the Blind Man' from John's Gospel.

The Pupil Chaplains explained that a man was born blind. Jesus saw that the man was blind and knew he could help him. Jesus rubbed mud on the blind man's eyes and then asked him to wash the mud away. A miracle happened- the man gained his sight! The blind man could see.



Pupil Chaplains helped the Y2 explore what it was like to be blind.

The Y2 children were given their mission and encouraged to put their faith in action to use their eyes like Jesus did to help people in need in their daily life.



Mini Vinnies

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



On Friday, 6th February, our school community put our faith in action to raise vital funds for Small Steps. To show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we added a splash of orange to our hair and clothes.

We raised over £400 which will enable 'Small Steps' to buy specialist equipment.

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 have been focussing on recycling.

Eco-warriors have been modelling, supporting and encouraging children to recycle and use our recycling bins and encourage recycling at home.

Eco-Warriors have challenged the school community to participate in the 'Big Plastic Count' - a national survey of plastic waste in March.



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/holiday-booklet?pid=MTA101634&v=167.5>

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 February



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 February is to pray for children living with incurable illnesses.

We are invited to pray for the healing, comfort, and strength of these children and their families, as well as for the medical professionals caring for them.



Response:

Let us keep those who have incurable diseases in our prayers.

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

Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains