



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Spring 7 and 8



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word' Monday

Key Scripture:

'Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.'

Matthew 4:1-2



With the help of Pupil Chaplains, we identified what we needed to make our table a sacred space. The liturgical cloth was purple indicating that we are in a penitential 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 image of Jesus sitting in the desert was added to the sacred space.

The children gathered to the hymn 'Christ Be Beside Me'. Throughout the 'Celebration of The Word' children made links between this hymn and the Gospel message.

We looked at the liturgical colour of purple on the sacred space and where it covered the cross. Purple is the colour indicating we are in a time of reflection, prayer and preparation. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time to prepare ourselves to remember Jesus' death on the Cross on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Before the Gospel was read the children wondered if Jesus was tempted to make bad choices just like we are sometimes?

Yes! – Jesus was tempted when He was in the desert. As well as being God's Son, fully God, Jesus was also fully human – so he had the same kind of human feelings and temptations we experience.

Through listening to the Gospel, we heard Jesus went into the desert to take time to think and pray before He started His ministry — working for God. When Jesus was tempted to stray from God's way, God's Word in the Scriptures gave Him the strength to say 'No' to temptation.

Jesus' time in the desert helped Him to prepare for all the challenges that lay ahead. Jesus knows that we too can sometimes be tempted to make the wrong choices — but we can always trust in Jesus to help us to say no to temptation and make the right choice.

Jesus' temptations fit with the traditional Lenten observances of fasting, prayer and almsgiving:

- Jesus was tempted through His physical wants: fasting helps us to put our own wants and needs in balance.
- Jesus was tempted by power and domination: prayer reminds us to put God before all things.
- Jesus was tempted by fame and recognition: almsgiving reminds us to put the needs of others before our own.

During Lent, we are invited to 'give, act and pray' to help us to grow closer in our friendship with God.

Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies shared the St Elizabeth's Lenten Challenge 'Pray, Act and Give' with the school community .

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

As a family, support your child to take on board the Pupil Chaplains' Lenten Challenge.

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 they have recreated the Gospel account of Jesus being tempted in the desert.

This visual display is a reminder to give us courage to say no to temptation in the weeks of Lent.

Each class has followed on from the Pupil Chaplains 'Lenten Challenge' and created class-specific ways that they can carry out acts of Kindness.

In each Friday's assembly during Lent, Mrs Hines celebrates each class' act of Kindness.



Year 1 has created an 'Act of Kindness' tree.



Response:

Ask your children to share with you the acts of kindness they are carrying out.



Lenten Challenge-Pupil Chaplains

At St. Elizabeth's Pupil Chaplains have created a Lenten Challenge for us all to participate in to help us grow closer to Jesus.

The Lenten Challenge '**Pray**' '**Act**' '**Give**' was shared with the school community during the Gospel Celebration of the word as part of putting our faith into action and living out our mission to be more like Jesus.



Pray

Children are encouraged to make their prayer life richer and more focussed by praying more frequently.

Blessed crosses made from a palm have been sent home to each family to support the focus of prayer.

Can you pray as a family more often?



Act

Children are encouraged to help others with acts of kindness and service. Some of these acts of service could include- helping brothers or sisters with homework; setting the table independently, helping parents with household chores; making a card for an elderly person, donating food to the foodbank etc...

Can the children be encouraged to carry out acts of kindness?

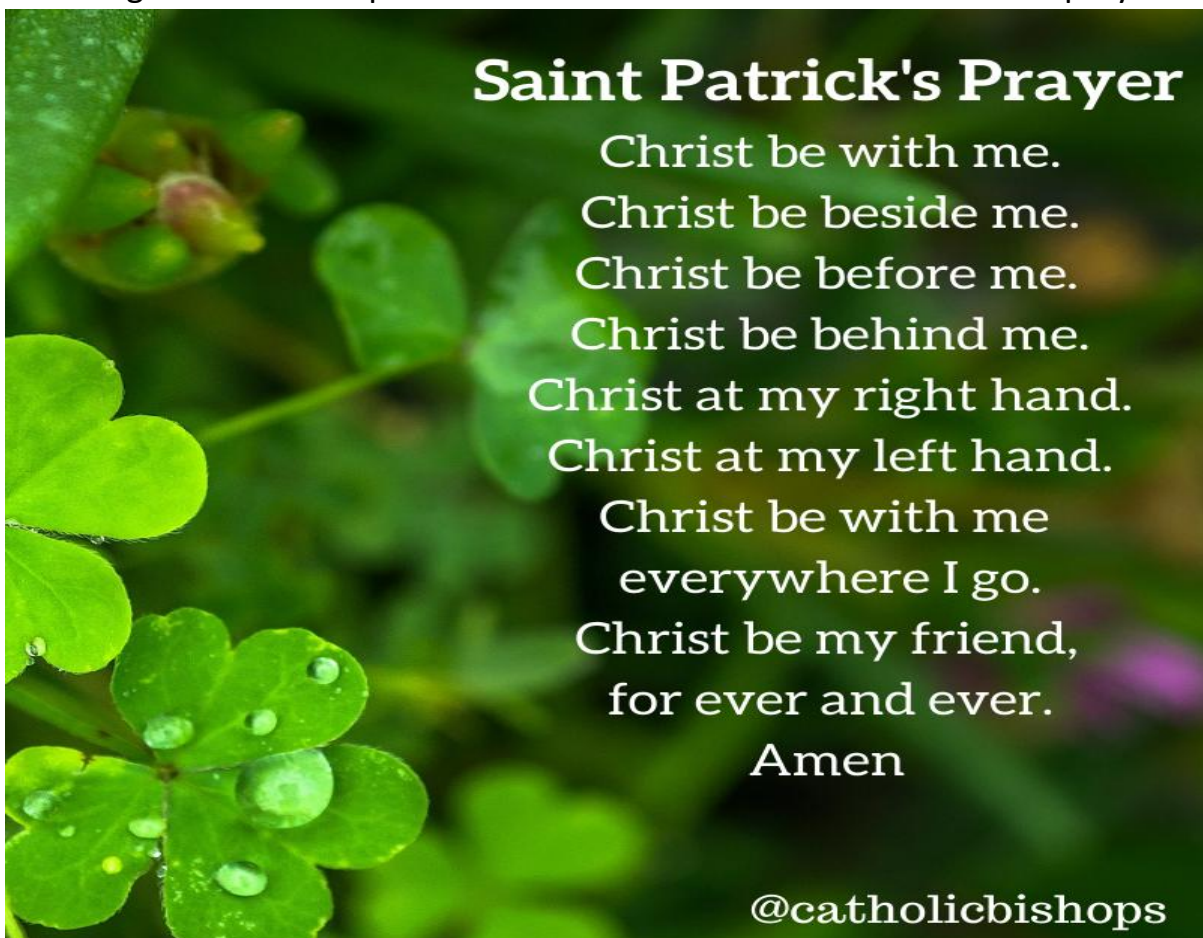


Give

In addition, pupils have been given a 'Catholic Children Society' box. Please encourage your children to give some of their pocket money to charity via the box. Please can the box be returned on 24th March. **Could children put some of their pocket money into the CCS box each week?**

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 March. Let us pray....



This prayer reminds us that Jesus is always with us in every aspect of our life.

He is always ready to help and guide us.

Lenten Service of Reconciliation

Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the joyful season of Easter. As part of our Lenten preparations, we celebrated the importance of reconciliation both in Key stage one and two by each key stage taking part in their own Lenten Services of Reconciliation.

Through the Service of Reconciliation, the children, in an age-appropriate way, reflected on the times when they did not live in the way Jesus asked.

Through the Luke's Gospel reading of 'Zacchaeus' and prayers and reflections written by the children, children were reminded of God's mercy, love and forgiveness.

We heard that with Jesus' help, Zacchaeus realised that he was not living his life in the right way. He decided to try to make up for what he had done wrong by saying sorry, changing his ways and paying back the people he had cheated and even giving them more than he had taken.

Jesus was happy that Zacchaeus had made this choice. Jesus is just as happy with us when we realise that we have done something wrong, and we choose to say sorry and to change our ways.

Zacchaeus changed because he knew Jesus was the Son of God and he wanted to be one of Jesus's followers. Like Zacchaeus, we can change too and make a new start.

Thank you to Year 4 for leading this service.



Thank you to Canon John for hearing individual confessions from Year 4



Thank you to Year 2 who planned and led a Celebration of the Word based on the theme of 'Reconciliation'.

Response

- **Please encourage your children to say the sorry prayer**
- **We are encouraged to go to confession during Lent.**

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 Reception 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 temptation.

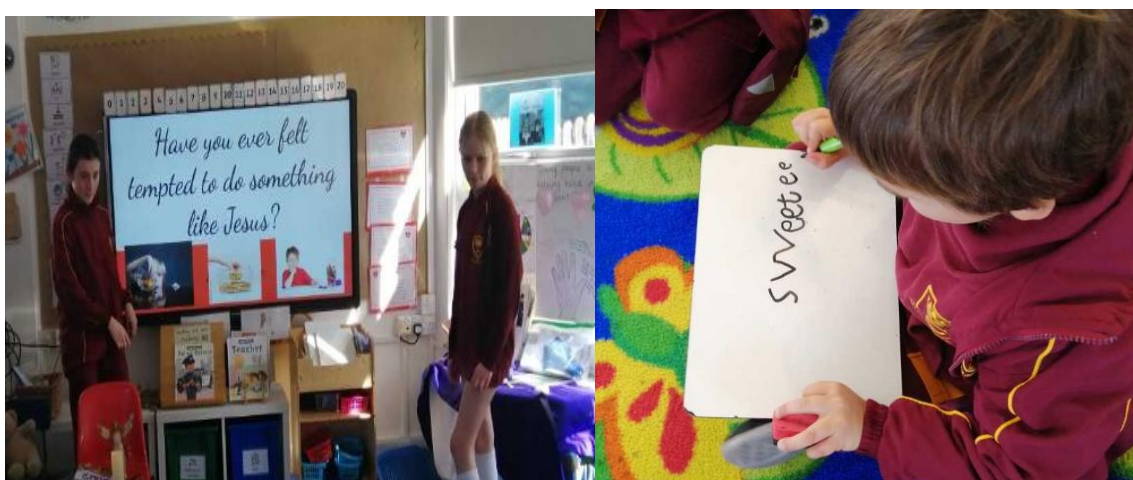
The Pupil Chaplains used the hymn 'Gather Gather' to gather the children.



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

Pupil Chaplains read the 'Temptations of Jesus' from Matthew's Gospel.

The Reception children re-enacted this Gospel story.



Pupil Chaplains helped the Reception children explore times when they are tempted.

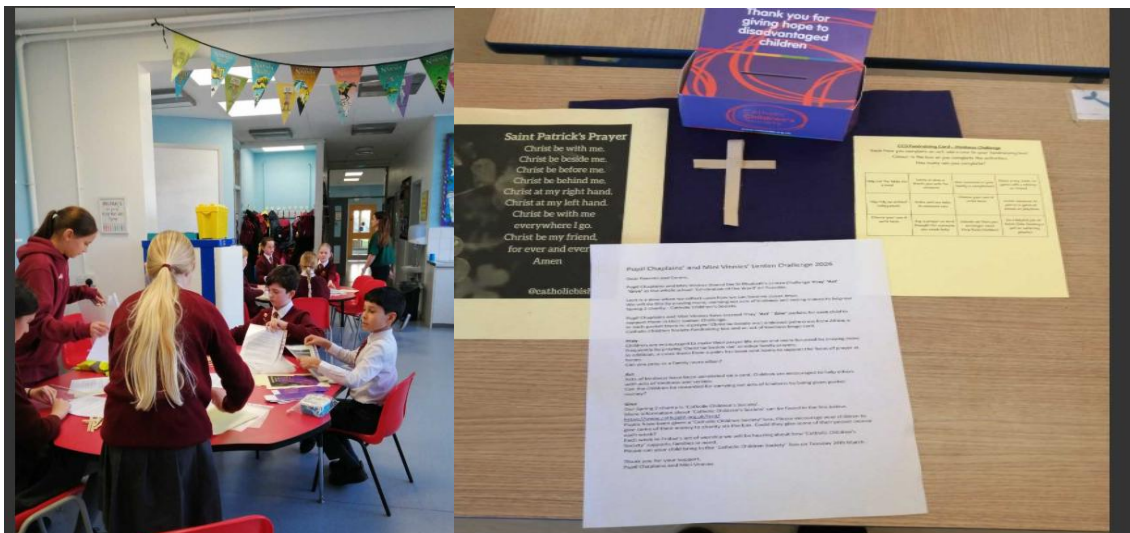
The children discussed times they were tempted and what they were tempted to do.

The Reception children were given their mission and encouraged to put their faith in action by resisting temptation and praying to have the strength to make the right choice-just like Jesus did when he was in the desert.



Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies and Pupil Chaplains have been creating Lenten Challenge packets for each child to support them in their Lenten Challenge.



In each packet there is: a prayer-'Christ be beside me'; a blessed palm cross from Africa; a Catholic Children Society fundraising box and an act of kindness bingo card.

The Lenten Challenge packets were given to each child last week.

Please support your child to engage with the challenge.

Please can your child bring in the 'Catholic Children Society' box on Tuesday 24th March.

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 how we can reuse plastics and they are continuing their work on recycling and are participating in the 'Big Plastic Count' next week.



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 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 wants our prayers to be transformed into concrete actions.

Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for the month of March is that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



Response:

Let us pray for peace

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

Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains