



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Spring 9 and 10



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word'

Key Scripture:

Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back, seeing.

John 9:6-7



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 'We say yes'. Throughout the 'Celebration of The Word' children made links between this hymn and the Gospel message.

Sunday was the fourth Sunday of Lent. It was Laetare Sunday. It is also known as Rejoice Sunday.

During Lent we have been preparing ourselves to remember Jesus' death on the Cross on Good Friday and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We have been taking part in our Lenten Challenge to give, act and pray to help us to grow closer in our friendship with God.

In the Gospel we heard Jesus healed the blind man and the blind man received the joy of sight and faith! Children are invited to celebrate the joy we have in following Jesus, so they can see with eyes of faith who He really is.

We discussed how Jesus helped the most vulnerable in society like the blind man.

We too are asked to see and help those in need.



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

Please encourage your child to show kindness and encouragement to someone who needs it.

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's act of Kindness.

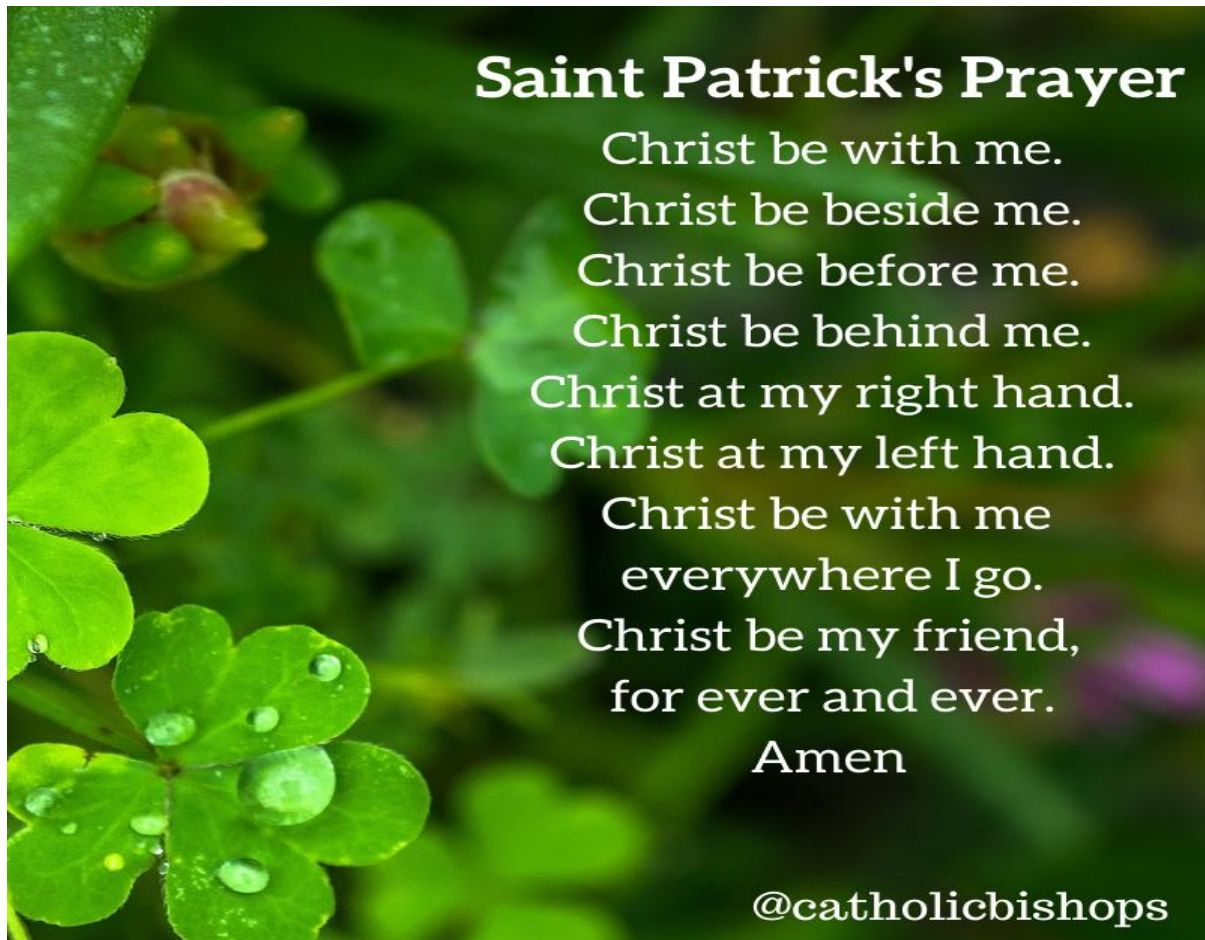


Response:

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

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....



Saint Patrick's Prayer

Christ be with me.
Christ be beside me.
Christ be before me.
Christ be behind me.
Christ at my right hand.
Christ at my left hand.
Christ be with me
everywhere I go.
Christ be my friend,
for ever and ever.

Amen

@catholicbishops

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.

Key Stage 2 Prayer Club

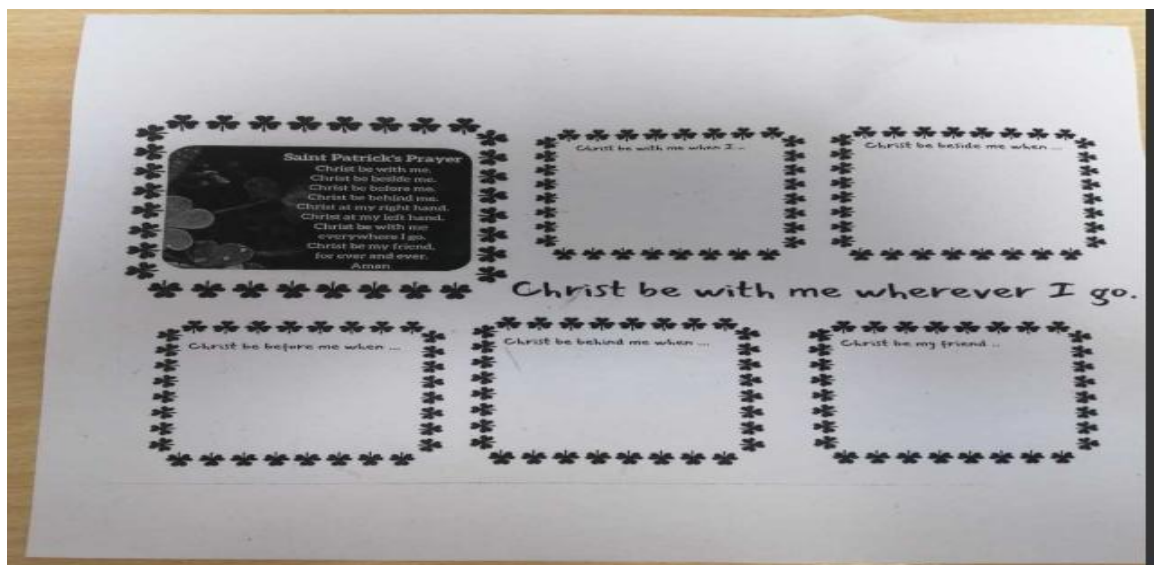
Every Friday, Mrs Frosdick, leads a prayer group in the Upper Room Chapel for the children in Key Stage 2 based on the prayer of the month.

Each week a focussed class from Key Stage 2 are invited to the Prayer Club.

This week Year 6 were invited to pray.



Through praying 'Christ be Beside Me' the message for the children is that Jesus is always with them guiding them and giving them strength to make the right choices.



The children reflected on each line of the prayer. They had the opportunity to record their thoughts and times they felt Jesus with them.



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's 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?**



Response:

Please encourage your child to participate in the Lenten Challenge each week during Lent.

St Elizabeth's Catholic Social Teaching Half-Termly Focus- 'Community, Participation and Subsidiarity'.



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 had an age-appropriate lesson focused on the principle of 'Community, Participation and Subsidiarity'.

In addition, it was very pleasing to see the whole school community putting their faith in action and walking as a community to raise money for school resources.



Response:

Please ask your child about what they have learned in their class 'Community, Participation and Subsidiarity' lesson.



Pupil Led 'Celebration of The Word'

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)

Every day each class actively participates in a 'Celebration of The Word' following on from Sunday's Gospel.

Prayer leaders from every class(Reception to Year 6) plan and lead a 'Celebration of The Word' each Friday.

Deacon Quentin, from St Elizabeth's Church, joined Year 6 and Y1 in their Celebration of the Word.



Through, 'Visio Divina' Year 6 used a piece of artwork to help them pray and to reflect on the miracle of Jesus healing the blind man. They then discussed how they could support those who are vulnerable in our community.



Year 1 reflected on what compassion means. They reflected on how Jesus showed compassion to the blind man and how they can show compassion to others.

Thank you to Deacon Quentin, from St Elizabeth's Church, for joining both Y1 and Y6 in their 'Celebration of the Words'.

Response:

Please ask your child to share some of the scripture they have heard during their 'Celebration of the Word' this week.

Small Steps



A group of Y6 Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies visited Small Steps to present the school with a cheque for the money that our school community collected during the Spring 1 'Wear Orange' fundraiser. The headteacher, Anita, welcomed the children. Anita gave the Pupil Chaplains a tour of the school and showed them some of the specialist equipment that our money will help to buy.

The children used some of the resources to help them to understand better how the equipment supports children at Small Steps in their learning.



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

St Elizabeth's Chapel-The Upper Room

Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies are planning a formal blessing of the 'Upper Room' Chapel.

Pupil Chaplains have written to Archbishop Wilson inviting him to come and bless our 'Upper Room' chapel in the summer term.



St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs J. Hines

Queens Road
Richmond, Surrey,
TW10 6HN
Telephone: 020 8940 3015
Facsimile: 020 8332 0986
www.st.elizabeths.richmond.sch.uk

Dear Archbishop Wilson,

We hope this letter finds you well. We, the Pupil Chaplains at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, are writing to you on behalf of our school community, to extend a warm invitation for you to visit our school to bless our new school chapel in the summer term.

One of our school's initiatives as part of 'The Year of the Jubilee' was to create a chapel at school to enable the whole school community-pupils, teachers, staff and governors to have a dedicated place to pray.

It was a pleasure to meet and talk to you at the Advent Service at Southwark Cathedral and it would be a real honour for us to welcome you to our school to open and bless our new chapel.

During your visit, we would be honoured if we could share with you the projects and activities we have undertaken which support vulnerable communities and international debt. We would also like to capture a commemorative photograph with our pupils, staff, parents and governors to mark this meaningful occasion.

We do hope that you may be able to visit us. We would be grateful if you could let us know a possible date when you may be able to visit in the summer term.

Yours sincerely

*Freya, Mateo, Oliver, Jack, Kate!, Emily Boo, Dearbhla! Harri, Dylan
and Honor. Olalio Millie!*

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES - EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

A group of Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies posted this very important invitation.



Pupil Chaplains' Bible Club

This week, Pupil chaplains planned, led and delivered a 'Celebration of Word' to a group of Year 1 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 Year 1 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.



Pupil Chaplains helped the Year 1 children explore times when they are tempted.

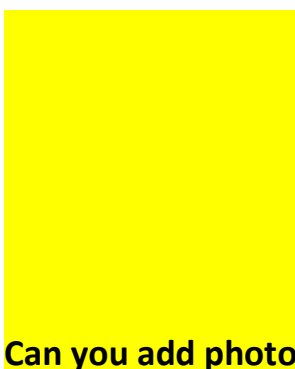
In pairs, the Year 1 children discussed times they were tempted and what they were tempted to do.



The Year 1 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 organised a member from the Catholic Children's Society to visit St Elizabeth's.

Kate, from our Lenten charity –'The Catholic Children's Society' (CCS) gave a presentation to the whole school on the very valuable work that CCS does.

Kate explained that CCS supports children and families of all backgrounds in the London area during difficult times in their lives and gives them hope for the future.

All our children have been given a CCS box.

Please encourage your children to give some of their pocket money to charity via the box.

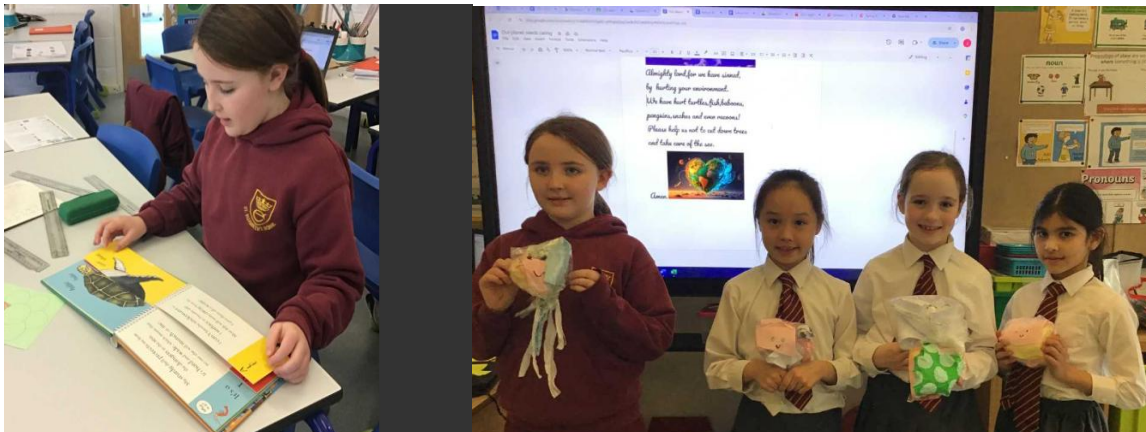
Please can your child bring in the 'Catholic Children Society' box on Tuesday 24th March.

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'.

Big Plastic Count recording sheets were handed out for families to complete at home. Eco-warriors will upload the data to the website, to take part in this Citizen Science investigation. This supports a campaign to reduce the use of plastic in packaging.



In addition, eco warriors have been inspired by the book, 'Flip - Flap Ocean', and have used reused plastic to make jelly fish and imaginary sea creatures. Eco-warriors have been continuing to take turns to give their time to litter picking at lunch times.



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 March



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

