



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

**Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Summer 1 and 2**



**Gospel 'Celebration of The Word'**

**Key Scripture:**

**Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'**

**John 20:29**



With the help of Pupil Chaplains, we identified what we needed to make our table a sacred space. The liturgical cloth is white indicating that we are in a time of celebration. The Paschal 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.

The children gathered to the hymn 'Lord I lift Your Name on High'. Throughout the 'Celebration of The Word' children made links between this hymn and the Gospel message.

During our Eastertide liturgies, we celebrate the hope, joy and peace of Easter. On Easter Sunday, we celebrated Jesus' Resurrection. Now we can say and sing the word that we set aside during Lent - "Alleluia!" to celebrate that Jesus is risen! This event is so special that we celebrate for a whole season known as Eastertide - 50 days of rejoicing between Easter Sunday and Pentecost (when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples). We rejoice in the hope, joy and peace that Jesus brings through His death and Resurrection.

During the Gospel 'Celebration of The Word' we considered and discussed the meaning of faith and belief through listening to the Gospel account of Thomas' encounter with Jesus.

We heard that on Easter Sunday evening Jesus greeted the frightened disciples in the Upper Room with the words, "Peace be with you". We each turned to the person next to us and said 'Peace be with you'.

At that time Thomas was not there and he did not believe the disciples that Jesus had appeared to them. Thomas said he would not believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes.

Eight days later Jesus appeared to all the disciples and then Thomas believed that Jesus really had risen from the dead! But Thomas' change of heart went further. The words he said to Jesus: "My Lord and my God", show that Thomas believed Jesus is God. It's easy to believe when we can see with our own eyes, but Jesus said that those who believe without seeing Him are truly blessed. We discussed how believing without seeing is called faith. Although we don't see Jesus physically, with our own eyes, as the disciples did, we believe and our belief and faith can grow as we learn more about Jesus and draw closer to Him in prayer. Like the disciples, Jesus invites us to believe in Him and share His hope. The Holy Spirit helps us to bring Jesus' hope, joy and peace to our homes, schools and the world through our words and actions. The children were invited to discuss how Jesus and the Holy Spirit can help them to grow in their faith. Ideas included-praying, putting others needs before theirs, listening to parents, not arguing with siblings. The key message was that faith guides our words and actions



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

Encourage the children to make the link between faith and their words and actions.

## 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 scene from Easter Sunday.

This visual display is a reminder of the risen Jesus who has been given new life by God His Father.

The whole school community rejoices in the hope, joy and peace that Jesus brings through His death and Resurrection.

Children and staff are invited to say and record their own prayers, asking Jesus to help them see opportunities for sharing peace, joy and hope in their daily life and to live out these opportunities.

### Response

**Can you discuss opportunities for sharing peace, joy and hope at home and in the local community?**

**Can children record these through pictures and prayers and place them in the Pupil Chaplains Interactive Prayer Area?**

## Mass to celebrate Easter



On Thursday 23rd April, Fr Peter celebrated Easter Mass at school. We heard the Gospel account of 'The Road to Emmaus'. We heard that the resurrected Jesus walked with and revealed himself to two disheartened disciples when He broke the bread.

During the homily, Fr Peter's message focussed on the idea that each of us are miracles made by God our Father and Jesus showed us how to live and to love all people-including our enemies. Fr Peter made links to Jesus breaking the bread, The Last Supper and Jesus being truly present at Mass. Fr Peter emphasized that we can encounter Jesus every day through our prayers and by putting our faith in action in our thoughts and words.

Thank you to Y6 for reading the readings and writing the 'Prayers of Intercession' and to Schola and the liturgical band for the singing and music.

Thank you to Fr Peter for celebrating Mass.

## St Elizabeth's Prayer of the Month

Each month St Elizabeth's School community says a prayer which focuses on the liturgical season. At present we are in the season of Eastertide. Let us pray....



## The Apostles Creed

*I believe in God*, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

*I believe in Jesus Christ*, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit*,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**This prayer is a profession of faith. It highlights and emphasizes the Catholic belief of the Holy Trinity: God the Father; God the Son and God the Holy Spirit**

## Easter Projects



As part of enrichment in RE learning children took part in a home-school Easter project.

The children represented what happened on Easter Sunday in a meaningful and interesting way.

The children shared their projects in class or assembly.

The range of projects was really impressive: Easter Gardens, paintings, stories, posters etc.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

Please come to view the Easter Projects on Wednesday 29th April at 3:15pm in the school hall.

Examples of some of projects:





**May is the month dedicated to Mary**



May is dedicated to Mary. We honour her as the Mother of God, the mother of the church and our mother. Mary is also known as the "Queen of May". The month of May is dedicated to honouring Mary.

This month-long devotion includes praying special prayers, such as the Rosary. We would like to invite parents and carers to pray the Rosary each morning from 9am-9:30am in either the Upper Room Chapel or/and the Mary Garden.



We ask that you come to the school office at 9am to sign in and to sign out before 9:30am.

### **Pupil Chaplain 'Inspirational People Prayer Packets'**



As part of our Religious Education lessons, we are learning about Jesus' ministry and mission. Jesus was the first Catholic social teacher.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He helped people. Jesus helped the most vulnerable people and those in need. We want to continue Jesus' work. In school we call this 'Catholic Social Teaching'.



Pupil chaplains have created 'Inspirational People' prayer packets. Each class has received two packets celebrating the life stories of different inspirational people. Over this half-term, each pupil in each class will take the 'Inspirational People' prayer packet home for one evening. Please share the life of this person with your child. The pupils are encouraged to make a personal response to what they read.

**Each packet contains: A book celebrating the life of an inspirational person, a response book and guidelines on how to use the prayer packet.**



## **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.

## **Bible Club**

Over the next few weeks, Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies will be working in small groups and are planning a Celebration of Word for each class from Reception to Year 5 focused on 'Our Lady, Mary' which they will lead on 6th May.

The children are using the 'Gather', 'Listen', 'Respond' and 'Mission' format to help them plan.

Pupil Chaplains are choosing hymns, scripture and are planning an activity that embeds the scripture message linked to 'Our Lady'.

Then, all classes will gather in the hall to process around the school in a 'Marian Procession' to honour Mary.

All children are invited to bring in flowers for the procession and are invited to place their flowers at the May Altar at the end of the procession.

Following on from this Pupil Chaplain led Celebration of The word, each class will learn about a Marian apparition and the message from her apparition.

## **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 'Earth Day' and how we can protect our earth.



Some eco-warriors led an assembly and shared what we can do at St Elizabeth's to help protect our earth. Some suggestions included: litter picking, walking to school, recycling and turning lights off and being careful how much electricity we use.



### **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 April**



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 April is to pray for priests who are experiencing moments of crisis in their vocation.



**Response:**

**Let us pray for priests or priests facing loneliness, exhaustion, or doubt, that they may rediscover the joy of serving the Church**

With thanks for your support of the Catholic Life of our school,  
Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains