



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Summer 5 and 6



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word'

Key Scripture:

'At that time: Jesus lifted up His eyes to Heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him.'

John 10:10



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 'Come now is the time to worship'. Throughout the Celebration of The Word children made links between this hymn and the Gospel message.

We started our Celebration of The Word with a game about distractions. This demonstrated that it is not always easy to stay focussed. A member of staff was asked to remember a 6 digit number. The member of staff was then distracted! After 30 seconds the member of staff found it tricky to remember the number.

Being focused and not getting distracted links to the Gospel message.



We introduced the Gospel by explaining that it takes place on the night of Jesus' arrest. Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane. We heard in the Gospel at this difficult time Jesus lifted His eyes in prayer, fully focused on God the Father's will. Jesus prayed to God His Father for His disciples. Children were invited to lift up their eyes and turn to God in prayer, just as Jesus did, to help them to stay focussed on God's way.

The more we pray, the closer we grow in friendship with God. Prayer strengthens us to do His work!

Just as Jesus showed His love and care by praying for His disciples (and us), we can show our love and care by praying for others.

We thought about people who need your prayers. Suggestions were people who are not very well; someone who is feeling sad; someone who is lonely; someone who is hungry. We said a prayer for that person.

We started our prayer with 'Jesus, I want to pray for...'



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

Can you pray for members of your family, friends and other people that might need your prayers?

Pupil Chaplain interactive Prayer Area



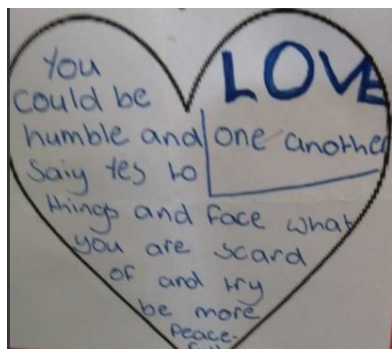
As a follow-up from the Gospel Celebration of the Word, the Pupil Chaplains have created an interactive prayer table in the hall where they have recreated the Gospel scene from Easter Sunday.

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 have been writing prayers and praying for people who are in need: the homeless; the lonely; the sick and those affected by war.

A further example of one of the prayers written by a child.



Response: Can we pray for people in need?

Mass to celebrate the Feast Day of The Ascension



On Thursday 14th May, Canon John celebrated the feast day of The Ascension at school. We heard Matthew's Gospel account of 'The Ascension'.

40 days after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus ascended to Heaven. This marks the completion of Jesus' earthly mission and the passing of his mission to the disciples.

During the homily, Canon John's message focused on Jesus' mission. Jesus' mission was to teach us about God's love and to put that love into action. Jesus did this by helping the most vulnerable and those in need. The church continues Jesus' mission and we are part of the church. We are encouraged to continue Jesus' mission by putting our faith in action through our words and actions.

Canon John highlighted that although Jesus went back up to Heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit to help us live out and continue Jesus' mission.

Thank you to Year 5 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 Canon John for celebrating Mass.

Summer Charity: Mary's Meals



Earlier in the month Mini Vinnies and Pupil Chaplains organised Jane, from Mary's Meals, to give a presentation to the school community and invited them to support this charity.



Thank you to all the children who put their faith into action and looked at home for any foreign and unused currency and brought it into school.

We received over one hundred envelopes with donations.

Thank you for your generosity.

Mary's Meals will use this money to provide school lunches for the most vulnerable children.

CST- Dignity of The Worker



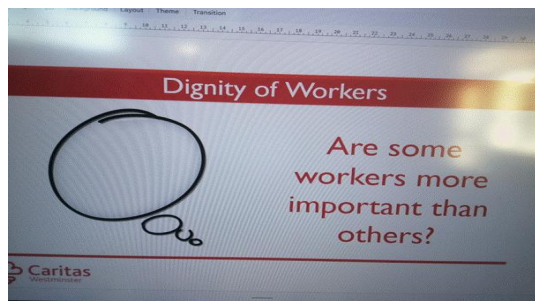
Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is putting our faith into action and living like Jesus did by putting the needs of others first.

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 'Dignity of the Worker'.

The children were asked: 'Are some workers more important than others?'



A wide range of responses were given. We agreed that all workers and their work are valuable.

The children were then asked a follow-up question. What do workers need?

Children's responses included: enough pay to look after their families; holidays; a nice boss; a safe place to work and to be shown respect!

Through our follow-up discussion we discovered that work is about finding a role and place within society, finding fulfilment and a sense of purpose and worth. It is also about people being paid a just wage.

It was very sad to hear that in many countries workers are not paid fairly or treated with respect and dignity. We shared that we can help workers get a fair wage for their work by buying fair trade products.



We looked at fairtrade products that we can buy in our local shop.

We identified the special fairtrade logo.

The whole school community were challenged to put their faith into action by saying thank you to all the workers in school and the local area and to buy some fairtrade products.



Response:

Please ask your child about what they have learned in their class 'Dignity of the Worker' lesson.

Please research what is Fairtrade.

May is known as 'The Month of Our Lady'



Pupil Chaplains have set up a prayer table to honour Mary in the school hall and to remind children to pray The Rosary.



May is the month to honour Mary.

Mary helps us stay close to Jesus. Mary is a role model. Through her life she teaches us to love and trust God

We show our love for Mary by praying, singing and making May Altars.



Response:

Can you make a May Altar at home?

Marian Apparitions

Following on from the Pupil Chaplain led Celebration of the Word, each class has learned about a Marian apparition and the message that Mary gave during the apparition.

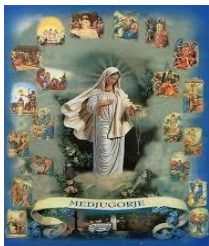
Below are the apparitions that each class have learned about:



Reception: Our Lady of Knock



Year 1: Our Lady of Vailankanni



Year 2: Our Lady of Medjugorje



Year 3: Our Lady of Walsingham



Year 4: Our Lady of Guadalupe



Year 5: Our Lady of Kibeho



Year 6: Our Lady of Lourdes



Response

Please ask your child to share with you the message from the Marian Apparition that they learned about.

Class-led 'Celebration of the Word'-Year 4 - Mary



Year 4 planned and led a 'Celebration of the Word' to all classes and to Year 4 parents on the theme of Mary.

Children re-enacted scenes using scripture from Mary's life through: The Annunciation; The Visitation; The birth of Jesus and The wedding of Cana.

The Y4 children explained that when we pray The Rosary we remember significant parts of Jesus and Mary's life.

We learned that Mary is a role model for us and we were encouraged to use her example in the choices we make.

Thank you to Y4 for leading us in the Celebration of The Word.

Parent-led Rosary in The Upper Room Chapel



It has been great to see groups of parents praying The Rosary in The Upper Room Chapel during the month of May.

Thank you to parents who have led praying the Rosary each morning and for the parents who attended.

In addition, The Upper Room Chapel, The Mary Garden and each classroom are being used by classes to pray The Rosary during the month of May. Here are some of the classes praying The Rosary.

Reception praying in The Mary Garden



Year 1 praying The Rosary



Y2 praying The Rosary



Year 3 praying The Rosary



Year 4 praying The Rosary



Year 5 praying The Rosary



Year 6 praying The Rosary





Pupil Chaplains

Thank you to our present team of dedicated Y6 Pupil Chaplains who have continued Jesus' work by living out and promoting the Gospel values and our school mission statement.

This academic year these children have served the school community and beyond and were excellent role models.

Y5 pupils have been invited to apply to become a Pupil Chaplain for the next academic year 2026-27.

Pupil Chaplains have two roles. They plan and lead prayer and liturgies in school. They also put their faith into action and organise fundraisers to help our brothers and sisters in need.

Potential Pupil Chaplains are applying for this important role by writing a letter to Mrs Diver outlining why they would like to be a Pupil Chaplain and what they could offer to the role.

As part of the process they will be interviewed by Mrs Diver and this year's chaplains.

Pupil Chaplains are excellent role models for the younger pupils in our school.

We are very much looking forward to receiving and reading Y5 letters of application for the role of Pupil Chaplain and creating the new Pupil Chaplaincy team for 2026-27.

Please can all letters be submitted by Wednesday 3rd June.

Pupil Chaplain 'Inspirational People Prayer Packets'



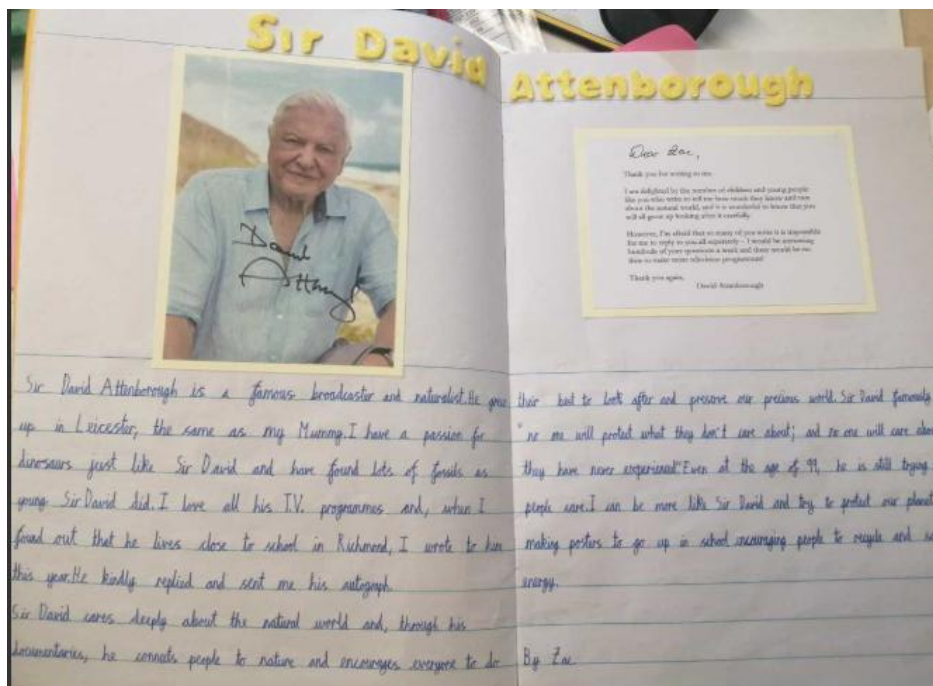
As part of our Religious Education lessons, we are learning about Jesus' ministry and mission. Jesus was the first Catholic social teacher.

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.

It has been very pleasing to see the pupils sharing some of their reflections in the response book with their class.

Further examples of children's responses:



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. (April and May)

Let us pray....



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

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,

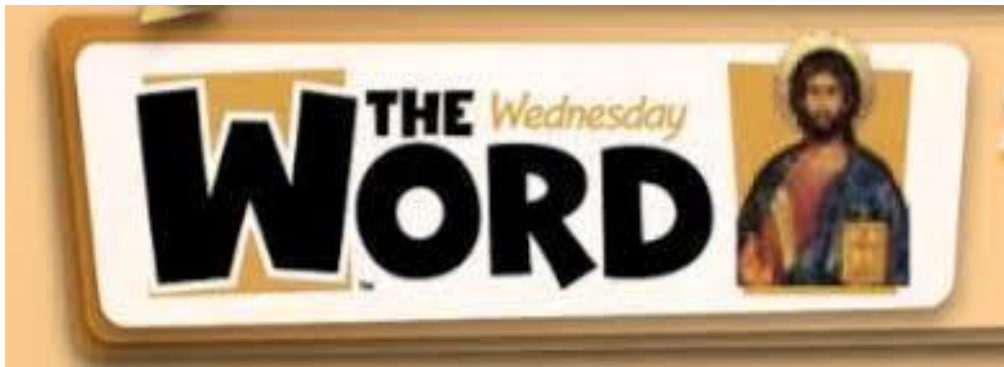
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.



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.

All children from Key Stage 2 are invited to the Prayer Club to pray The Rosary.



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 May



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 May is to pray that everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.



Response:

Let us pray that everyone has nutritious food.

Can we donate to 'Mary's Meals' or other charities that support those who are hungry?

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

Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains