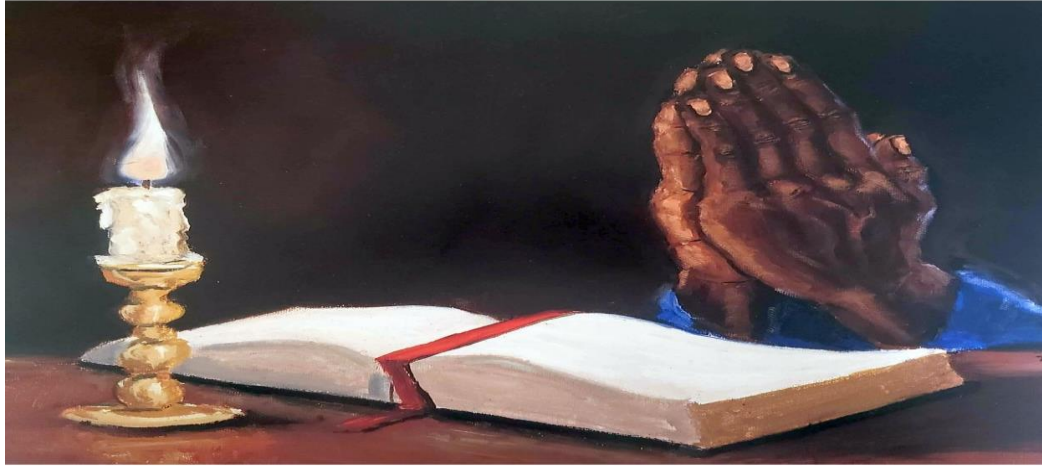


St Elizabeth's School RE Newsletter

February 2021



The Power of Prayer

In last week's Gospel assembly children learned that Jesus healed and that He still heals today. In addition, children also learned that prayer is a way to find guidance from God. We heard from the Gospel that Jesus prayed to God each morning and Jesus asked God to guide Him with the choices He had to make during the day ahead.

Like Jesus, we can talk to God. We can share all our worries and concerns, as well as things that we're happy about and thankful for, just like Jesus did in Sunday's Gospel.

In assembly, we shared that when we don't listen to God, it's like we're wearing a blindfold. But when we talk to Him, it's like He takes the blindfold off and speaks to us!



Lent

Within six weeks, we will celebrate the most important feast of the Church's year, Easter.

The period of preparation before Easter is 'Lent'. Lent is a word closely connected with 'Spring' and new life. Lent lasts for 40 days. It begins this Wednesday 17th February.

This period of time, 40 days, reflects the length of time Jesus was tempted in the desert. Jesus said no to temptation.

After the 40 days Jesus then began His mission – teaching about God's love.

Lent is also a special time of the year for us. Lent helps us to prepare ourselves to receive the Easter message.

During the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, we will be asked to prepare ourselves by emphasising three aspects of Christian living: prayer, fasting and alms giving. We will focus on all three ways during our assemblies over the next 6 weeks.



St Elizabeth's Lenten challenge

This theme of prayer sets us up very well for the season of Lent.

Our theme for Lent this year is 'Pray more and be a Good Samaritan' which is a child friendly interpretation of last week's Gospel. Throughout Lent, our assemblies will encourage children to make their prayer life richer and help others with acts of service. This challenge has been inspired by Pope Francis who has asked us to pray more by 'spending time with Jesus' and through 'Fratelli Tutti', Pope Francis has stated each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders.

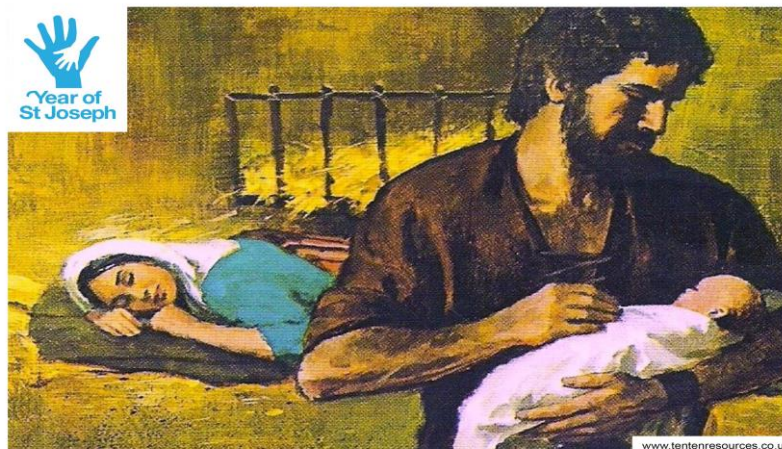
We are sending with this newsletter, a calendar for children to print and annotate how they are being a Good Samaritan, helping others each day during Lent. Examples could be helping brothers or sisters with homework, helping parents with household chores, making a card for an elderly person, praying for someone in need etc...

Please encourage your child to do this each day in Lent. Our class teachers and assemblies during Lent will reinforce this.

This is a prayer which children can say each day during Lent to remind them that they can talk to God any time, in any way! Why not pray it together with your child at home?

*Loving Father,
As I breathe in and as I breathe out,
help me to remember you.
Help me to love you and love others.*

Amen



Year of St Joseph: The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple 2nd February

Joseph is a wonderful model for Christians today as we live in the modern world. Through Joseph's quiet support and commitment, to the way he lived his life, the way he followed his faith and loved his family, he fulfilled what God wanted him to do. He also fulfilled the prophecies from the Old Testament. This was evident when he took Mary to the temple to give thanks for their son, Jesus.

He is an inspiration to us and for us.

Wishing you a peaceful half-term,

Mrs Diver

RE and Catholic Life Lead and Deputy Head