



Happy new year to you and your family!

At the beginning of a new year, we often think of making a new start or becoming better at something. It's sometimes thought of as a time to leave old ways behind, with slogans such as 'New year, new you' seen everywhere.

During January, In Mrs Hines' assemblies, we have been discussing the idea of New Year's resolutions with children.

As well as the whole school resolutions to improve our spoken and written language, the children have made their own personal resolutions which we are sharing in assemblies.

Gospel Assemblies



In the Gospel assemblies through January the children listened to the Gospels which have focussed on revealing Jesus as the Son of God: The Epiphany, The Baptism of Jesus and The Wedding at Cana.

The Epiphany

'Behold, the lord, the Mighty One has come'. Mal 3:1

Through the Epiphany, the children heard how a star led the three Wise Men to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born. This account shows us that Jesus is the true "king of kings" and that He came to be a saviour to all people.

The Baptism of Jesus

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' Luke 3: 15 – 16, 21 – 22

In this Gospel we heard God say that Jesus was His Son. This Gospel described the Baptism of Jesus as a momentous occasion where we meet the family of God, the Holy Trinity. Using a painting, we explored the Holy Trinity and helped pupils learn and understand that God invites us into His family and be called His children – if we choose to accept the invitation!

The Wedding at Cana.

'Do whatever He tells you.' John 2: 1 – 11

This Gospel assembly was led by Pupil Chaplains. Jesus's first public miracle was at a family wedding. When the wine ran out, Mary's faith-filled response helped others to believe in Jesus. Through a dramatisation of the Gospel performed by the Pupil Chaplains, this assembly invited children to take any problems or worries straight to Jesus, to follow His instructions and to believe in Him.

Living out the Gospel Values

Through these three Gospels Jesus is revealed as the Son of God.

The children were asked to reflect on how they could become even more like Jesus

Jesus came to earth to show us the way to God the Father, and through Him, His followers were brought closer to God: it was the beginning of their new life with God.

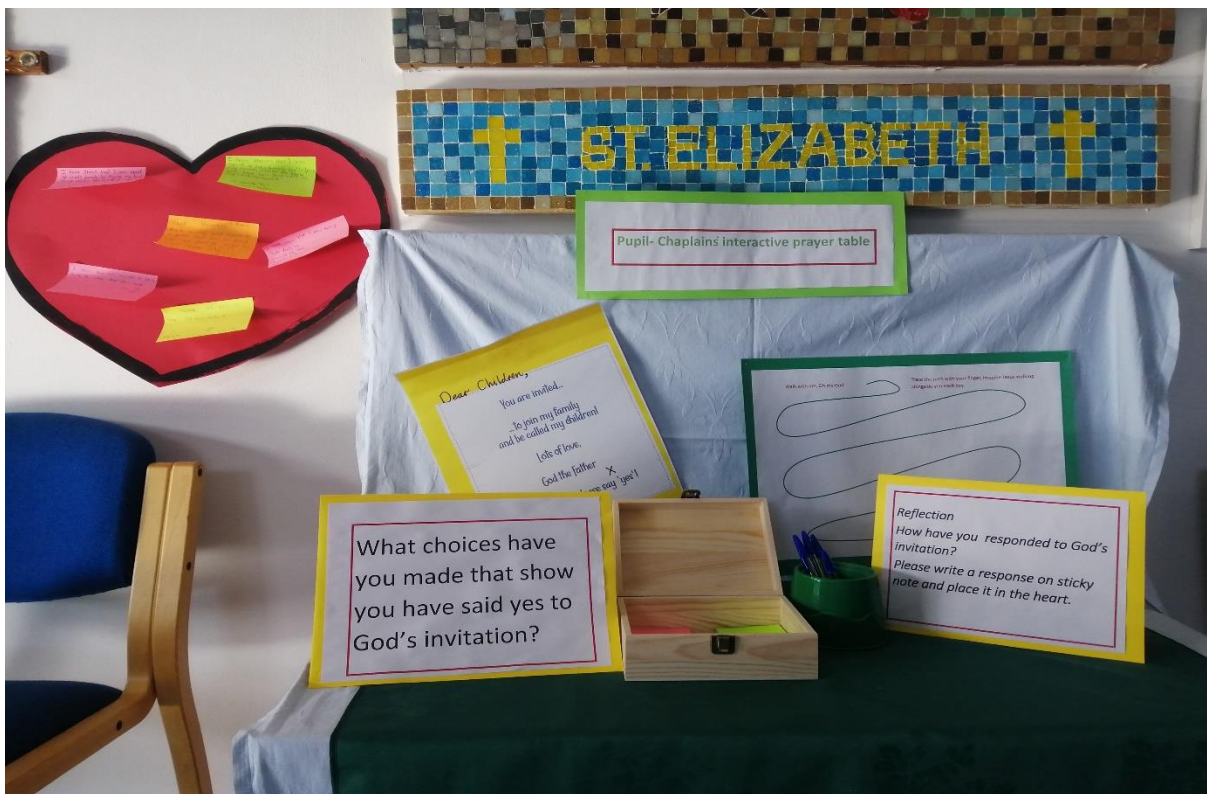
Jesus wants us to follow Him so He can bring us closer to God. He wants to make us new!

These assemblies finished with a reflection where children were invited to make a renewed commitment to trust in Jesus, listen to Him and follow Him.

The children made a resolution to be even more like Jesus.

The Pupil Chaplains have created an interactive prayer table in the hall where the children are asked to respond to God's invitation to follow him through the choices they make in their words and actions.

Pupil Chaplains Interactive Prayer Table



With your child, why don't you?

- *Discuss some New Year's resolutions you might make as a household.*
- *Talk about how to be a good follower of Jesus at home/school/work.*
- *Share about times when trusting in and listening to Jesus has helped you.*



Prayer

At the start of this new year, 2022, why not pray the following with your child?

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you care about all my hopes and dreams for this year.

Help me to pray and listen to you.

Help me to trust you.

Help me to follow you.

Show me the way to God the Father and new life with you.

Amen

Epiphany Celebrations



Children and staff from St. Elizabeth's community shared how the feast of the Epiphany is celebrated in their country.

- *In many Latin American countries, it is the three wise men and not Santa Claus who bring gifts for children. Children write letters to the wise men telling them how good they were and what gifts they want.*
- *In France Le Jour des Rois (the Day of Kings), is celebrated with parties for children and adults. The galette des rois, or "cake of kings", is a highlight of these celebrations.*
- *Children in Spain fill their shoes with straw or grain for the three kings' horses to eat and place them on balconies or by the front door on Epiphany Eve. The next day they find cookies, sweets or gifts in their place. The "three kings" make an entry in many cities in Spain on Epiphany Eve, accompanied by military bands and drummers in medieval dress.*
- *In Italy, La Befana brings presents to children. According to tradition, she's an old lady who brings presents to children across Italy, leaving gifts in their stockings. She is usually shabby in appearance, and travels by broom, bringing gifts on the night of 5 January, long after the little ones are tucked up in bed, of course!*



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

"Love one another as I have loved you"

Pupil Chaplains

Our Pupil Chaplaincy continues to be at the centre of the Catholic life of our school. Pupil chaplains planned and led one of the Gospel assemblies-The Wedding at Cana

In this assembly, the Pupil Chaplains dramatized this Gospel story.

Please read the Pupil Chaplain newsletter to obtain more information on the role of Pupil Chaplains at St. Elizabeth's.

Call to prayer from Pope Francis



The Pope asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. We are invited to answer the Pope's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

Pope Francis' special intention for January is that we pray for those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Through January's intention we are reminded that every person is important to God. Help us to welcome people from all backgrounds and religions whom we meet.



It has been lovely to see some parents attending the prayer club on Monday in school.

This is a valuable opportunity for parents to pray together and talk their faith.

All parents are welcome. Please ensure that you wear masks inside the school building and have a negative lateral flow test.

Prayer clubs starts at 2:45pm in the Environmental Room.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Kerry Diver

RE and Catholic Life Lead