



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Fortnightly Newsletter Summer 9 and 10



Gospel 'Celebration of the Word'

Key Scripture:

'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.'

Matthew 9:37-38



All classes gathered to the hymn 'We are the Church' in the hall. The children were challenged to make links to this hymn and the Gospel message. With the help of Pupil Chaplains, we identified what we needed to make our table a sacred space. The liturgical cloth is green indicating that we are in Ordinary 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. The Pupil Chaplains set up the Holy table and sang 'Gather, Gather'.



Before reading the Gospel the children were invited to listen out for the following phrases/sentences:

- Like sheep without a shepherd.
- The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.

We used symbols from the scripture box to help us understand the Gospel message - the twelve disciples.



Before reading the Gospel we discussed the importance of labourers and their role in harvesting food.

We listened to the Gospel and discussed what we heard. We recalled that Jesus looked at the crowds and was moved with compassion. He did not merely see a large number of people; He saw that they were 'harassed and helpless', 'spiritually lost', burdened, and lacking godly leadership—'like sheep without a shepherd'.

Jesus knew there were many people who still needed to hear about God's love. So He told His disciples to pray that God would send more helpers.

Then, Jesus commissioned His disciples and gave them an important job to share the Good News of God's love wherever they went.

Jesus sent those very disciples into the harvest themselves- to harvest people to follow God. Prayer and participation go together.

Then the children were asked- I wonder... How many helpers does God need to share the Good News of His love?

There were many responses including:

- lots of helpers
- as many as possible
- us

WE are the helpers that Jesus asked for! We are commissioned by Jesus to work together to share the Good News through our thoughts, words and actions.

When we work together for God's mission, we are not relying on our own strength. Like the disciples, we are helped and guided by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The school community reflected how they could show that they are God's helpers by carrying out God's mission at home, school and in the community. We need to see who needs help. We need to think about how to best help them. Then we need to act and make a difference.

Children reflected and discussed how they can carry out Jesus' work and mission. Responses include: helping a younger sibling at home; noticing when someone is sad or lonely in the playground and talking to them; donating some of what we have to others.

Throughout the Celebration of The Word children made links between the hymn and the Gospel message. We show we are the church when we live out Jesus' mission.



Reflection:

How can you live out Jesus' mission?

Can you 'see, think, do' this week to help someone in need?

Pupil Chaplain interactive Prayer Area



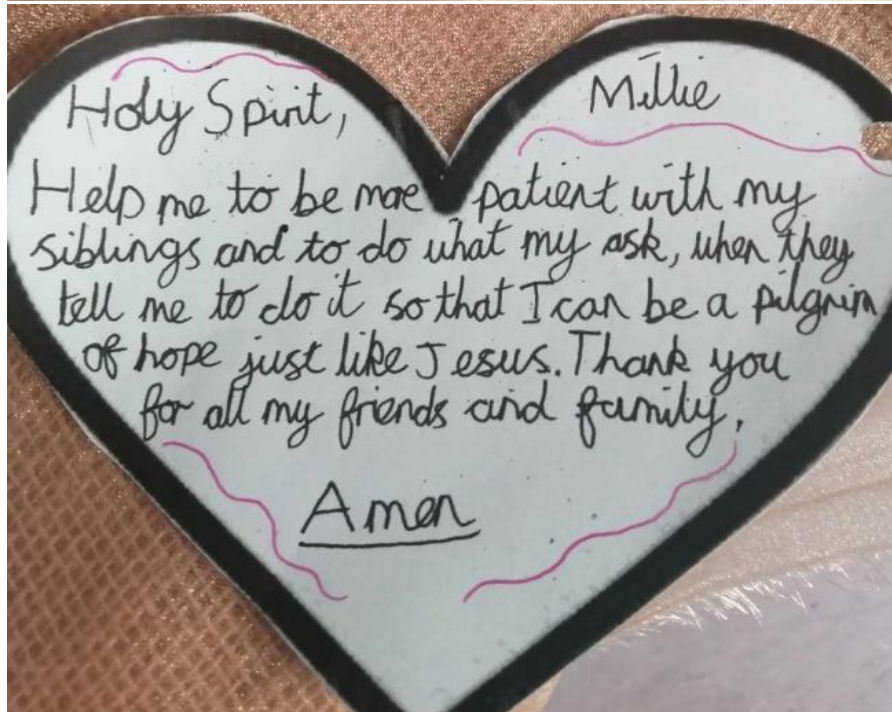
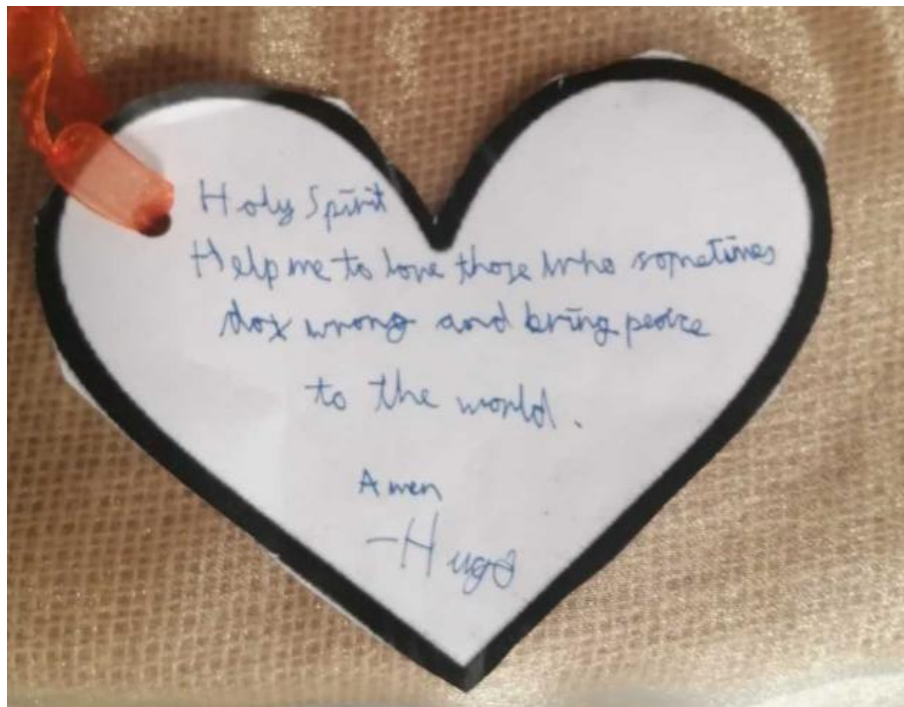
As a follow-up from the Gospel 'Celebration of the Word', the Pupil Chaplains have created an interactive prayer table in the hall where they have created a display which focuses on The Holy Spirit.

This visual display is a reminder of how God sent the gift of The Holy Spirit to encourage and guide us to continue Jesus' mission of loving and helping each other.



Children and staff have been writing prayers to ask the Holy Spirit to help and guide them to spread God's love.

Prayers written by the children:



Response: Encourage your child to write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide them this week.

St Elizabeth's Prayer of the Month-June

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

Let us pray....

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you shall renew
the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of your faithful,
grant that by that same Holy Spirit,
we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation,
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and to guide us in our thoughts, words and actions



Blessing of the Upper Room Chapel by Archbishop John



On Tuesday 16th June, we welcomed His Grace, Archbishop John Wilson to our school to bless our new school chapel.

The whole school community participated in a special Celebration of the Word and official blessing of the chapel.



Pupil Chaplains planned and led the Celebration of the Word: they chose the hymns, wrote the bidding prayers, sang and welcomed members of the community to the liturgy.

Archbishop John met with Pupil Chaplains.

Pupil Chaplains gave Archbishop John a guide around our school hall explaining how Jesus is at the heart of our school and the interactive displays in the hall help the whole school community to pray and to live out their faith.



They also had an opportunity to discuss their chaplaincy work with Archbishop John.



Pupil Chaplains showed Archbishop the Upper Room and shared their input in creating the chapel.

Archbishop John thanked the Pupil Chaplains for carrying on Jesus' work and mission.



Responses from the children:

'Archbishop John taught us a prayer using our fingers.'

'As I have loved you, you must love each other.'

Key Stage 1 pupil

'Archbishop John said that our chapel reminded him of a tent.'

Archbishop John said that tents are important in the Bible.

Jesus came to live among us and He is in our chapel.'

Key Stage 2 pupil

Other Faiths Week 'Islam'-Year 4 and Year 5 visit Morden Mosque

Learning about Islam is an important part of our study of other faiths.

The children of Y4 and Y5 visited the Morden Mosque on 22nd June in preparation for learning about how our Muslim brothers and sisters live and worship next week.

The Y4 and Y5 children valued the opportunity to learn about the importance of the mosque as a place of worship for the Muslim community through first-hand observation and experience.

Year 4 and 5 in the mosque investigating the shape of the building.



Year 5 learning about the Qur'an



Responses from children:

'Muslims sit in a special position on the carpet in the Mosque. They always face Mecca to pray.'

Muslims pray five times a day: before sunrise, midday, afternoon, after sunset and at night time.'

Response from Y4 child

'The Qur'an is so important for the Muslim people because it guides how they live. The Qur'an is their holy book. It is written in Arabic and Muslim people read right to left.'

Response from Y5 child



Response:

Ask your child to share with you what they learned about how their Muslim brothers and sisters live and worship.



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.

At present we are in the process of selecting Pupil Chaplains for 2026-27

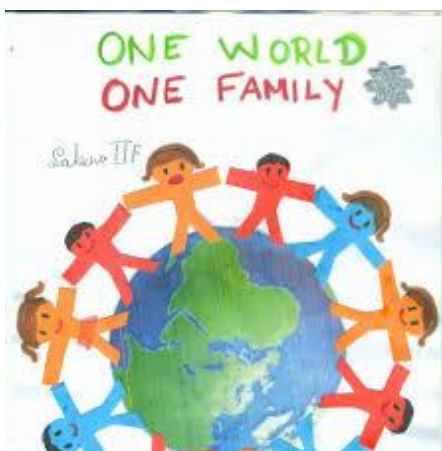
Potential Pupil Chaplains from Y5 for 26-27 have applied for this important role by writing a letter to Mrs Diver outlining why they would like to be a Pupil Chaplain and what they could offer to the role.

As part of the process of selecting Pupil Chaplains, they were interviewed by Mrs Diver and this year's chaplains.



Both Mrs Diver and the existing Year 6 Pupil Chaplains were impressed by the children's commitment to be a role model of faith and to their willingness to serve and to put their faith in action by helping our brothers and sisters who are in need.

We have exciting news! For next academic year there are twenty Pupil Chaplains to lead prayer and liturgies and to organise fundraisers to support those in need.



All Pupil Leadership groups (Pupil Chaplains, Mini Vinnies, Sports Committee, Eco-warriors) have created a summer project for the whole school community to take part in.

The World Cup has started! It has been very exciting so far!

The World Cup competition has 48 world countries taking part.

Pupil leadership groups believe that we are one world and one family. Sport brings people together across nations, cultures and communities.

The children from all classes are invited to research a country taking part in the World Cup.

The children could research any aspect of the country that interests them- culture, food, clothes, language etc...

In school the World Cup will be used as an opportunity to link our Catholic Social teaching principles of dignity and solidarity to our behaviour.

We will celebrate the dignity of each person and each team.

We can show support for all teams through solidarity.

Children may choose to present their projects in a variety of creative ways, including posters, presentations, models, artwork or written reports.

Please can all projects be brought into school on Monday 13th July?

We will invite all parents and carers to a special exhibition of the projects on Monday 20th July.



Response: Please research a world cup team.



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 June



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's prayer intention for the month of June invites Catholics to pray 'for the values of sports,' that all sports may promote peace, fraternity and communion. Pope Leo continued that sport can bring us closer together and that sport can be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that it can promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.



Response: We pray that Sport brings us closer together.

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

Mrs Diver and the Pupil Chaplains