



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Weekly Newsletter Autumn Weeks 1 and 2

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all our children, families and staff as we begin a new academic year together.

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm, excitement and happiness.

We look forward to another year filled with **faith, learning, friendship, kindness and fun.**



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word'

Key Scripture:

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."
Matthew 18:20



All classes entered to the hymn 'Build Your Kingdom Here' 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 we gave a Pupil Chaplain a challenge. She was given several balloons and asked to keep all of them in the air for 30 seconds. The challenge proved to be impossible. There were too many balloons to keep in the air! Next, four more Pupil Chaplains were invited to join in and they were challenged, as a group, to keep the balloons in the air for 30 seconds. The group was successful! It was highlighted that the challenge became easier when people worked together. This was used to help explain the Gospel message of what happens when we gather together in Jesus' name.

Before reading the Gospel, the children were invited to listen out for the following words and phrases in the Gospel:

- 'Listen'
- 'There I am'

The key scripture was discussed. **"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."** Jesus is here with us and He wants us to live together in peace and love.

After listening to the Gospel, the pupils were asked a wondering question. I wonder... Why is it important to live in peace and love together?

Responses included: We can help and support one another; It helps us to be united as a community; It makes you and others happy when we do things together.

Living in community with others is a gift, but the Gospel reminds us that it can also include disagreements. Jesus teaches that we can choose to live His way by being a community that listens to each other and settles conflict.

We discussed what His way looks like.

Responses from the children included: including others in games; never deliberately leaving someone out; saying sorry when mistakes are made and meaning it etc...



Key Scripture



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

Matthew 18:20

Mission-Faith in Action



How can you bring peace and love into your daily life?

At the end of the Celebration of the Word, one of the Pupil Chaplains read a prayer to the pupils - Prayer of Peace. (This is also Prayer of the Month) Pupil Chaplains gave the pupils a mission. They were sent out to live in peace and love. Pupil Chaplains shared that this would be seen in their words and actions especially at playtimes.

In class there are daily led Celebrations of the Word which follow on from the Gospel Celebration of the Word led by members of staff or pupils

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

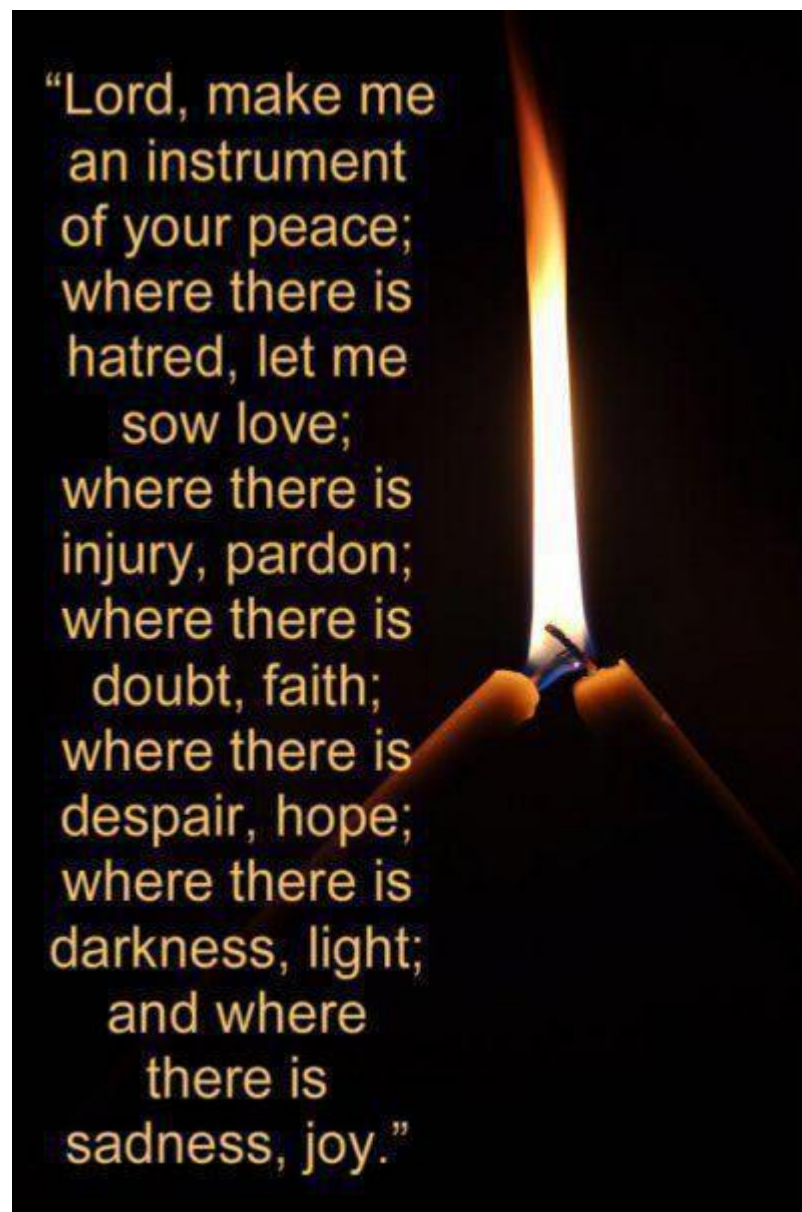
How can you bring peace and love into your words and actions this week?

St Elizabeth's Prayer of the Month

Each month St Elizabeth's School community will say a prayer which focuses on the liturgical season. At present we are in the Season of Creation.

Let us pray....

September - The Peace Prayer of St Francis



Response:

How can we become an "instrument of peace," actively bringing God's love and peace into the world?

Pupil Chaplain Interactive Prayer Table

This is the Year of St Francis. It is 800 years since St Francis died. This is a special year in the church to celebrate St Francis' life and encourage people to follow his example of loving Jesus, caring for the poor, working for peace and looking after God's creation.



The Pupil Chaplains have created an interactive prayer table in the hall where they have created a display which focuses on the beauty of God's world and creation.

Through the Story of Creation we hear God say 'It was good' after each day of creation.

Pupil Chaplains have invited the school community to write a prayer praising and thanking God for the world he has given us.

In addition children are challenged to reflect upon how they can use their gifts to care for God's world.

Our prayers make a difference.

Response

Can children be encouraged to reflect upon how they can use their gifts to look after God's world.



At St Elizabeth's, pupil leadership is very important. We have many opportunities for the children to get involved in the Catholic Life and mission of our school. We have several pupil groups to enable our children to have a say and participate in the catholic life of the school.

Children use their gifts, talents, faith and voice to serve others, contribute to the catholic life and mission of the school and make a positive difference in our community and the wider world.

Pupil leaders are encouraged to follow the example of Jesus by showing service, compassion, respect, justice, kindness and responsibility.

Each leadership group makes a unique contribution. Please look out for parentmails from them communicating their work.

Pupil Chaplains: Pupil Chaplains help the school community live out its faith, prayer and mission. They lead and support prayer and worship in school and at home – they prepare and lead prayers, Celebration of the Word and other liturgical services.

They act as a positive role models and help other children to feel that they have an important part to play in the Catholic life of the school by supporting them live out their mission

Mini Vinnies: Mini Vinnies put their Catholic faith into action through service, kindness, prayer and helping others. This group is inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul, who dedicated his life to serving people who were poor or in need.

Eco-ambassadors: In Laudato Si' Pope Francis invites us all to: "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".

St Elizabeth's Eco ambassadors take on-board the Pope's invitation to protect our world and our school community.



Information about the new Religious Education Curriculum

We are pleased to let you know that we are introducing a new Religious Education teaching programme called 'Lighting the Path' at St Elizabeth's. This programme has been approved by the Archbishop for use in all Catholic schools in the diocese and it follows the updated Religious Education Directory for Catholic schools in England and Wales.

This resource is designed to help children explore important questions about life, faith and belief in a way that is thoughtful, inclusive, and age-appropriate. It supports children's spiritual and moral development and encourages them to think deeply, ask questions, and reflect on their own views and experiences.

What will children learn?

Each half term, children in all classes will explore a different theme from the Bible and Catholic tradition. The themes follow the events of the Church's year so children can make links with other parts of Catholic Life and Mission in school.

Autumn Term

Creation and Covenant – Children explore Bible stories about how God created the world and made loving promises to people.

Prophecy and Promise – Children learn how prophets spoke of hope and the coming of Jesus, especially during Advent.

How will children learn?

Children will learn through stories, discussion, art, music, and reflection. They will be encouraged to:

Hear – children encounter and listen to Bible stories, scripture and teachings.

Believe – children develop an understanding of what Catholics believe.

Celebrate – children encounter and participate in prayer, worship and sacraments and special times in the church.

Live – children put their faith into action by thinking about how they treat others and care for the world (Catholic Social Teaching)

How can families support this learning?

We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children in the faith. You can help by:

- talking with your child about what they are learning in Religious Education - see information in each class termly topics and see class Religious Education vocabulary list;
- reading Bible stories together;
- praying together as a family;
- attending Mass whenever possible;
- encouraging your child to live out Gospel values of kindness, compassion, forgiveness and service.

Together, we can help our children grow as confident, caring young people who know they are loved by God and called to make a positive difference in the world.



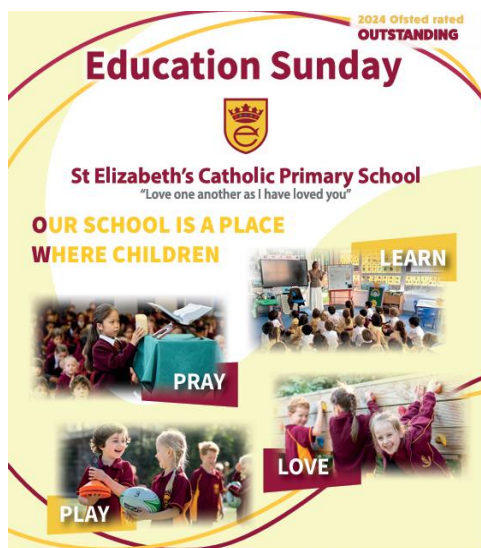
Education Sunday

On 14th September it was Education Sunday.

This year's theme was 'Living Well'. This focused on the importance of community and learning how to live and work well with others

In addition, this annual day of prayer and celebration is held by churches to support and give thanks to everyone who is involved in education.

This poster and a message from St Elizabeth's school community thanking the parishes for their support and prayers was displayed in four parish churches.



Response:

Let us pray for all the children, families and staff of St Elizabeth's as the new academic year starts.

Visit to St Elizabeth's School from Canon John



Canon John, parish priest from Our Lady of Loreto and St Winifredes, visited the school on Tuesday 15th September.

He toured the school and visited each class.

Canon John wished each class a great start to the new academic year. He gave them an important message:

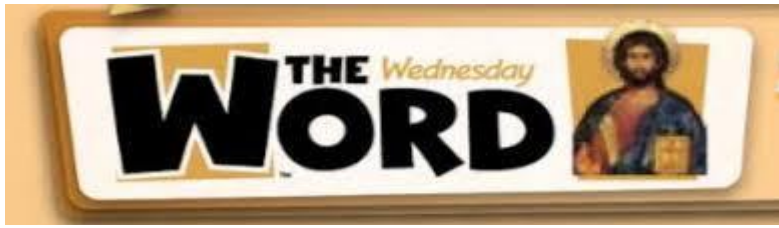
Pray - God is always with you. Spend time talking and listening to Him.

Work Hard – Always try your best. Be curious, ask questions and never be afraid to make mistakes because mistakes help us learn.

Play Fairly – Be kind, include others, take turns and remember to treat everyone with the respect and love they deserve.

Have Fun – Enjoy your learning, laugh with your friends and try new things

The children really enjoyed seeing and talking to Canon John.



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 September



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 Francis shares that water is a source of life, freshness, hope, and healing, as well as a symbol of divine grace.

Pope Francis states water is a gift asks us to pray 'For the Care of Water'

Response:

During this liturgical 'Season of Creation' can we think of ways in which we can reduce our use of water?

Can we pray that all our brothers and sisters have enough water to drink and be healthy?

