



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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Weekly Newsletter Autumn Weeks 3 and 4



Gospel 'Celebration of The Word'

Key Scripture:

'Which of the two did the will of his father?'

Matthew 21:31



All classes entered to the hymn 'Cornerstone' 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 plant reminds us that we are in the season of creation. The Pupil Chaplains set up the Holy table and sang 'Gather Gather'.

Before reading the Gospel the school community participated in a 'listen and act' game based on 'Simon Says'. It was highlighted that the game involved listening carefully and responding attentively.

This activity was used to help explain the Gospel message.

Before reading the Gospel, the children were invited to listen out for the following phrase:

- 'Changed his mind'



We read and re-enacted the Gospel. The school community heard a parable that Jesus told where a father asked his sons to go to the vineyard and work. The first son says "no"—but eventually changes his mind and goes. The second son says "yes"—but never goes to work in the vineyard.

The children were asked a question.

I wonder... which of the sons in Jesus' parable did the right thing?

The children responded -the first son!

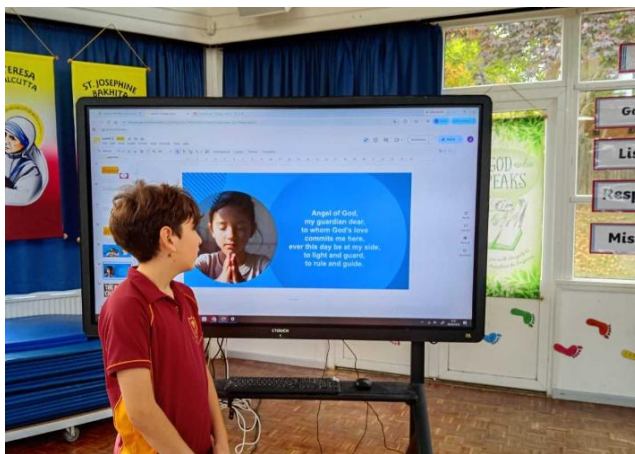
In the Gospel, Jesus shows us that our actions are important. We can't just think about acting, or say we'll do something then change our minds, like the second son in the parable — we need to actually do what we say we'll do.

Jesus showed us how to love others and each day, we have opportunities to say 'yes' to God and reflect His love through our actions. We discussed how we could show love. Responses included: we can show love by helping at home, speaking kind words to our friends or comforting someone who is upset.

Jesus tells us that just like the first son who said 'no' then thought again, we too have a second chance. God always gives us another chance to get things right.



We looked at the life of St Therese Lisieux. She is an example of a saint who lived out this gospel message and put her faith into action. She spoke not of doing great things, but of small things with great love.



At the end of the Celebration of the Word, one of the Pupil Chaplains read a prayer to the pupils, the Angel of God.

Pupil Chaplains gave the pupils a mission, Like St Therese of Lisieux, how can you show love in little ways this week through our choices, words and actions? The school community will be encouraging and celebrating this mission throughout the week.

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?

Like St Therese of Lisieux how can you show love in little ways this week through our choices, words and actions?

St Elizabeth's Prayer of the Month



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Each month St Elizabeth's School community will say a prayer which focuses on the liturgical season. At present we are in the month of October. October is known as the month of 'The Rosary'



Let us pray....

‘The Rosary’

We listen to scripture.

In response we pray a decade of The Rosary.

We say:

- 1 Our Father
- 10 Hail Marys
- 1 Glory Be.

We can use the Rosary beads or our fingers to help counting.



Praying the Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer that reflects upon the life, teaching, and death of Jesus and also on His Blessed Mother, Mary. As we pray the Rosary, we think about the lives of Jesus and Mary here on earth. Then, we reflect and pray how we can be more like Jesus and Mary in our daily life.

Pupil Chaplains have asked each class to participate in the Rosary Challenge during the month of October. This challenge is to pray a decade of The Rosary each day.

Every day, Prayer Leaders in each class will lead the class in praying ‘The Rosary’ in an age appropriate way.

In addition, Pupil Chaplains will lead a decade of The Rosary for parents each Tuesday at 9am in The Upper Room Chapel. All parents are invited to take part.

Response:

Please continue praying ‘The Rosary’ over the weekend at home.

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.

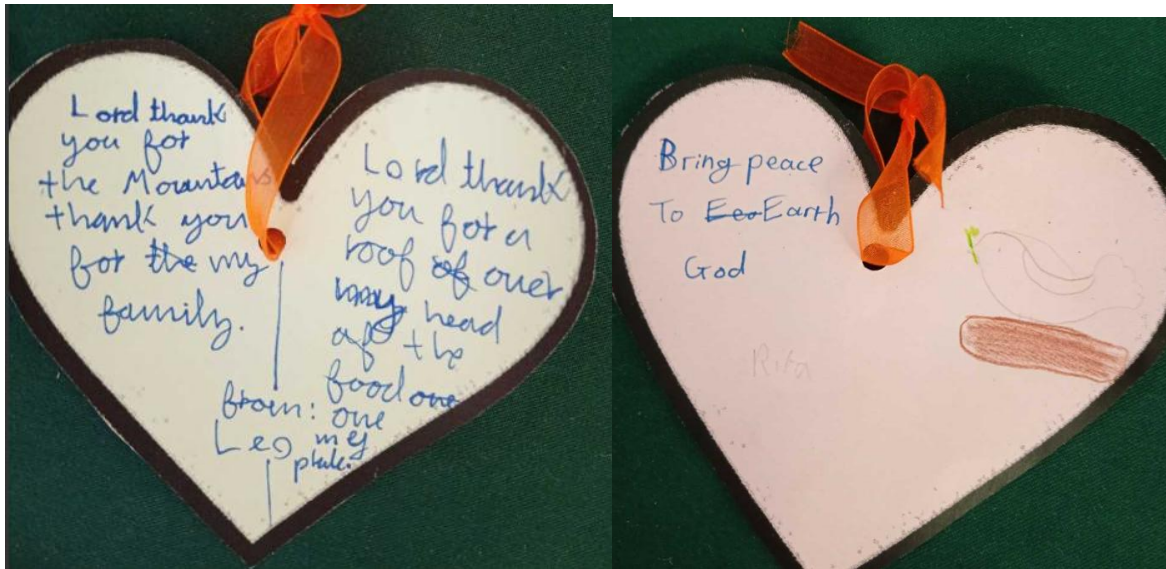
Pupil Chaplains have invited the school community to write a prayer praising and thanking God for the world he has given us.

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.

Children and staff have been writing prayers praising and thanking God for His gift of creation.

Examples of some of the prayers written by children.



Response

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

Updated Prayer Book

Please find our updated Prayer Book on the website.

We hope you find these prayers help you pray as a family.

We have included the prayer Archbishop John taught us during the blessing of the Upper Room Chapel.

Extract from the prayer book.

Our School Motto



During the blessing of the Upper Room Chapel, Archbishop John taught our school community a special prayer based on our school motto.

Using your fingers to say and pray

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

This special prayer reminds us of Jesus and how much He loves us. Saying this prayer can guide our thoughts, words and actions.





Family Fast Day Appeal 2026

Our school community supported CAFOD Fast Day. Mini Vinnies asked the children to bring in a small money donation instead of bringing a snack.



Help children like Tayla stay in school

This Family Fast Day, please help children like Tayla stay in school by providing the food and safe water they need to learn. Thank you.

£10 can buy a child a daily school meal for half the year.

£35 can buy the plumbing essentials to bring water to a school.

£100 can buy a solar panel to help power a water pump system.

In assembly we heard the story of Tayla. Tayla is 12 years old. She loves studying maths at school. But some days, she arrives at school exhausted after walking to collect water. With little food to eat either, she couldn't focus in class and sometimes she didn't make it to school at all.

Mini Vinnies shared that when we donate to CAFOD we are helping our global brothers and sisters who are experiencing shortages of food and water.

By donating we are putting our faith into action and sharing God's love with those in need.

All the money raised will go directly to CAFOD.

Response

Please give a donation to CAFOD if you can.

Diocesan Mass for the beginning of the school year



Mrs Hines and a group of Pupil Chaplains attended the 'Beginning of the year Mass' at St George's Cathedral on Friday 25th September. Along with hundreds

of pupils from schools across the whole of Southwark Diocese, they carried our school banner with pride and represented our school with maturity.

They are photographed here with John Conway, CEO of the Christ the Redeemer Catholic Education Trust.



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

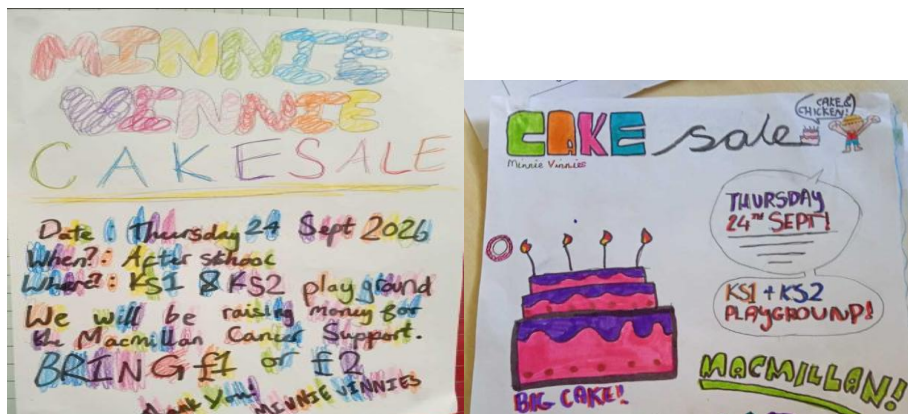
Mini Vinnies: Mini Vinnies put their Catholic faith into action through service, kindness, prayer and helping others. This group is inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul, who dedicated his life to serving people who were poor or in need.

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.

Mini Vinnies

Mini Vinnies have been working hard putting their faith into action by organising a cake sale to fundraise for the 'Macmillan Cancer Charity'.



Mini Vinnies made posters which they put up around the school advertising the cake sale.

Years 5 and 6 pupils baked the cakes to sell at this fundraising event-thank you Year 5 and Year 6!





Mini Vinnies sold the cakes to the school community on Thursday 24th September.

Alex said, *"It was wonderful to see how many people donated cakes and it was fun selling them!"*

Georgia said, *"I felt so joyful selling the cakes because we were supporting an important charity and all the children looked so happy eating the yummy cakes!"*

Thank you to the Mini Vinnies and Mrs Briggs who sold the cakes to the school community after school.

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who bought cakes.

We raised £278! This money will greatly benefit Cancer Research

Pupil Chaplains



Pupil Chaplains' Liturgical Resource Box

Pupil Chaplains have created a liturgical box for each class to support Prayer Leaders lead Celebration of the Word.

Each box contains: liturgical cloths, two large candles, a hand-held wooden cross, Bible, scripture box, statue of Jesus, small candles and a Pupil Chaplain Prayer book.

Pupil Chaplains want the liturgical box to make Celebration of the Word more engaging by giving children simple, meaningful objects that they can see, touch and use during the celebration.

'The resources in the box will help children to participate more in a Celebration of the Word and make it more visual.'

Harriet

'The different coloured cloths help the children understand the different times in the church year.'

Leo

Pupil Chaplains' Prayer Packets-Updated



Once again, our Pupil Chaplains have reproduced 'Prayer Packets' to continue to support and enhance family prayer at home.

Each packet contains: liturgical cloths (two more colours are included-rose and red), a candle, a hand-held wooden cross, Rosary beads and a Pupil Chaplain Prayer book.

The 'Prayer Packets' are ready for sale at the school office.

You can order a Prayer Packet for £12 in the Arbor Pay shop or cash or cheque.

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'We want families to have the chance to pray more together as a family.

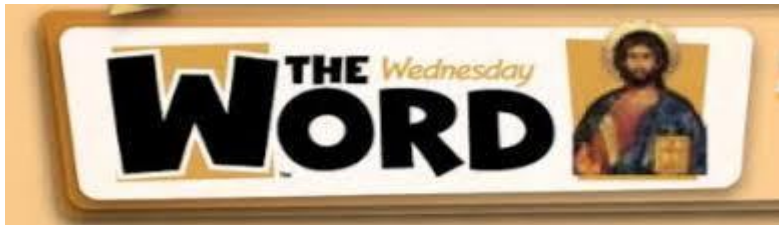
It will help them grow closer to God.'

Eddie

Response:

Please use the 'Prayer Packet' to develop and enhance family prayer at home.

If you would like, please send in a photo of how the Prayer Packet has been used at home.



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 October



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 asks us to pray that we treat each other with respect and dignity, in particular those suffering from mental health issues.

Response:

Let us pray that people are not discriminated against because of well being and mental health issues.

