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

Religious Education and Catholic Life Weekly Newsletter October:Month of the Rosary



Celebration of The Word -Praying the Rosary during October

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.

Throughout October our Celebrations of the Word focused on the Rosary.



Pupil Chaplain led Celebration of the Word to whole-school community

All classes entered to the hymn 'Hail Mary' in the hall. The children were challenged to make links to this hymn and the Rosary message.

The Pupil Chaplains identified what we need to make our table a sacred space. The liturgical cloth is blue indicating that we are thinking about Mary. The candle symbolises that God is present with us. The Cross symbolises that Jesus loves us and the Bible is where God speaks to us. The Rosary beads remind us of the special prayer -the Rosary.

The Pupil Chaplains set up the Holy table and sang ‘Gather Gather’.



The Pupil Chaplains shared that Rosary is made up of prayers that help us pray and think about important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. These events are called the Mysteries of the Rosary.

There are four groups of Mysteries:

- Joyful Mysteries — moments of joy, including the Annunciation and the birth of Jesus.
- Luminous Mysteries — moments from Jesus' public life and ministry.
- Sorrowful Mysteries — moments when Jesus suffered and died for us.
- Glorious Mysteries — moments of Jesus' victory over death and the glory of Heaven.

Pupil Chaplains shared that when we pray the Rosary, we say the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be. Repeating these prayers helps us become still and to focus on scripture and the life and love of Jesus.

Pupil Chaplains read and re-enacted the scripture story from the fifth Joyful Mystery-The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.



The Pupil Chaplains challenged and asked the pupils to listen carefully to the scripture and discover where Jesus was found.

Pupil Chaplains shared the important message of this scripture- Jesus was in His Father's house. Jesus is the Son of God and wanted to spend time with His Father.

The whole school community responded to this story from scripture by praying a decade of 'The Rosary' together. The Pupil Chaplains led this decade of the Rosary and the whole school community participated.



The Pupil Chaplains gave everyone a mission- to spend a few quiet moments praying or thinking about Jesus in His fathers house.

During this Celebration of The Word, Pupil Chaplains launched the 'Rosary Challenge.' The challenge is to pray the Rosary or part of the Rosary each day in class during the month of October. Every class will be taking part in the 'Rosary Challenge'.

In each class throughout October the daily Celebration of the Word will focus on praying the Rosary.

Reflection:
Please continue praying 'The Rosary' over half-term?

Pupil Chaplain Rosary in The Upper Room Chapel



It has been lovely to see groups of parents praying The Rosary in The Upper Room Chapel and in the Mary Garden during the month of October.

Thank you to the Pupil Chaplains who have planned and led praying the Rosary each Tuesday morning during October and for the parents who attended.

'Praying the Rosary with the Pupil Chaplains made the prayer experience very special and meaningful'

KS2 Parent

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'



Response: Mary, pray for us

Year 3 made Rosary Beads

Year 3 has been learning about the Rosary and its importance in Catholic prayer. The children enjoyed making their own individual rosary beads, learning how each bead helps us to pray and reflect on the life of Jesus and Mary.





We were delighted that Mgr Bill and Canon John blessed the children's rosary beads, making this a very special and meaningful experience for everyone. The children are proud to have their own blessed rosary beads and are looking forward to using them in prayer both at school and at home.

Making their own individual rosaries has helped Year 3 to deepen their understanding of Catholic prayer and strengthen their relationship with God. Thank you to Mgr Bill and Canon John for taking the time to share this special moment with us.

Mass to celebrate Harvest and the commissioning of our Pupil-Chaplains



On Thursday 15th October, Mgr Bill celebrated Harvest Mass.

We came together as a school community to give thanks to God for the wonderful gifts of creation. Through our Prayers of Intercession we thanked God for our food, our families, our friends, the farmers and for everyone who helps to provide the food we enjoy.

We also prayed for people who do not have enough food and that we put our faith into action by sharing with those who do not have what they need.

Each class has made a Harvest Promise to enable us to put our faith in action.

In addition Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies were commissioned into their roles to serve and to guide our school community to pray, to reflect, and to grow in faith. Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies were given badges as a sign to everyone of their commitment to serve.

Thank you to Y5 for welcoming the congregation into Mass, for reading the readings and writing the 'Prayers of Intercession' and to Schola and the liturgical band for the singing and music.

Thank you to Mgr Bill for celebrating Mass.

Visit from Canon John to Year 2 and Year 6

We were very pleased to welcome our Canon John, from Our Lady of Loreto and St Winefrides parish into school to speak to our Year 2 and Year 6 children about the Sacrament of Baptism. Through his engaging and informative talk, the children deepened their understanding of the meaning and significance of Baptism in the Catholic faith.

Year 2 Year 6





Year 2 explored how Baptism welcomes a person into God's family and the important symbols used during the celebration, while Year 6 had the opportunity to reflect more deeply on the meaning of these symbols and the call to live as followers of Jesus.

Canon John brought some of the symbols used in Baptism to enable the children to experience these at first hand.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to learn, ask questions and grow in their understanding of what it means to belong to God's family.

We are very grateful to Canon John for giving his time to share his knowledge with the children.



‘Oil of Chrism is a symbol of being called and chosen to be part of God’ family’

Arthur



‘White cloth is being wrapped in Jesus’ love. It’s like Jesus giving you a hug.’

Kristi

Key Stage 2 Prayer Club

Every Friday there is a Key Stage 2 Prayer Club. Each week a focused class is invited to attend.

This Prayer Club provides children with opportunities to deepen their relationship with God, develop their personal prayer life and grow in faith.

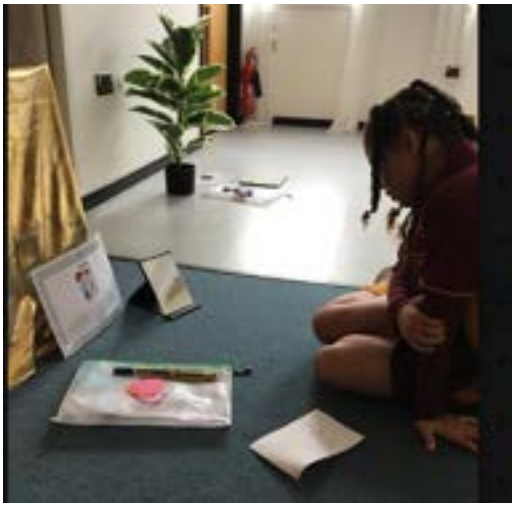
There are a variety of Prayer Stations which focus on different types of prayer.

This helps children to understand that prayer is part of everyday life.

Below are some children praying at Prayer stations.







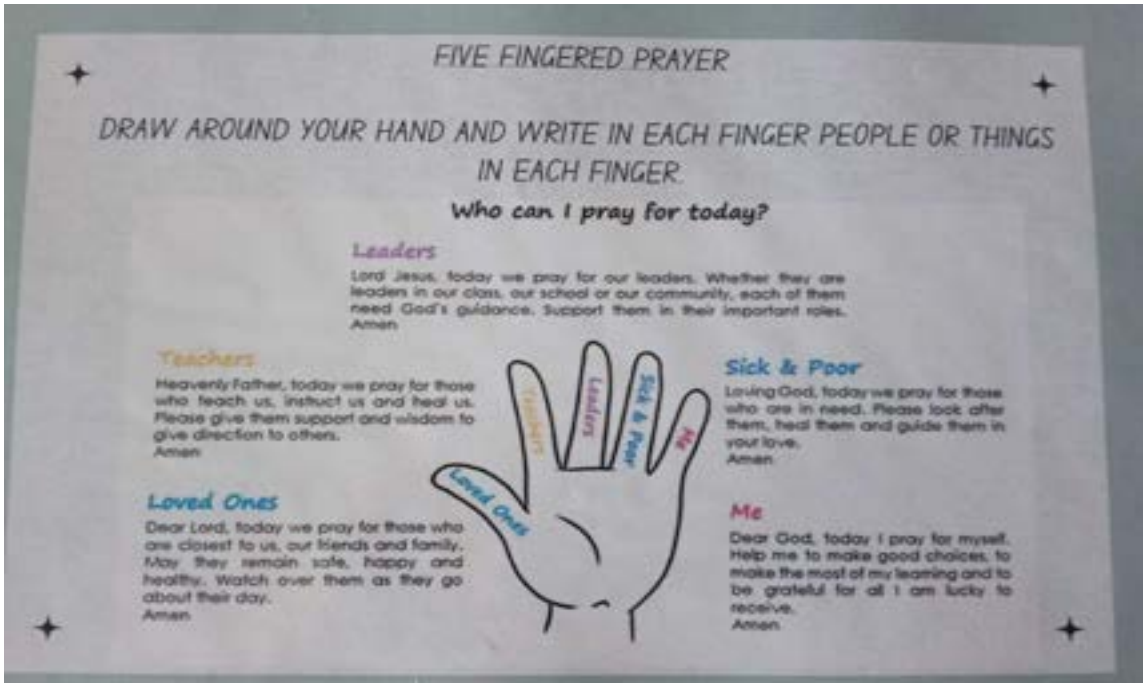


‘It helps me to pray and think of God. I really like praying.’

Raielle

Examples of some of the Prayer Stations.





Response:

Can you pray using these over half-term?



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.

Mini Vinnies

Richmond Foodbank
Together with Trussell

As part of our Harvest preparations Mini Vinnies asked the school community to bring in food donations for the Richmond Foodbank. Mini Vinnies shared that some families in our local community do not have enough to eat and Richmond foodbank helps these families.

Mini Vinnies made posters which they put up around the school advertising the importance of food donations and helping people in need.

Richmond Foodbank supports families in our local area who are struggling to buy and pay for essential items

This week the Richmond Foodbank collected all the food and other essential items that have been donated over the last few weeks.

They were very grateful to the St Elizabeth's School Community for all the donations. Richmond Foodbank shared that the collection from St Elizabeth's would benefit many families.

Mini Vinnies helped to bag up and load the donations into the Richmond Foodbank van.



‘This food will go to help people who are in need in our local community and Richmond Foodbank was very grateful for our generosity.’
Ali

Visit from Ania from St Vincent de Paul Society-organised by Mini Vinnies



In assembly, Ania from the St Vincent de Paul society spoke to the whole school community about the life of St Vincent de Paul and his mission to help the poor, sick and forgotten. Ania also spoke about the important role of Mini Vinnies within the St Vincent de Paul society and about how they are putting faith into action. Finally, she challenged all the children to think of ways in which they could put faith into action and help others in their daily lives.

We would like to thank Ania for talking to our school community.

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.

A Reception child praying at home.

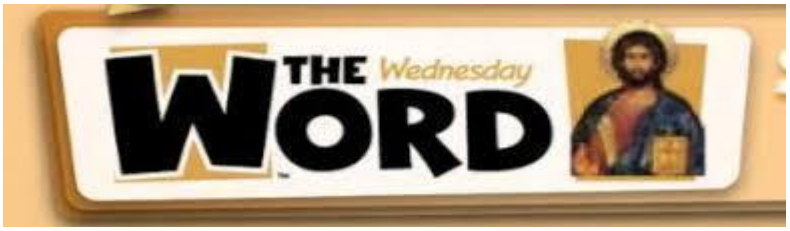


'She chose a pink cloth and carefully placed a Bible, a cross and a candle on the table. Then she said, "I love Jesus.' (Reception parent)

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 Leo 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.