



## St Elizabeth's School RE Newsletter June 2021

Over the last 15 months we have learned that we are not built to live and function independently, but we are made to support each other. In this RE newsletter will share some of the resources that children have been using in school to explore how we are all connected, on a local and global level.

### **We Cannot Walk Alone**

Jesus said, "What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade." Mark 4:26-34

In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus describes the Kingdom of God as a place where love reigns and there is peace and plenty for everyone. This is yet to be established over the earth and we still face poverty of all kinds. For many of our brothers and sisters, fear and danger are a daily reality.

In this week's Gospel assembly children were asked to reflect on practical ways of helping others. Some examples that were discussed were letting a sibling choose a game of own choice rather than insisting on own choice.

We also discussed how we can help refugees.

This Gospel falls at the start of **Refugee Week 2021**, for which the theme is **‘We Cannot Walk Alone’**, and it provides a good opportunity for children, schools and parishes to pray as one family for refugees around the world and for God’s Kingdom to come.

In school this week class prayers have had a focus on remembering, praying for and helping refugees.

You might like to use the following ‘fact file’ to help your child understand more about refugees, alongside what they have learnt in school:

What is a refugee?	How might a refugee feel?	
<p>A refugee is a person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has fled their home because it is no longer safe there</li> <li>• Has been allowed to stay in the country that they have arrived in</li> <li>• Has probably made a journey lasting months and covering hundreds of miles</li> <li>• May have nothing other than what they have carried with them</li> </ul>	<p>A refugee might feel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sad at having left their home, and perhaps also friends/family</li> <li>• Frightened</li> <li>• Confused</li> <li>• Lonely</li> <li>• Unable to plan for the future</li> <li>• Dependent on others making decisions for them</li> <li>• Vulnerable</li> </ul>	<p>Many refugees are children and they often become separated from their families during their journey.</p>

### 5 Prayers for 5 Days for refugees.

Please say these prayers each day as a family.

After each daily prayer, say The Lord’s Prayer together with your child, pausing prayerfully after **‘Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done....’**



**Monday**

Loving Father,  
Some children face danger every day,  
Some children have never known a peaceful home,  
Help me to be welcoming and loving as you are.  
Amen

**Tuesday**

Loving Father,  
Please guide those who make decisions about refugees.  
Guide them to act with wisdom and love.  
Amen

**Wednesday**

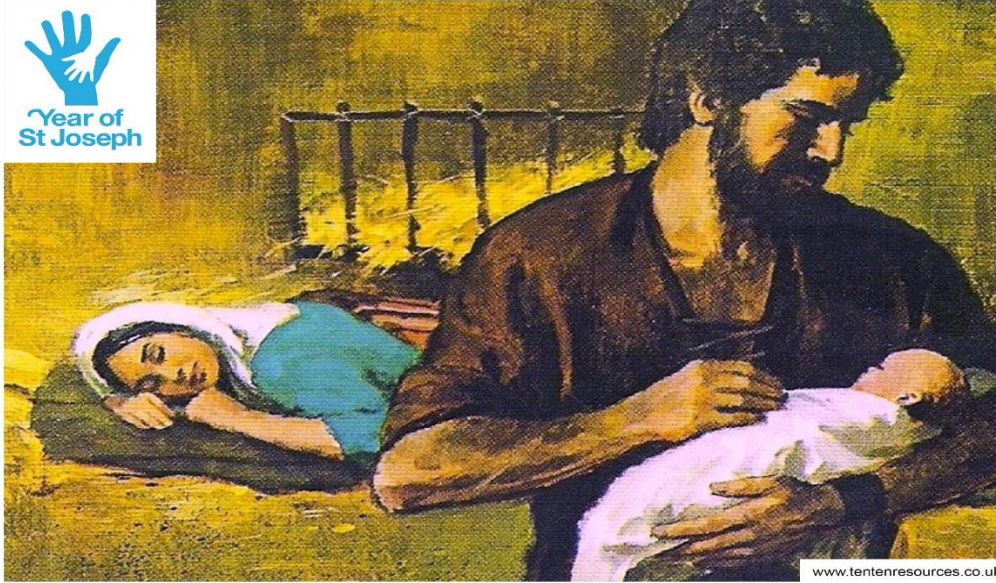
Loving Father,  
We are glad that there are ways to help refugees.  
Bless those who work to help them and bless those who make us aware of their needs.  
Amen

**Thursday**

Loving Father,  
Help me to imagine what the Kingdom of God will be like:  
A place where people of all countries live in peace and no one has to leave home out of fear.  
Amen

**Friday**

Loving Father,  
Give me the courage to go out to others in little ways – to speak to those who seem sad, to smile at everyone, to think the best of other people.  
Amen



## Celebrating Family

In school, in the daily prayers for the week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> June, children will celebrate families: both the families they live with and/or are related to and God's family of which we are all welcome to be a part.

We will talk about how families are all different shapes and sizes. Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June is Father's Day – a day for celebrating the special men in our lives. We'll talk about how this includes our dads, but also our father figures – people who are not our dads, but love and look after us anyway (like St Joseph to Jesus!)

Finally, children will learn to celebrate the role that our parish priests have in our communities and they will explore God as a loving father who loves and cares for us more deeply than any father on earth.

### Why not discuss with your child?

- The people who make up their unique family
- The father figures in their lives and what makes them special
- Your own experience of God's fatherly love



## *Pupil Chaplains*

The Y6 chaplains are once again asking the school community to collect food for the Richmond Foodbank.

There will be boxes at each gate each morning to collect these donations.

Through these donations we are helping local families who are struggling to feed their families.

Children from Y5 have applied for the role of Pupil Chaplain in Y6. To apply for this important role, the Y5 children who were interested in this position were invited to write a letter outlining why they wanted to be a chaplain.

Those children who have applied for this important position will be interviewed by the Y6 chaplains and myself towards the end of June. I will let you know the outcome of the interviews in the July newsletter.



### **Pope Francis's prayer request for June:**

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. The Pope has also dedicated this year to The Year of the Family

The Pope invites us to pray for young people preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community during the month of June.

Pope Francis writes: "May they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience," he prays. "Because a great deal of patience is necessary in order to love."

During family prayer can we pray for this intention and in addition can we pray that we can become more patient with each other in our lives.

Thank you for your support,  
Mrs Diver  
RE and Catholic Life Lead