

Holy Family Prayer Partners

Prayer is central to life at Holy Family School. We pray together in class, in assemblies, services of reflection and in the celebration of Mass. We also pray with our prayer partners. These were organized by Mrs Holt and it means that children in upper KS2 can say prayers with younger children. Our Year 6 prayer partners also lead short reflections and RE activities with the younger children. They plan the liturgy, scripture, prayer and learning goals then visit the classrooms to work with the younger children. This is what some of our younger children said about working with their prayer partners:

"I really enjoy working with my Year 6 partner, it's fun and they help me learn."

"Year 6 teach us lots of holy things and I like to be with them."

Sounds like a really successful initiative...a great example of "Living each day as one happy and Holy Family."

'Living each day as one happy and Holy Family'...what does this actually mean?

This special phrase is one that everyone in our school knows well. It is a key line from our mission statement and it can be seen around the door to the main corridor. Every time we go back to class after visiting the school office, staff room or Mr Tindall's office, we can see and read the words; but words without actions are no good so what do we do at Holy Family to put our words into action? There are the thoughts of some of our Year 6 liturgy leaders:

"It means that we make sure everyone is having a great day in school. It's not just about your close friends but the children in every class...and the teachers!" (Ollie)

The Wednesday Word... is coming soon to every child and every family!

Thanks to the generosity of the Parish and the Parents Association, every family in the school will be receiving a weekly copy of The Wednesday Word starting after half term. This is a colourful leaflet allowing families time to reflect on the meaning of the weekly gospel. Thank you to Father Richard for supporting the school with this initiative.

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The miracles of Jesus

St Bernadette

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THE FLAME

Edition 4
Jan 2019

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Addlestone

Holy Family School Table of Unity



In May 2015, our school took part in the Runnymede Pupil Parliament debate on how best to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the sealing of The Magna Carta. All primary schools in Runnymede were invited to come up with an idea that would help children uphold and share the key values we all believe in within our school community. Our idea, presented during the debate, was for a round table around which children could gather to talk, share ideas and resolve issues. We called our idea 'The Table of Unity'. The other schools represented at the debate loved our idea and it was voted as the winner.. Our table of unity now stands proudly within its own gazebo at the heart of the Millennium Garden at the rear of the school.. Everyone at Holy Family is very proud of our Table of Unity and the fact that the project involved children, staff, parents, grandparents, Runnymede Homes and Bourne Valley Garden Centre. It was a genuine whole community project. Our table and gazebo feature many of the values we hold so precious at Holy Family including love, peace, honesty, respect, tolerance, wisdom, forgiveness, kindness, humility, patience and truth.

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This month's key value...PEACE!

Value of the month: PEACE

Hebrews 12:14

'Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.'

Saint of the month: St John Bosco

John Bosco, popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator and writer. He set up schools for poor children and is the patron saint of Salesian School.

Pope Francis Watch...what has our beloved Pope been up to lately?



On January 24th, Pope Francis was in Panama to celebrate 'World Youth Day.' with over 70,000 young people. The Pope gave an inspirational speech where he encouraged the young people to love others and follow their dreams. The Pope explained how people don't need to "look alike, or think the same way, or do the same things, listen to the same music or wear the same football shirt" to come together. All they need is love for each other.



The Magi's way of humble love

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th. This is the date when we remember the visit of the 3 wise men (or Magi) to worship the baby Jesus.

It is a time for us reflect on Pope Francis' Epiphany homily. God's light he said, "shines in those who are willing to receive it". So we have to get up and walk, unlike the scribes Herod consulted who knew where the Messiah was born but did not go and see Him. The Magi's gifts point to a different path. Gold means "God must be given the first place" and we must adore Him. Frankincense, symbolising our relationship with Jesus, invites us to "burn" some time in prayer. Myrrh, which perfumed Jesus' dead body, shows the importance of helping our suffering brothers and sisters. We can do these things every day and be happy knowing that we are doing the work of God.

Liturgy leaders

Our liturgy leaders look after our prayer corners and help with all things religious. Each class from Year 1 upwards has liturgy leaders, they take care of anything religion related and make sure their prayer corners follow the liturgical year and are always tidy. Our liturgy leaders are:

Year 1—Martha & Alfie

Year 2—Siobhan, Amy, Theo, Louis

Year 3—Lyla & Henry

Year 4—Manuela, Isla, Sam, Harrison

Year 5—Eva, Emily, Lucas J, Keiran

Holy Family Flames

Each class has a Holy Family Flame chosen by the teachers or pupils every month. Holy family flames are chosen because they have been recognised for sharing the light of Jesus.. There is also a special head teacher flame for those who have not just impressed the teachers but have also amazed the head teacher! Towards the end of the month the flames have a special lunch in the library with Mrs O'Neil and or Mr Tindall. The Holy Family flames for January are; Layla in Reception, Sophia L in Year 1, Max in Year 2, Willow S in Year 3, Emilia in Year 4, Isabella B in Year 5, Thomas in Year 6 and Ollie won the Head teacher's award.

What qualities does a good leader possess?

This question was shared with the children in whole school assembly on Friday 25th January. Our theme was 'Follow me' taken from the Gospel of St Matthew 4:12-23, when Jesus calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James & John to be his first disciples. The children gave some fantastic responses:

Trustworthy, respectful, listens to the views of others, kind, loyal, shows respect. Holy Family School is clearly a school full of leaders.



Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mary is an infamous figure in the catholic community and the 1st of January is one of the many days throughout the year on which we celebrate her importance and how much she did to shape our lives today. Mary was the mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and she helped to raise him and guide him to become the religious icon that Christians have looked to for guidance for so long. There are so many days or even months that we celebrate Mary as she is so greatly important! The annunciation was a very important time when Mary was told the fabulous news that she would soon have a baby- this moment has been thought of in many different ways; this range of ideas is shown in countless unique paintings but they all have very similar symbols (they all show lilies, Mary's hand gesture, the angel's hand gesture, a book of prayers, a garden- symbolising how Adam and Eve worsened humanities' relationship with God but in this moment it would get stronger- and so many other symbols that people just looking at it would never understand).

Mary is particularly important to children; she will always listen to our prayers and help us when we ask her. Mary has chosen to appear to children on many occasions in apparitions. These include Bernadette at Lourdes, the children at Fatima, Medjugorje & Knock. Today thousands of pilgrims visit the Marian Shrines that have been established where these apparitions occurred.

The Baptism of Jesus

This year the feast day of Jesus' baptism was celebrated on 13th January and on this day we celebrate the importance of how Jesus was baptised by John- this was the beginning of many good (and bad) things to happen to Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The baptism of Jesus was an event with a momentous amount of importance. This was the time at which Jesus stopped being like everyone else, this was when fully took on the role of God's son- his baptism set him off on this journey. Jesus' baptism was different to everyone else's as for normal people their sins were being washed away but Jesus had done no wrong, he was asking to be baptised to start a new life as the Son of God. When Jesus asked his cousin-John- to baptise him John was surprised- he did not feel worthy of such a task and he began to break down; Jesus lifted him up and told him this is what he had to do and so he did it. When this happened, a dove came from the sky and God's voice could be heard from cloud telling of how proud He was of his son. After this event Jesus thanked John and went on his way walking into the desert in which he would spend forty days without food nor drink.

