

The Celebration of the Catholic Life of our School

As we come to the end of this term we must reflect upon our faith journey that we have had throughout the past three months, September seems a distant memory but we must think upon the new start or new beginning that we shared with our youngest pupils. The reception class have started their school life and have taken their first steps on understanding the importance that Christ has within our lives. As they become familiar with class prayers and are beginning to listen to bible stories they have a very simple understanding of the presence of Christ in their lives. Fr Stan also visits classes each week to talk to the children.



In our first mass back in September we all joined together to celebrate our commitment to our Faith. As Father Stan pointed out that throughout our lives we will question our faith at times but we must always remember that Christ is with us always and often in such dark times he is the one leading us to the light.



Commitment Promises

(Father)

Today, as we begin the school year, we are invited to follow our school's Mission. As a sign of our willingness to give ourselves in love and service, I invite the staff to stand and make the following promises to show that we are all parts of God's family and are called to be his lights in our school and the wider world.

(Mr Masterson)

Our mission statement and the school aims, asks us to make God known to others; to live as Jesus taught us and to recognise God's work and love all around us. We do this on our own, with the staff of our school, with our families; with the parish community and with Father Stan.

Pupil Promises- children stand

(Father to say the words in blue)

Jesus showed us how to live.

We promise to always try our best and try to make the right choices.

Jesus was forgiving.

We promise to be forgiving and understanding to our friends.

Jesus showed us the way to heaven.

We promise that we will pray together and learn more about God.

Jesus showed us how to be friends, especially to those who needed a friend.

We promise to be friends with each other and to consider the feelings of others.

Jesus is our shepherd who cares for his sheep.

We promise to respect everyone at St John Bosco

God is our strength and our help.

We promise to try to answer God's call. Amen.



In October we remember the mysteries of Christ's life and Our Lady's life, we repeat Hail Mary after Hail Mary. Indeed, the mysteries of the Holy Rosary- joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous- are the mysteries of our own lives as well. As we pray the Rosary, we beg Our Lady to draw us closer to him who is our Light. We remember seeing parents and grandparents so often praying their rosaries, "telling their beads" as some referred to this devotion. We remember as well that for many saints the Rosary was an indispensable part of their daily prayer.

In October we also celebrate the Harvest and we remember, since man is both a spiritual and physical being, the Church provides for the needs of man in his everyday life. We celebrate the harvest season, and as followers of Christ we recall God's constant protection over his people and give thanksgiving for the year's harvest. This year we collected food for our Local Charity of Brushstrokes in Smethwick, this year this had special significance as many of the food items were given to families that had just moved from the area.



In November we remember those that have passed away, we remember their lives and on Remembrance Day we pray and pay respect for those peoples that gave their lives so that we could live in peace.

In the month of advent we prepare for the birth of our saviour. Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for his arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season. The school celebrates the Nativity in which the youngest members of our school re-tell the story, important images and prayers in the Nativity reflect the true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love.





During Advent we have supported two charities: Brushstrokes with a toy appeal and Save the Children with a Christmas jumper day where the children donated money.

