

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Community Matters



Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

School Chapel

We have recently reopened our school chapel after its redecoration and the laying of a new carpet. It is looking really lovely. We are very blessed to have this special and sacred space for all our school community to make use of. Many comment on this facility when visiting St Bernadette's and we want to make it a central part of our Community. Please do come and make use of this space on Thursday mornings during Lent and watch this space for further information as we seek to offer more access to this facility in the months ahead.



Lent reflection - Gratitude God tells us to be thankful for everything, 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 5.18). Gratitude isn't just for when things are easy; sometimes it is hard to be thankful for anything at all, this is when we need to stop and remember that God is with us in all circumstances. Life and every good thing in it is a gift from God - we have a lot to be thankful for. Imagine if by simply thanking someone you encouraged them to do something nice for someone else. The ripple effect of two straightforward, yet powerful, words has the potential to go a long way and make a lot of difference. Thank God now for all his gifts to you and your families.

Prayer Zone - Every Wednesday lunchtime we run a Prayer Zone in our school chapel. This is a good opportunity for children to spend time in quiet prayer and reflection. We sometimes have a short introduction to a theme and then allow time for quiet reflection. In a busy world many of the children really appreciate this opportunity. We launched our Lent journey in Prayer Zone last week by introducing the season of Lent and will be focusing on some material produced by Traidcraft, looking at the basic needs of food, water and shelter etc and remembering how grateful we should be for all we have. We will also be challenging children to think about what they can do during Lent to make a difference and how they can grow in their Christian lives. Do speak to your children about this. We will conclude our Lent journey by having a week long Prayer Zone at the end of term where we will focus on the stations of the Cross and Jesus' journey to the cross using some Stations of the Cross designed for children.

Welcome to the first of a new termly newsletter. We have named it 'Community Matters' since for all of us at St Bernadette's, Community really does matter. It is our hope and prayer that everyone involved with St Bernadette's will feel actively involved in a vibrant and loving Christian community with Jesus at the centre of what we do. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with some of the events and activities taking place in our school community, particularly those with a pastoral or chaplaincy focus.



It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of former pupil Abraham Adam who left our school in 2012 at the end of Year 5 to move to Tanzania. Many of us have such fond memories of him and his beautiful smile that could light up a room. Please keep his family in your prayers.

To You, O Lord, we humbly entrust Abraham, so precious in your sight. Take him into your arms and welcome him into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with Your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.



Lent Mass and Stations of the Cross

Lent offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our lives, to pray more deeply, say sorry for what we've done wrong and failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. Mass will be said by Fr James in our school chapel at 8:00 am **every** Thursday mornings during Lent. We will also be journeying through Stations of the Cross each week which will be led by members of the Children's Chaplaincy team at 7:45 am before the weekly Masses. Please do take advantage of these opportunities to start the day in a calm and prayerful manner. We look forward to seeing you there. We thank Father James for his ongoing support in so many aspects of our school life.



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

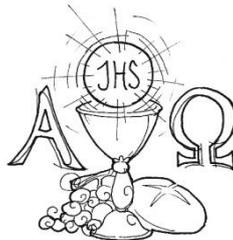
Charity update - Once again we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community in supporting our recent charity work in support of Toybox, a charity that works with street children in Central America. Thanks to your amazing support and the dedication of our children, we have provided the funds to register the births of approximately 60 children living on the streets of Guatemala. This now gives them the chance to access medical care, education, own land or property and go on to get married - simple human rights that are denied to people without a birth certificate. You can learn more about the work of Toybox at <http://www.toybox.org.uk/>

Charity work has become a natural part of life at St Bernadette's and our children are now leading the way in showing empathy, consideration and alms to those in need. Pupils have volunteered at the Food bank, visited the local care home to offer cakes and a friendly chat, sung for the care home residents and organised their own fundraising events. We will be inviting a few residents of Milton Court Care Home to enjoy our Y3 and 4 Easter reflection at the end of this term. Visitors to our school are in awe of the work that is going on to help others in need - an example of true, authentic Christian living.



Children's Chaplaincy team - Our Children's Chaplaincy Team provide a great deal of support to the faith life of our school - they are directly involved in decision making around our charity foci, are leading the weekly Stations of the Cross, support our weekly Prayer Zone, and had the very special responsibility of administering ashes to FS and KS1 pupils on Ash Wednesday. They will be in contact with you shortly regarding their new chosen Charity focus. The children who are currently serving our school on this team are Hannah, Nathan, Rhea and Sophie from Y3, Luke, Jerome, Rose-Anne, and Sophia from Year 4, Danish, Mayo, Chiammy and Nicole from Y5, Shona, Daniel, Andrei and Kasey from Y6. We thank them all for their dedicated service and commitment and ask that you please pray for them as they serve their school community.

Please keep our children who are preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in your prayers.



***But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. Romans 5:v8***

Any suggestions of themes to include or reflections / news or information that you would like to contribute to future editions of this newsletter would be gratefully received and can be directed to Mrs Zamora or Mr Penny.



COMING SOON! Look out for information coming soon about 'Spring Spruce' a community event we are organising. A Saturday morning for all the family to volunteer together to help tidy up and make our school grounds look tidy and amazing ready for the Spring and Summer! Bring your wellies and garden tools! Hot cross buns, toast and drinks will also be served!

Please keep all our school community in your thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks as we journey through this season of Lent and Holy Week together and prepare for the joyful events of Easter. We look forward to seeing you around during the coming weeks. May God bless you and all your families.