

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary
School

Growing Together in God's Love



Religious Education Newsletter

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Although this has been a shorter term, it has certainly not been short of meaningful learning and spiritual growth. Across all year groups, pupils have continued to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith through a variety of engaging RE lessons, scripture exploration, and creative activities that bring the Gospel message to life. We've seen our students grow in both knowledge and faith, embracing each opportunity to reflect on how they can live out their beliefs each day.

This term has also been rich in prayer and celebration. We've gathered together as a school community for some truly special moments, including the joyful celebration of First Holy Communion for our Y4 pupils and the reverent beauty of our May Procession honouring Our Lady. Some classes have learnt and prayed the Rosary, offering up intentions for both personal needs and for peace and healing across the world. We remain committed to our Catholic mission of serving others and being Pilgrims of Hope. We are looking ahead to our next fundraiser for Great Minds Bright Futures. As always, we are proud of the way our children continue to show love, kindness and a strong sense of purpose in everything they do.

Best wishes

Mrs Houghton



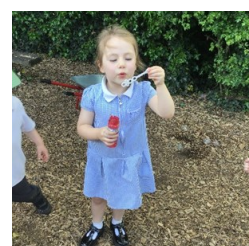
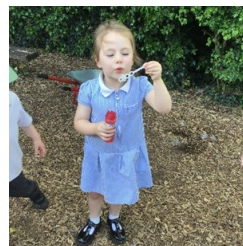


To Know You More Clearly

We now have Foundation Stage, Year One, Year Two and Year Three working on the new Religious Education Directory 'To Know You More Clearly.'

NURSERY:

The children heard that as Jesus returned to his Father, he gave a special gift to his friends; the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit is with us always. We each made a pocket hug to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us whenever we need him, just like a big hug.



We learned that although we cannot see the Holy Spirit, we can feel how powerful he is – just like the wind. The children enjoyed exploring the wind by blowing bubbles and making ribbon wands which dance as the wind blows them.

RECEPTION:

The children in Reception have been busy creating colourful party hats to celebrate Pentecost. Using bright paper, feathers, and glitter, they designed their hats to represent the joy and excitement of the Holy Spirit's arrival.





To Know You More Clearly

YEAR ONE:

Year 1 listened to the story of Pentecost. They talked about the promise of the Holy Spirit and how it would be a new friend to us all. The children made Holy Spirit hats and they performed a dance to explore the feelings that the disciples felt when Jesus returned to his Father



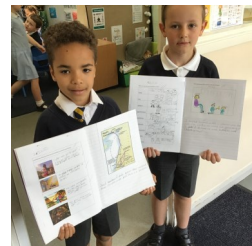


To Know You More Clearly

YEAR TWO:

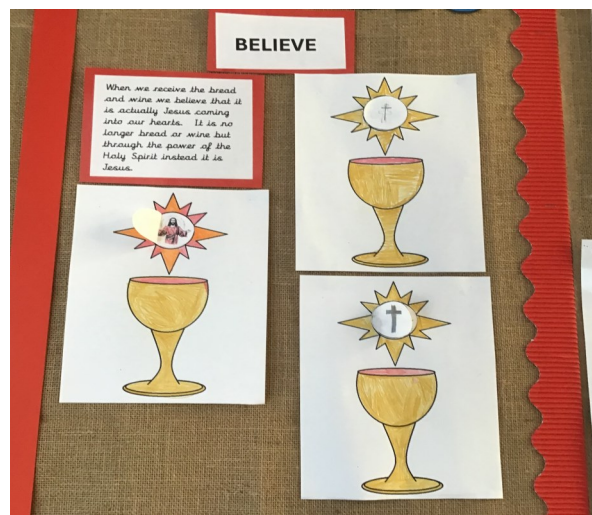
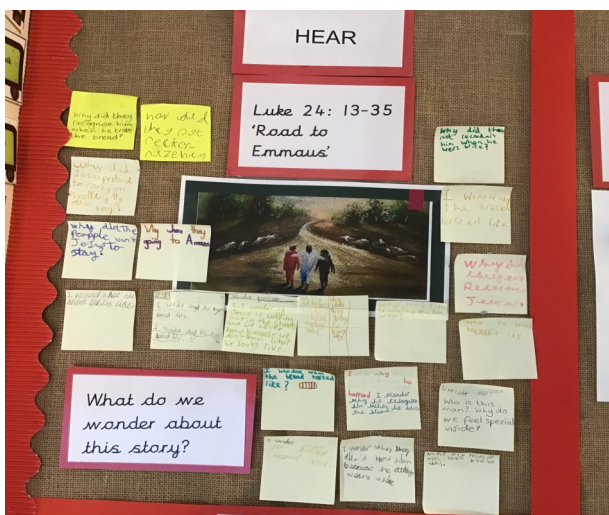
In Year Two, we found out about the conversion of Saul and his journey. We made a cartoon strip to show how he turned to Jesus. We also found out about the Fruits of the Spirit and how we can use them to follow in Jesus' footsteps. We made wonderful works of art to depict these gifts.

We also wrote our own prayers, thanking Jesus for sending joy, love, peace, gentleness, patience, faithfulness, kindness, goodness and self-control to guide us in our daily lives.



YEAR THREE:

Y3 have been enjoying their latest RE topic 'To the Ends of the Earth'. They started their work by making links with Luke 24: 13-35 'Road to Emmaus' and what happens at mass. They shared questions about what they wondered from this scripture and celebrated that at Mass, what Catholic Christians eat looks like bread, but it is Jesus who comes, the living God. The bread is the Body of Christ



Come and See

YEAR FOUR:

Y4 have been exploring the topic 'New Life'.




Year 4 acted out a drama about an aspect of life called 'Not afraid to speak out'. This is linked to the scripture we have been looking at in our topic New Life.



Come and See

Year Five: Year

Compare the picture with the Gospel account. What are the similarities? What are the differences?



GETHESEMANE *Read in Mark 14:32-46*

When they reached the place called Gethsemane, Jesus said to his apostles, "Go here while I go over there to pray."

He took three apostles and John with him. He was very frightened and he said to them, "My heart is ready to break. I'm so grieved at what is going to happen to me. You stay here and stay awake."

He went a little further on, threw himself on the ground and prayed, "Father," he said, "You can do anything. Take this suffering from me. But I will do what you want, not what I want."

He came back and found his friends asleep and he said to Peter, "Simon are you asleep? Could you not stay awake even for one hour? Stay awake and pray."

He went away once more and prayed saying the same words. Then he came back and found them asleep again. They could not keep their eyes open, and they did not know what to say to him.

When he came back a third time he said to them, "Now can sleep on now and have your rest. The hour has come. I am going to be betrayed and handed over to violent people. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is not very far away."

He was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve apostles came with some soldiers. They were armed with swords and sticks. They had been sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders. Judas had said to them, "The man I look for is the one you want. Now kiss him and make sure he is well guarded so you can lead him away."

As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, "Rabbi," and kissed him. Then they took hold of Jesus and arrested him.

The agony in the garden by El Greco *Gospel account Mark 14: 32-46*

Year 5 read Mark 14: 32-46. We then looked at the painting 'The Agony in the Garden' by El Greco and thought about the similarities and differences between these.



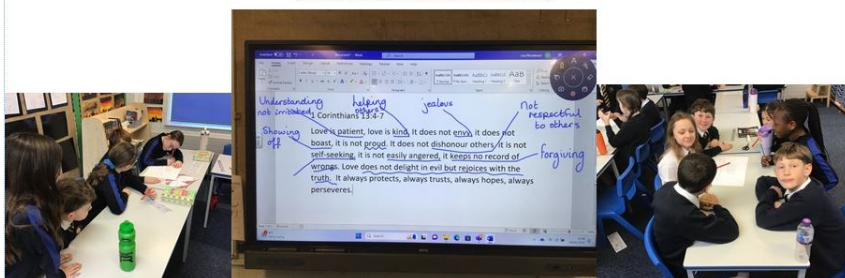
Year Six:

Y6 have been exploring their topic of sources. They looked at scripture Corinthians

13: 4-7 and brainstormed how different our lives would be if everyone made the effort o live out the scripture.



In our Sources topic Year Six looked at the scripture 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 and brainstormed how different our world, school and community would be if everyone lived out this scripture in their everyday lives.



Prayer and Liturgy

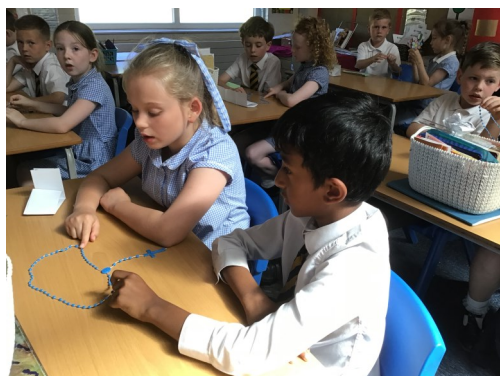


Hail Mary



During May, the children have taken part in daily or weekly Rosary sessions, both in class and during school assemblies. They have led prayers and brought in their own rosary beads from home. Their reverence and enthusiasm have shown a growing understanding of faith and devotion, helping bring this meaningful tradition to life in our school community.

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Rosary, deepening their understanding of its significance in the Catholic faith. They have engaged prayerfully in saying the Rosary during daily worship and have found great meaning in offering up prayers for special intentions, showing care and compassion for others through their reflections and intentions.



May Procession

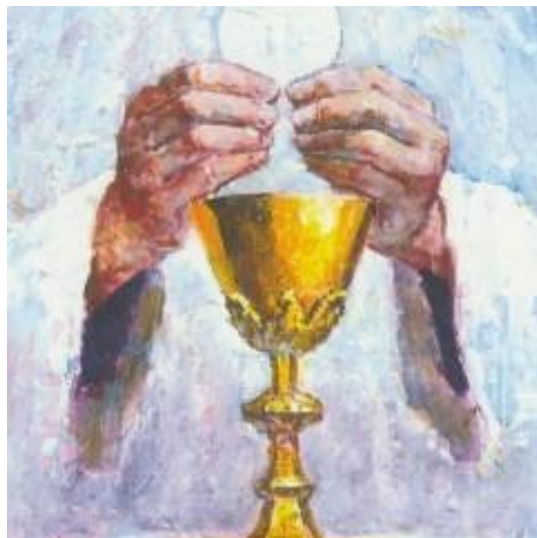
*Petals in hand, hearts lifted in song,
We walked in honour where Mary belongs.
With gentle steps and voices raised high,
We crowned our Mother beneath the spring sky.
A symbol of peace, of grace and of love—
Our Queen of May watches from above.*



*Dear Lord Jesus,
We thank You for the precious gift our Year 4 children have received,
Your Body and Blood in their First Holy Communion.
As a school, we rejoice with them.
May the joy in their hearts stay with them always.
Help them to remember that they are never alone,
for You walk beside them each step of the way.
Lord, bless each of our children with a heart full of faith,
a spirit full of love and a life full of Your light.
May they grow in friendship with You,
and continue to be kind, caring, and courageous.
We thank You for their families, teachers and all
who have helped them prepare for this special moment.
Keep them always in Your care, Lord,
and may their First Communion be the beginning of a beautiful journey with You.
Amen.*

First Holy Communion

We were delighted to celebrate a very special day with our Year Four children as they received their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful and reverent morning in church, filled with joy and pride as the children took this important step in their faith journey. We are sure their families enjoyed the celebrations over the weekend, marking this meaningful occasion with love, prayer, and togetherness.



Catholic Life

Malawi, in South East Africa, is known as “the warm heart of Africa” because of its friendly people. Sadly, it is also one of the poorest countries in the world. HIV/AIDS has left over 2 million children orphaned, and the country struggles with issues like flooding and disease due to climate change.

Great Minds Bright Futures is a charity started by Dave Armstrong after a life-changing visit to Malawi in 2006. The charity helps children through food, education, and daily activities.

The Mini Vinnies want to help! We aim to raise £300 to sponsor a child for one year. This will provide:

26 meals per month

Hygiene items and healthcare

Learning and fun activities

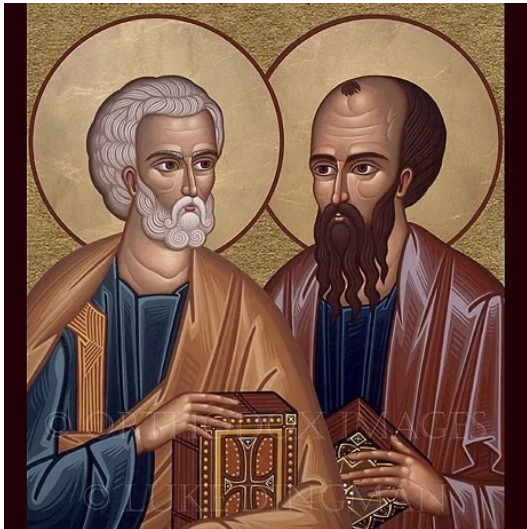
We'll reveal our fundraiser next half term.

We are also sending books to children in Malawi!

Together, we can make a big difference.



Coming up...



Next term, we will continue our Pilgrims of Hope journey and celebrate the feast of St Peter and Paul.

St. Peter and St. Paul were two of the most important followers of Jesus. St. Peter was one of Jesus' twelve apostles and was a fisherman before Jesus called him to help "fish for people" by spreading God's love. He became the first leader of the Church and is often called the first Pope.

St. Paul used to be someone who didn't believe in Jesus and even tried to stop his followers. But one day, he had a powerful vision of Jesus that changed his life. He became one of the greatest missionaries, traveling far and wide to tell people about Jesus and writing letters that are still read in the Bible today.

Even though they were very different, Peter and Paul both loved Jesus and helped build the early Church. Their special day is celebrated on June 29th every year.

We look forward to sharing our fundraiser for Great Minds, Bright futures too!

Best wishes

Mrs Houghton RE subject leader.

