



14th May 2021

Worship and Liturgy -

In the gospel on Sunday Jesus is praying to his father. He is asking that God the Father looks after his friends on Earth, who he is leaving, to continue to do his work. He recognises the importance of the job he is asking them to do saying, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world,"



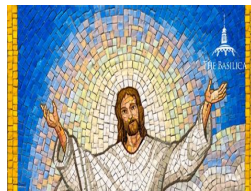
We are still in the month of Mary. If you do happen to have any rosary beads in the house please take the opportunity this month to let your children experience looking at and

handling them.

Please continue to pray for our Year 3 & 4 children on their journey to the sacrament of First Holy Communion.

Ascension Day Mass

We were able to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension yesterday with a Mass celebrated by Canon O'Keefe with Deacon Albert. This feast marks the end of Jesus's time with his disciples on Earth and his rising up into Heaven. Some children were able to attend the Mass in person in the school hall and all others followed the Mass on the big screens in their classrooms.



Deacon Albert Lawes' Ordination

I was very pleased to receive an invitation to the Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Albert Lawes. The service, conducted by Bishop Mark O'Toole, is due to take place in Plymouth Cathedral on June 25th when hopefully many covid restrictions will have been lifted. Deacon Albert has been a great source of support to staff over the course of this year and has a real gift for explaining complex issues in ways that make sense to children (and to staff in some instances). We are pleased to have been able to be part of his preparation for the Priesthood and I am sure he would appreciate your prayers as he nears his big day.



PGL - Bad News or Good News ?

We were waiting with anticipation for the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday hoping that school residential visits could recommence from May 17th. That was the news that was given but the regulations published that day meant that the centres hosting the visits could not operate at anything near their capacity. We were informed by PGL that they could not honour our booking for the year 6 children who were looking forward to a week away beginning on June 14th. The children and staff were very disappointed with the news. However today I spoke with PGL again and they have been able to offer us a different week so the year 6 children's second last week (wb 12th July) at St Joseph's will be a pretty special one. The contrast on the children's faces when given each piece of news could not have been starker.



Celebrations this week

Whole School Attendance 95.37%	Top Class Attendance Class 1 - 98.97 %
Crew Member of the Week F Sarah- Captain Cain- Fantastic effort with your sentence writing. 1 Alivia - Captain Cain - improvement in writing 2 Mawgan - Captain Cain 3 Alicia - Admiral Anne- excellent creative Fronted Adverbial sentences. 4 Jace - Sailor Sam - perseverance in maths 5 - Imogen - Commander Kim - great problem solving! 6 Sinitta - Commodore Chris - science teamwork	
Witness of Courage F Clay 1 Annika 2 Patrick - always having the courage to do what is right 3 Alan - always showing great courage in his learning even if he finds things hard. 4 Grace - standing up for her friend 5 Zak - always willing to speak out when asked 6 Tobias - courage to be patient	





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Agents for Change - Road Safety

You may remember in December 2020 we had our initial Agents For Change Day. Key Stage 2 children focussed on road safety. Class 4 actually went out on the streets with placards raising awareness about the poor signage on Chapel St. Class 5 lobbied local councillors, our MP and local authority transport officers with some very persuasive letters about the same issue.

We heard this week that Chapel St is now on the '20mph when lights are flashing' to do list.



We have been told that the installation of the signage is not expected in the very near future but that it will happen.

Well done to our campaigners !

Agents for Change - Care Homes

Key Stage 1 children linked up with Care Homes for their Agents for Change Day and brightened the lives of residents both at Christmas and at Easter. This was so successful that we have joined with other schools in the Diocese to form a project where schools will develop links with Care Homes to the benefit of both children and the elderly. The project is coordinated by a Diocesan Agency called Caritas who oversee projects involving Catholic Social Teaching which focuses on six core themes

- Human Dignity
- Community and Participation
- Care for Creation
- Dignity in Work
- Peace & Reconciliation
- Solidarity



The project will be about forging a long term relationship between the school and a Care Home. The stated purpose of the project is:

A world where all care homes for older people are a great places to live, end life, visit and work

Providing high quality opportunities for young people to take social action

Having seen first hand the remarkable work carers did for my mum in her declining years and the joy that seeing children brought to her I am proud that St Joseph's is one of the ten schools in the Diocese chosen to be part of this project.



Devonport Library Has Covid Tests

Free Lateral Flow Covid tests are available to all from Devonport Library which is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from

11.00- 5.00. Please bear in mind that **these tests do not count as valid tests if symptoms are present**. They are designed to prevent asymptomatic people spreading Covid in the community. If anybody in your family shows symptoms a PCR test needs to be booked and to quarantine until the result is necessary. We have had families who have been disappointed when we point out that an Lateral Flow test is not secure enough proof for a return to school if symptoms have been present.

Brickfields Athletics is on !

I have just heard that there will be some form of Brickfields Athletics Championship for Primary Schools on 16th June. We have traditionally come home with a healthy haul of trophies from this event and considering Omar in year 6 is currently winning races against the best under 13s in Devon we will have a chance of more silverware on this day.

