

October 2023

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary with the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. As an important feast in the Church calendar, it's a great opportunity for schools to pray the Rosary. We'd like to support and encourage families to pray the Rosary together too, and therefore, we have made available a simple Rosary resource which can be accessed through the Collective Worship Parent Portal. <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

As usual, this newsletter shares a glimpse of some of the prayer and liturgy resources that children will experience at school during this month. We hope this resource will be a useful addition to your family prayer time.

October Assemblies in brief

Here's a look ahead to the Assemblies for the month of October including links to where you can read the Gospels, and some prompt questions that you might like to explore further with your child/ren.

Say and Do

w/c 2nd October

Through a modern-day parable about two brothers whose words do not match their actions, children will learn that what we do is more important than what we say we will do. Children will have the opportunity to reflect on their own words and actions mirroring those of Jesus.

[Matthew 21:28-32](#)

- The message of the parable is that what we actually do is more important than what we say we will do. We could say 'Yes' with good intentions but we need to follow through with the action. This might be easy to illustrate at home by asking – 'Is it better to say you'll tidy your room and not do it or make a fuss and then do it in the end?'
- You might want to explore the idea that 'actions speaking louder than words', and think of ways as a family you can choose to say 'Yes' to God.

Reject or Respect

w/c 10th October

In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the tenant workers in the vineyard being rejected. Children will understand that we are called to respect Jesus, not reject Him and will think about ways they can do this.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A33-43&version=NRSVACE>

- In the parable, the landowner kept sending his trusted servants out to the vineyards even though they kept being rejected by the workers. You might like to explain that just like the landowner, God continually reaches out to us – even when we make mistakes.

- You might want to talk to your children about the language and actions of respect and the importance of respecting everyone – just as Jesus showed us.

I Accept

w/c 16th October

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us about Heaven using a parable about invited guests who choose not to accept the invitation. Through a short animation, 'The Invitation', about a new girl in school who throws a party to get to know her classmates, children are invited to recognise ways they can accept God's invitation to them.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22%3A1-10&version=NRSVACE>

- In the assembly, children are asked to respond with a 'Yes' or 'No' to various invitations, some of which might sound either challenging or appealing. Explain that God invites us all to a special banquet each week – the celebration of Mass and He wants us to accept wholeheartedly.
- You might like to talk about the invitation to Sunday Mass. This might be a good opportunity to discuss your child/ren's experience of Mass. Why do we go? Why do we not go? How can we make the experience of Mass accessible/ easier? *e.g. talk about the readings before Mass, attend a Mass that has an opportunity for Children's Liturgy, use child-friendly prayer books etc.*

Giving Everything

w/c 23rd October

In this week's Gospel we hear how Jesus responds to the Pharisees and leaders who were trying to catch Him out. Children will reflect on what is important to them and understand the importance of giving everything of themselves to God.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22%3A15-21&version=NRSVACE>

- The Gospel reminds us that God gives us everything we have – the world we live in, the love of our families, our gifts and talents. Jesus challenges us to show thankfulness by praising God and offering our gifts to the Lord.
- You might want to talk to your children about practical ways they can give back to God *e.g. helping others, spending time with God in prayer.*

The Greatest Commandment

w/c 30th October

The Gospel this week shows that God wants us to experience love, both in the giving and receiving of it. This assembly helps children to recognise love through actions and helps them to think of ways that they can be loving too.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22%3A34+%E2%80%93+40&version=NRSVACE>

- This may be one of the more familiar Scripture verses for your child/ren, with Jesus reaffirming that the most important commandment is to love God but taking the rule a step further to highlight the importance of loving and caring for each other. This is a good opportunity to discuss practical ways of showing love and care within your family and beyond.
- You might want to explore the question 'Who is our neighbour?' and 'How can we show love for neighbours near and far?'

Prayer

“Love one another... just as I have loved you.”
(John 15:12)

The daily classroom prayers for the week beginning 16th October reminds us of Jesus' invitation to live a loving life. We can say 'Yes' to His invitation through our actions. Children will be encouraged to look for opportunities to accept that invitation by helping others, talking kindly, making time for prayer, offering friendship and forgiveness, and doing their best in all they do. All these actions follow Jesus' call to love one another – just as He loves us.

Perhaps you'd like to think about opportunities to say 'Yes' to Jesus in family prayer time and say this prayer together, remembering that each time we accept Jesus' invitation, we come closer to God.

**Dear Jesus,
Thank you for loving me.
Thank you for guiding me.
Thank you for inviting me to be your friend.
Every day help me to accept your invitation
and say, “Yes Jesus!”
Amen**