Holy Family Catholic Primary School

'Catholic Life' Newsletter

'Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Each Other'



Catholic Life at Holy Family

https://www.holyfamily.kent.sch.uk/our-catholic-life-1/

Holy Family Church: a dedicated page on our website will link you to the church website for information on Mass times, weekly newsletters and events:

https://www.holyfamily.kent.sch.uk/holy-family-catholic-church-parkwood/

Holy Family Gospel Values

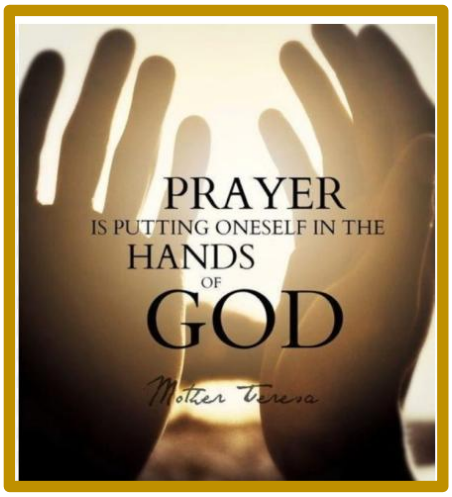
The Gospel Value this term is 'Love'.

Acts of prayer and liturgy have centred upon thinking how we can say 'yes' to God and allow our actions to show His love. This may be through prayer, but it's also through helping others, comforting people when they are upset or just being kind to others.



Catholic Life Newsletter: Term 1

Please join us in congratulating all of our '**Light of the Week'** winners, those pupils who have 'lived' this value in all that they are and all that they do.



Book of Prayer Intentions

Our Book of Prayer Intentions comes into our Whole School Prayer & Liturgy and pupils and staff will pray for the intentions inside the book; the intentions themselves will not be read aloud.

If anyone has someone that they would like us to pray for, please email the school office or send your intention in with your child and it will be entered into our special book on your behalf.

Examples of Prayer & Liturgy at Holy Family this Term

Love and The Holy Family

Our school community gathered for our first Celebration of the Word of the new school year. As Holy Family School, we reflected on the importance of love, inspired by Jesus' own family and the example of the Holy Family which he was part of.

Jesus grew up in a family where love, care, respect and faith were at the heart of daily life. Like Jesus, we are called to show love to everyone we meet, whether they are our friends, classmates, teachers or family members. We also thought about how families have rules to help everyone live happily together, and how it is important to be understanding when family members face challenges or struggles.

Our scripture reading reminded us that all love comes from God: "We love because he first loved us" **(1 John 4:19**). God's love for us is unconditional, and we are called to share that love with others in our school family through our words and actions every day.

As we begin this new school year, let us follow the example of the Holy Family by showing kindness, patience and understanding, helping to make our school a place where everyone feels loved, valued and welcomed.

2 Holy Families –
both filled with LOVE



Gathered in His Name



We gathered for a Celebration of the Word centred on the importance of coming together as a community of faith. We reflected on Jesus' promise:

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." **Matthew 18:20**

During the celebration, we explored how working together makes us stronger, kinder and more effective. We considered how Jesus is present with us when we gather in His name and how we can support one another through prayer, friendship and understanding.

We reflected on the importance of being a community that listens to others, makes peace and settles conflicts with kindness and forgiveness. We also thought about the power of prayer and how praying together can unite us, strengthen our faith and bring us closer to God.

As a school family, we were reminded that God hears our prayers and that we can encourage one another in faith. By standing together, we can help each other grow in confidence, hope and love.

Going forth, we were challenged to be peacemakers. We were encouraged to listen carefully, include others, resolve disagreements kindly and pray for those who need God's love and support. In doing so, we will help others to experience the presence of Jesus among us.

God's Plans

Mark 8:27-35- When we invite Jesus into each moment, we can face whatever comes at us with courage and peace. This helps us to recognise all the moments of our lives where we can choose to walk with Jesus.



In this week's Gospel, Jesus confounded the expectations of His disciples. This Prayer and Liturgy helped us learn that God's plans can be surprising and that following Jesus involves expecting the unexpected – with the assurance that Jesus is with us every step of the way.

The newly elected RE Council shared some beautiful spontaneous prayers to close our act of Prayer & Liturgy.

True Greatness

"If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35

In the Gospel, Jesus' disciples argue about who is the 'greatest'. We discovered that the most important things in life are not winning, being the best or most beautiful.

Instead, Jesus taught His disciples that to be the greatest in God's sight, we must put others first. He says that to be great, we must become a servant to others. Through His words and actions, Jesus set us an example to follow by putting others first, listening, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and spending time with people when no one else would!



In prayer, to take our learning forth, we reflected upon a time when someone helped us and how that support made us feel. We imagined that person now and thanked God for them..

We spoke to Jesus about how it felt to put someone else's needs before our own. We let our own words come into our minds and told Jesus how we are going to put others first and asked for His help to do just that, remembering the principles of CST to help and guide us.

Like a Child

In this Prayer and Liturgy, we learnt that Jesus welcomes children despite others trying to keep them away. Jesus commends the open-heartedness of children. We reflected on the Gospel (Mark 10:13-16)

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.



We understand that:
- Jesus loves and values everyone, especially children.
- Jesus calls us to have child-like faith, which means loving and trusting in God.
- Trusting in God helps us feel at peace and make loving decisions.

The Eternal Prize

Building on the theme from earlier in the term, we learnt that to be great in God's sight, we must put others first. We now understand that through Jesus' service and self-sacrifice, He won for us the greatest prize – the joy of eternal life with Him in Heaven! The Gospel (**Mark 10:35-45**) was beautifully read by one of our RE council, Oscar and our Prayer & Liturgy was closed by a wonderful spontaneous prayer shared with us by Mason.

Mark 10:35-45

Two of Jesus' disciples James and John came to Jesus. "Master," they said to Him, "we want you to do us a favour." He said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"
"Let us sit right next to you, on your right and left, when you become King in Heaven."
The other ten followers were angry with what James and John had said, so Jesus called everyone together and spoke to them. He told them how the rulers in this world love bossing people around. Jesus said. "This is not to happen among you. No - anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be a slave to all. For the Son of Man Himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."



School Start of Year Mass

Our new Year 6 led our 'Start of Year' Mass in the first week of term. It was wonderful to see our community come together as Holy Family pupils and staff were joined by parents/carers and members of our Parish.

Dear Lord,
We praise you for the wonder of our being, for our minds, bodies, and spirits.
Be with our pupils as they begin a new school year.
Bless them and all the staff at Holy Family.
Give them strength and grace and wisdom and knowledge as they follow Your teachings.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

KCSP Start of Year Mass at Aylesford Priory



Mrs Kershaw and Mrs Smith and pupils from Year 5 and 6 were honoured to represent the school at the 'Start of Year' Mass at Aylesford Priory on 29th, September, said for us by Cannon Victor.

As always, it was a delight to come together as a community of KCSP schools, reminding us all of the unifying power of God's word.

Prayerful Reflection at Holy Family

Prayerful Reflection is a really important part of life at Holy Family. We all are given the opportunity to think carefully about our God given talents and living our lives in response to the teachings of Christ.
This term, we have been reflecting upon our Gospel Value of 'Love', using scripture chosen by the RE Council to guide our thoughts.

Term One Reflection Themes		
Gospel Value: **'Love'**		
New Beginnings	**Love One Another**	**Love Jesus**
CST link - Stewardship	**CST link – Solidarity / Common Good / Human Dignity**	**CST link – Solidarity / Common Good / Human Dignity**
"Behold I make all things new." **Revelation 21:5** 	"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." **John 15:12-13** 	"We love because he first loved us." **1 John 4:19** 

The Mini-Vinnies at Holy Family

Mini Vinnies is a youth program run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society that encourages primary school pupils to engage in social justice and charity work. It empowers young people to make a difference in their communities through service, raising awareness of important social issues, and fundraising activities.

The program aims to foster values of compassion, empathy, and generosity, teaching pupils the importance of helping those in need while developing leadership skills and a sense of social responsibility. At Holy Family, the Mini-Vinnies is run by Miss McNulty with her Year 5 'Ambassadors'

Catholic Life Newsletter: Term 1

Term 1 saw the appointment of our Officers for the coming year:

President: Layla-Rose

Vice President: Salem

Prayer Lead: Maria

Treasurer: Natan

Display Lead: Taisey

"Loving Father, please pour out Your blessings on all who are part of our community of schools.
Please grant them your encouragement, wisdom and peace.
Strengthen all those who work in our schools. May they be firm, yet patient, expecting excellence but always showing forgiveness and love.
Support all our pupils to reach their full potential, showering them with the bounty of your love.
With your guidance, let them become the best versions of themselves."

Pupil RE Council 2026-27

Please give a warm welcome to our new pupil RE Council for this year. As you can see from their faces, they are very proud to be taking up this very important role at Holy Family.

They will be planning, delivering and evaluating their own acts of Prayer & Liturgy and supporting and representing their peers' views across the school.



Year 5 St. Anthony Class – Prayer & Liturgy 'St. Francis'

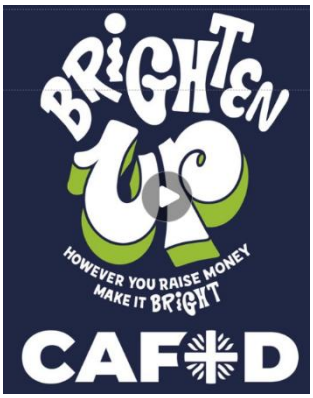
We were all so proud of Year 5 when they presented the first Class Prayer & Liturgy of the year, based on the life and teachings of St Francis of Assisi. This particular saint is very special to us here at Holy Family: his statue graces our prayer garden and we feel that he embodied many of the principles of Catholic Social teaching which we hold so dear.

Watched by parents and the whole school, the event included drama, prayer and examples of the pupils' work. It was rounded off with us all singing St. Francis' 'Canticle of Creation'



CAFOD Act of Worship

Maggie came to talk to us about the work that CAFOD are undertaking in places such as The Democratic Republic of Congo, where the money we raise and donate helps the people there to support themselves.



We learnt how CAFOD helps to train people to do vital jobs and make things that they can then sell for money.

This means that, going forwards, they will not have to rely on money from charities.

Catholic Social Teaching Link
Everyone is Special
(Human Dignity)

God bless,
Mrs Underhill