

Sacred Heart RC Primary School

Chaplaincy News

WESTHOUGHTON

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Lay Chaplain: Mrs. C Doodson



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Chaplaincy News



Dear Parents and Carers,

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” Luke 15: 20-21

We are in Holy Week, the most important week in our liturgical calendar. The week that is the core and confirmation of our Christian faith and relationship with Jesus. As a school family we have journeyed through Lent together and are now ready to make that final part of the journey with Jesus.

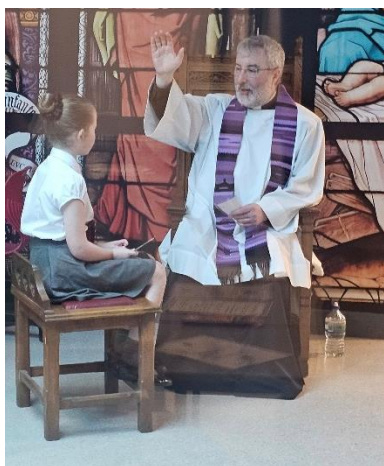
We began on Ash Wednesday with our Mass in school, our Year 5 and Year 6 Apostles received the ashes and distributed those across school later during the day. They did a great job - well done Apostles!



Our weekly Gospels for Celebration of the Word began with Jesus' temptation in the desert, then the transfiguration when Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. We hear how 'his clothing became dazzling white.' The parable of the fig tree that did not produce fruit for three years, yet the attentive gardener asked for another year in which he would tend the tree even more. The parable of 'The prodigal son,' so familiar to us, many children knew this powerful parable from their RE lessons. The story of the woman who had committed adultery who was to be stoned publicly. Jesus saves her, he quietens the angry crowd already armed with stones by saying, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.'

The key themes of transformation, love and forgiveness have been explored and reflected on in all worship in the Croi and in other prayer areas round our school grounds. We have a fig tree growing on our school grounds, so many classes ended their worship there, gathered round the tree when we 'sent forth with our mission'!

In our last full week, we reflected on the Gospel reading at the beginning of the Mass on Palm Sunday. Children enjoyed waving palms and asking wonder questions in worship about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey.



Fr Christopher came into school throughout March, hearing confessions. Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, and staff members took this opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of our Lenten journey. The children were fantastic, Fr Christopher and the Croi were busy!

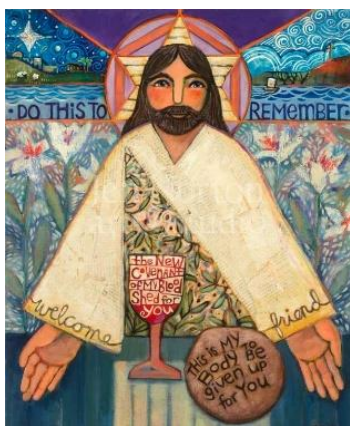
Lent is a season of preparation, growth and challenge. The children have embraced this, their worship is a joy to be part of. The children are confident prayer leaders who ensure that their weekly 'Celebration of the Word' for their class is a spiritual, uplifting, and enjoyable experience, drawing them in a closer relationship with Jesus.

Keep up the great work everyone!



Weekly Mass in church for each year group

Thank-you for joining us for Mass on Fridays in church with our parish family. Fr Christopher always makes the Mass special for the children; it deepens their knowledge and understanding of Mass, church, and their relationship with God. Their behaviour and engagement are consistently excellent. Parishioners have commented to me regularly about how wonderful the children are in church and lovely to be able celebrate Mass with them.



Sacramental Programme

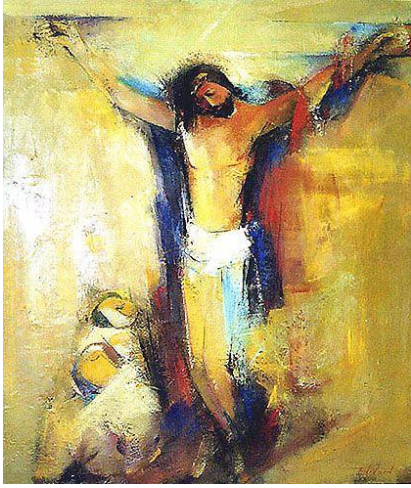
The children on the Sacramental Programme received the sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) on the 13th of March. It was a lovely service and superb attendance by the children and families – thank you!

The children prepare for the sacraments in school with me, and Fr Christopher has held meetings with parents prior to each sacrament. The children are very excited to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) over the next four weeks. They have prepared so well, please keep them in your prayers as they approach such a special day in their lives.

Stay and Pray

A BIG thank-you to the parents and grandparents who have joined us for 'Stay and Pray' on Thursday mornings after 'drop off' in the Croi. It has been lovely to welcome parents for prayer. I have been blessed to have some super Year 6 Prayer Leaders to help me. You will have seen and heard them ringing bells on the playground inviting you to prayer. All are welcome!

'Stay and Pray' will continue next term, every Thursday 8.35-8.45am. If you would like to join us, please do. It is open to all each week. You will hear the bells for prayer ringing from 8.30am!



“Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ And he said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” Luke 23:39-43

You will be in my prayers, especially the children making their First Holy Communion and their families and for all your intentions.

I hope you all have a blessed and holy Easter; may the joy of the Risen Christ be with you all.

Yours in Christ,

C Doodson

Mrs C Doodson

Lay Chaplain

