



Fred's Prayer for the Week

Where there are lies, bring truth.

Where there is deceit, make everything clear, and shame the deceiver. Where there is error, guide our faltering footsteps by the Spirit of Truth who is Christ Jesus. Amen

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)



Message from the Headteacher

"Would it be possible for us to be more attentive to what we say to others and what we don't say?"

Pope Francis - Annual Easter Message to Educational Communities, Easter 2002

We are all working hard in school to develop our "Growth Mindset". In a fixed mindset people believe that they have a fixed level of intelligence or talents and they cannot improve. With a positive Growth Mindset we know that we can improve if we choose to and we put the effort in. This positive view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.

Pope Francis reminds us to think about what we don't say to others; we all know how good we feel when someone says something positive about us. When did you last say something positive to someone about something they did? It makes a difference and it encourages a positive mindset.

Yesterday was the Scottish Referendum on whether Scotland should be a totally independent country. To promote Spiritual, Moral, Social

and Cultural (SMSC -you will hear more of this acronym within the school) awareness, during the course of the week, students had assemblies on the topic, debates with passionate speakers and yesterday, along with school staff, had their own vote on the subject. I can now tell you that we had a very high (90%) turnout to vote and an almost unanimous decision was reached that Scotland should remain as part of the United Kingdom. St Columba's and the Scottish voters obviously agree on this vital subject, but by a much bigger margin in the school's vote!

Yesterday, we also had our Y7 Welcome Mass celebrated by Fr Jim from St Stephen's in Welling. It was a great pleasure to come together with so many parents and families to celebrate the Mass together and welcome them to the St Columba's community. **Our boys were brilliant!**

Mr N Fisher



LUNCH MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

BREAKFAST: 7.45am to 8.15am

MONDAY
Herby Mince Crumble with Mash

Roasted Vegetable Crumble

TUESDAY
Chicken Pie with Roast Potatoes

Cheese, Tomato & Basil Tarts

WEDNESDAY
Chilli Con Carne & Wedges

Potato & Red Onion Tortilla

THURSDAY
Moroccan Chilli Lamb with Cous Cous

Moroccan Quorn with Cous Cous

FRIDAY
Fish & Chips

Hot Snacks, Filled Rolls & Baguettes Daily

Key Stage 3 National Curriculum – Mathematics

The government have introduced a new National Curriculum for Mathematics and this is aimed to be more challenging for students and at the same time, returns to some more traditional methods.

The first aim of the new Mathematics National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 is for students to “become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics, including through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time, so that students develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately”.

What this means is that students are expected to develop their understanding of the number

system, and become proficient at all calculation methods, knowing which ones to choose appropriate to the problem. Mental recall of number facts becomes key and this includes times tables. You may wish to help your son by testing his recall of times tables, or giving him a number and asking him to tell you the other number to make one hundred, or even one thousand (known as complements).

Traditional written methods of calculation have returned and students are expected to understand and use both long multiplication and long division. Regular practice at home will reinforce these methods alongside other methods they may already know and use.

The need for fluency extends beyond number work and students are expected to be able to move freely between different representations such as graphs and diagrams.

Students are also expected to be able to use mathematical language comfortably across all areas of mathematics and be able to recall many more of the mathematical formulae previously given.

The benefit of developing mathematical fluency is that students can have a greater understanding of mathematics and how it relates to life, rather than spending their learning time on the calculations involved.

**Next week:
Reasoning Mathematically**

Are your boys too old for their toys?

The mathematics department would be very appreciative of any Toy / model cars (for the study of ratio and scale) Geomag (for the study of 3D shapes and their properties).

If you have a look around at home and find either of these items (even just one toy car or one piece of Geomag), please could your son hand it in to the school office or direct to Mrs Turner.

Thank you



Visit our website just scan our QR code here!



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N.Fisher MA, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Head Teachers
Dr.L.Fripps EdD, MA, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH
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A Christian community where everyone has the right to be happy, be safe and achieve.

September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that we will be using the SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG) again this year. SIMS is the Management Information software used by many schools and the SLG is a very useful tool that allows us to share information more readily with you as parents and carers of students at St Columba's Catholic Boys' School.

We will be increasing the amount of information that is given out via the SLG and you are advised to regularly check for new messages.

To access the SLG you will need a username and password. These were given to existing students last academic year and remain the same.

For new students starting with us this year, or for those who have forgotten the username or password, simply email slg@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk with your son's name and form class and a username and password will be emailed back to you.



PE Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Autumn / Spring Term

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
YEAR 7		Basketball team training HMN	Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Rowing Club DHK	Rugby Training FUY	Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY
YEAR 8		Basketball team training HMN	Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Football team training AJN/DSN Rowing Club DHK	Rugby Training FUY	Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY
YEAR 9			Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Football team training AJN/DSN Rowing Club DHK	Basketball team training HMN	Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY
YEAR 10	Basketball team training		Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Rowing Club DHK	Basketball team training HMN	Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY
YEAR 11	Basketball team training GCSE Revision session RDY		Rowing Club DHK	Basketball team training HMN	Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY



W THE WEDNESDAY **WORD** The Parish Version

Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 21st September 2014 - The Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 21st September 2014 - The Generosity of God (Matthew 20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last," they said, "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

It is hard not to sympathize with the workers who have sweated it out right through the day in the hot sun. The idlers who have hardly got earth on their spades or grease on their hands get a great bonus and I get no bonus at all! Is this fair? No. God is not fair. You can't apply the concept of "fairness" to God at all. We can't enter into a reckoning with God. God does not calculate as we do. In the terms of this world, this is obvious enough. The wicked do prosper, while honesty and high moral standards, instead of being rewarded are often simply mocked. Can we go deeper and say that the reward is in heaven? This hardly fits with the way Jesus worked here on earth. He did not reward the virtuous. He said he was the doctor who had come to the sick. His favourites were the worst of society, tax-collectors and prostitutes, not even amiable rascals. Heaven was open to anyone who accepted him. It is no good looking for fairness in God, for this implies that we deserve something. We cannot claim to 'deserve' anything; we are simply called into a loving relationship and to put our trust in Jesus.

What does this Sunday's Gospel say about the generosity of God? When have you experienced God's generosity, his kindness and forgiveness in your own life?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 21st September 2014



First Reading: *Our God: Rich in Forgiving*

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

This is the triumphant conclusion of the second major section of the Book of Isaiah: God's ways are utterly different from human thinking. The passage is obviously chosen to be read in church this Sunday because it looks towards God's 'irresponsible' behaviour in the gospel. In many ways it is comforting to think that God is not like ourselves. One reason why we cling to God is to be liberated from ourselves and to be brought into his marvellous light, living a life freed from the restrictions, frustrations and self-centredness that surrounds and penetrates us. Obviously God does not have our faults of selfishness, laziness, malice, lust and greed. More than that, not being bodily or limited in any way, God does not plan or think like ourselves. God does not think things out with 'Yes' and 'No', working in concepts or sentences. God does not laboriously plan what to do, weighing consequences, advantages and disadvantages! Even our love is always tinged with self-interest and concern for ourselves. God's love is entirely generous and out-going, a limitless cascade of love, deluging and penetrating each of us.

When do we love as God loves us?

Second Reading: *Life to Me is Christ*

Philippians 1:20-24.27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

This is the first of four Sunday readings from Paul's letter to the Philippians. They were his favourite community, linked to him with a strong bond of affection and intimacy, the only community from which he would accept gifts of money. Paul writes this letter from prison, not sure whether he is to live or die, not sure either which is his stronger desire. For life is his bond with the Christian communities he has founded, and which still need his help. But the centre of his life is the total rootedness in Christ, of which death can only be the completion. As he writes elsewhere, the Christian has been baptised into Christ's death, dipped into Christ's death, and so is soaked in Christ's death, waiting only for it to be completed in Christ's resurrection. If we really believe this with the strength of Paul's conviction, it gives a whole new centre to life, a whole new perspective on the life which is Christ's. Death will then not be a matter of fear and dread, but a bursting out of the limitations of this life into the glory of the resurrection.

What does it mean to be rooted in Christ?

“The centre of his life is the total rootedness in Christ.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*

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