



## Fred's Prayer for the Week

Lord, you know how busy I must be this day.  
If I forget you, do not forget me and those in my  
care and trust. Let me know that you are there in  
all that I do and say in your name.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)



## Message from the Headteacher

**"The Lord never tires of forgiving. It is we that tire of asking for forgiveness."**  
Pope Francis - from his first Angelus as Pope, 2013

I believe that our work with the "Growth Mindset" is very much in line with our Catholic tradition. To be Catholic is to be fully human; aware that we were created to love. As humans we will not always get it right, we will not always be successful but if we have faith we know it's a matter of "not yet!" The Pope reminds us that God is always ready to forgive us so we should live in the confidence of knowing that it's OK to be human - to sometimes fail but always to seek to improve.

Tomorrow is our Open Day with the school open for parents and carers of primary school pupils in Years 5 and 6 to view the school and the wonderful facilities and even better staff and students we are blessed with. Many of our students will be in to show off their pride in the school. If your son is involved, please check that their uniform reflects well on them and their school.

Just a reminder to all parents that Friday 24 October is an INSET Day where the school will be closed to students for staff training.

It seems like our visit from Ofsted was weeks ago and I eagerly wait for the final report to be published so I can share it with you. As I write this I am in sunny Ashford on the Southwark Education Commission Head Teachers' Conference. It's always good to find time to reflect on our schools and our vision for their success - especially with my colleagues and friends from Bexley. One of our presenters was the Rev. Christopher Jamison OSB, a Benedictine monk of Worth Abbey - often to be heard on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Radio 2. He spoke to us about vocations and how our curriculum in a Catholic school should help students ask the question (and hopefully find the answer...) about who do I want to become / who does Christ want me to become. Much food for thought....

Mr N Fisher



**MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 6th OCTOBER**

**BREAKFAST: 7.45am to 8.15am**

**LUNCH**

Mince Beef & Onion Pie with Mash

Chicken with Winter Vegetables Bolognaise Fusili

**TUESDAY**

Chicken Madras with Rice

Creamy Lentil Dhal (Coconut Milk & Coriander)

**WEDNESDAY**

Lasagne with Garlic Bread

Spaghetti with Vegetable Ribbons

**THURSDAY**

Welsh Lamb Hotpot

Spinach & Mushroom Crepes

**FRIDAY**

Fish & Chips

Hot Snacks, Filled Rolls & Baguettes Daily

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# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

## Key Stage 3 National Curriculum - Mathematics

### "Solving Problems"

The third aim of the new National Curriculum for Mathematics at Key Stage 3 is for pupils to "solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions".

The ability to solve a problem, any problem, is the whole purpose of mathematics. Indeed, any problem ever solved, has included some or all the skills associated with mathematics.

These skills can include:

- choosing which mathematics to use from existing knowledge,

- identifying the information needed to carry through a task,
- organising work,
- checking results,
- drawing conclusions,
- presenting an argument,
- generalising,
- explaining features of the problem,
- developing and following alternative approaches,
- increasing the complexity of the task undertaken.

These skills are useful right across the curriculum and for life beyond school. It is important pupils understand how essential the problem solving side of mathematics really is.

Next week:

What's in and what's out

## YEARS 7 & 8 RUBIK'S CLUB

### LEARN TO CUBE..... AND MORE!

Fridays in MA1 2.30pm to 3.30pm



### 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



### NOTE.....

Next week sees the start of daily extra support for Home Learning in mathematics. A mathematics teacher will be available each day from 2.30pm to 3pm for casual drop-ins or directed by the class teacher if required. You will also be able to access ICT to complete your Home Learning if you are unable to do so at home.

Now you can always know that someone will be there for you if your homework just seems a little too difficult.

Please see the mathematics department noticeboard for daily locations.

**Don't forget to use the hashtag # whenever you use mathematics in your other subjects.**

## YEAR 7 MATHS CLUB

Wednesdays in MA1  
2.30pm to 3.30pm

*Looking at all the extra fun maths topics that we just can't fit into lessons!*

## MATHEMATICS HOME LEARNING SUPPORT

Support is available every day for pupils at every level or grade with ANY home learning (inc. MyMaths & MathsWatch). Please check the noticeboard for daily times and locations.



MyMaths.co.uk  
Bringing Maths Alive



### Remember:

ALL pupils have access to paid subscriptions for MyMaths AND MathsWatch. Not only used for Home Learning, these two packages can be used by the pupils themselves for revision, catch-up, boosters, or even for the enjoyment of doing extra maths. Please encourage your son to try some extra mathematics tasks in his own learning time.

# PE Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

## Autumn / Spring Term

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

**Head Teacher**  
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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](mailto: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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Fisher', is written over a white background.





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014 - The Twenty Seventh 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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014 - True Justice (Matthew 21:33-43)**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance". So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see!" I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'



## 3 Reflect

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

*Jesus' understanding of the sovereignty of God brought him violent opposition from some of the Jewish leaders. Were they corrupt, or just closed to any new way of thinking, so closed that they could not see that Jesus was the promised Messiah? Anyway, Jesus used this story about the tenants of a vineyard to show that the religious authorities were not leading the people as they should. Everyone would immediately understand the image of the vineyard. The prophet Isaiah had used this image in a well-known poem eight centuries earlier to show that the vineyard of Israel refused to yield a good harvest to God, whatever care God lavished on it. God expected fairness of judgment from the people and all he found was a shriek of agony (the same word is used in Hebrew for 'fair-judgment' and for 'shriek' apart from one letter). What does this mean for us? Not that we have to follow every new idea. But it does mean that we must be open to the idea that we may be wrong, that our service of the Lord may be faulty, that people we find tiresome or unacceptable may have more good in them than we credited. God's ways are not our ways. Life may not be mapped out how we think, so we need to watch out for the bend in the road.*

**What is God asking of you?**

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**

[www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)



# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014



## First Reading: *The Song of the Vineyard*

### Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower; he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed; integrity, but only a cry of distress.

*A vineyard needs a lot of devoted care, pruning, manuring and tying back. In the rocky soil of Israel even more special care is needed, such as gathering the stones to form retaining walls to keep the soil from eroding, building a lookout tower against thieves and a vine-press for crushing the grapes. Then the right fruiting-vine has to be grafted onto the sturdy stock, as here the vinedresser grafts on fine grapes. Imagine his disappointment when all he gets for his pains is inedible wild grapes! After this haunting parable of Isaiah, the vineyard became a stock image of Israel, swathed in God's loving care, and all the dwellers in the rich vines of the hill-country of Israel would be aware that it was an image of the love lavished on his people. So when Israel goes into Exile, Psalm 80 laments, 'You brought a vine out of Egypt. Why have you broken down its fences? Every passer-by plucks its grapes. Wild beasts feed on it.' The prophets also, especially Ezekiel, used the image of the vineyard. Jesus' hearers would immediately recognise what he meant when he told his parable about a vineyard.*

**Why was the image of the vineyard so powerful for the people of Israel?**

## Second Reading: *Advice for the Community*

### Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

*This warm and affectionate little passage was probably originally the end of a letter from Paul to the community at Philippi, which he loved so well. It is a lovely conclusion to a letter. Paul encourages them in every way to be cheerful in the Lord, but especially to be grateful. If we really appreciate that the Lord is near, we cannot worry and the peace of God will rest upon us. Then also gratitude and thanksgiving will be our mode of thought, penetrating all our thoughts on every subject. The Greek word Paul uses for 'thanksgiving' is 'Eucharist', which is the name we use in the Church for the great prayer of thanksgiving, offered by Christ to the Father in the name of us all. It is the summing up of all prayer, petition, gratitude and admiration. No doubt Paul is thinking of it as the high point of all prayer.*

**How does St Paul encourage us to live and grow together as the Church community?**

“Be cheerful in the Lord.”

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

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