

Fred's Prayer for the Week

Give us this day, O Father,
 Reverence, to realise your presence;
 Humility, to know our own need;
 Trust, to ask for help;
 Obedience, to accept whatever you say to us:
 through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)

MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER

BREAKFAST: 7.45am to 8.15am

LUNCH MONDAY

Chicken Chasseur with Parmentier
Potatoes • Tuna & Sweetcorn Bake

TUESDAY

Chicken Chow Mein
(Beansprouts, Celery, Mushrooms
& Soy Sauce) • Thai Fish Curry

WEDNESDAY

Jerk Chicken, Rice & Peas & Salad
Spaghetti Milanaise
(Tomato, Ham & Mushroom)

THURSDAY

French Lamb Stew
Cheesy Leek with Cous Cous & Salad

FRIDAY

Fish & Chips

Hot Snacks, Filled Rolls & Baguettes Daily

Visit our website just
scan our QR code here!



Message from the Headteacher

OFSTED SAY WE ARE GOOD AND THE STUDENTS ARE OUTSTANDING!

We are celebrating our recent Ofsted report. Ofsted found that the school was 'Good' overall whilst Behaviour and Safety of students was "Outstanding".

The Ofsted inspection team that visited the school on the 23rd and 24th September were very professional, very robust and thorough and ultimately very fair. Inspectors met with me and Senior Leaders, staff and students and took into account the very positive feedback from parents where 100% of parents surveyed would recommend the school to other parents.

In their report, Ofsted said, "The behaviour of students is outstanding. Boys have very positive attitudes towards their learning" and "Boys take great pride in their school. They behave exceptionally well and they are respectful and courteous towards visitors, staff and each other."

It's a delight that Ofsted have recognised the clear vision and ethos of the school and how every member of the school is valued as a unique and special creation of God. Having both the quality of the education we provide and the exemplary behaviour of our students identified by Ofsted is a gratifying acknowledgement of the hard work put in throughout the school community. Together with the excellent GCSE results that our students continue to achieve, it makes St Columba's an excellent choice for parents.

In other news, October is Rosary Month and elsewhere in Weekly News there is a piece from Fred on this important milestone. I have also been asked to remind parents of students in Year 9 to return the BCG immunisation forms.

Mr N Fisher



St Columba's Catholic Boys' School

Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7QB

Inspection dates 23-24 September 2014

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected as an academy
	This inspection:	Good 2
Leadership and management	Good	2
Behaviour and safety of pupils	Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching	Good	2
Achievement of pupils	Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

This is a good school.

- Most boys make good progress from average starting points. They achieve examination results in Year 11 similar to those in other schools in most subjects. GCSE results in English, mathematics and science are above average and improving steadily.
- The headteacher, leaders and governors are passionate about raising aspirations across the school. They are determined that every boy is supported to reach his full potential. They are regularly seen around the school and build positive relationships with staff and students.
- Teaching across the school is good. Effective management of teachers' performance and focused professional development opportunities help teachers improve.
- Boys take great pride in their school. They behave exceptionally well and have very positive attitudes towards their learning. They are respectful and courteous towards visitors, staff and each other.
- Attendance is very high because boys enjoy being at school. They value the support they are given which helps them to achieve well. They expect a lot of themselves and work hard to reach their goals.
- Boys are kept extremely safe. Bullying incidents are uncommon. School leaders and governors ensure that safeguarding of students is of a high standard.

It is not yet an outstanding school because:

- Most boys make good or better progress but there is still some variability across subjects, for example design and technology and modern foreign languages.
- Not all teachers provide high-quality marking and feedback to ensure that boys know how to improve and make better progress.
- Achievement targets, set by teachers and leaders, are not always based on accurate information. Targets are sometimes not challenging enough. This slows the pace of improvement.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Key Stage 3 National Curriculum - Mathematics

"What's in and what's out"

The new National Curriculum for Mathematics at Key Stage 3 has changed little in terms of content. There is some restructure in terms of some of the headings. Statistics has become two separate areas called Statistics and Probability.

The Attainment Target called Ratio, proportion and rates of change is completely new. Number, Algebra and Geometry remain the same. The topic areas within these headings seem to be less defined now, and a single topic area might cross more than one Attainment Target.

There have only been small changes to the topics covered:

- Inverse proportion has been included
- Unit pricing has been included as a new compound unit
- Venn Diagrams has been included in probability
- The Handling Data Cycle has been removed. Only presentation and analysis of data remains. (This does make it very hard to solve problems in statistics and therefore we have chosen to continue to teach collection of data methods.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via the school office.

Mrs L Turner
Head of Maths

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



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.

The Rosary



The modern day Rosary can trace its roots back to around 1241 when St Dominic experienced apparitions of The Blessed Mother Mary. Saint Dominic was especially devoted to what is now considered the predecessor of the modern rosary. This was simply a tallying mechanism to count the number of prayers recited which in early times was called paternoster, which translates roughly from Latin as 'Father' (pater) and 'Our' (noster). Often the person reciting a penance would recite 150 Our Fathers and use the paternoster to keep an accurate count.

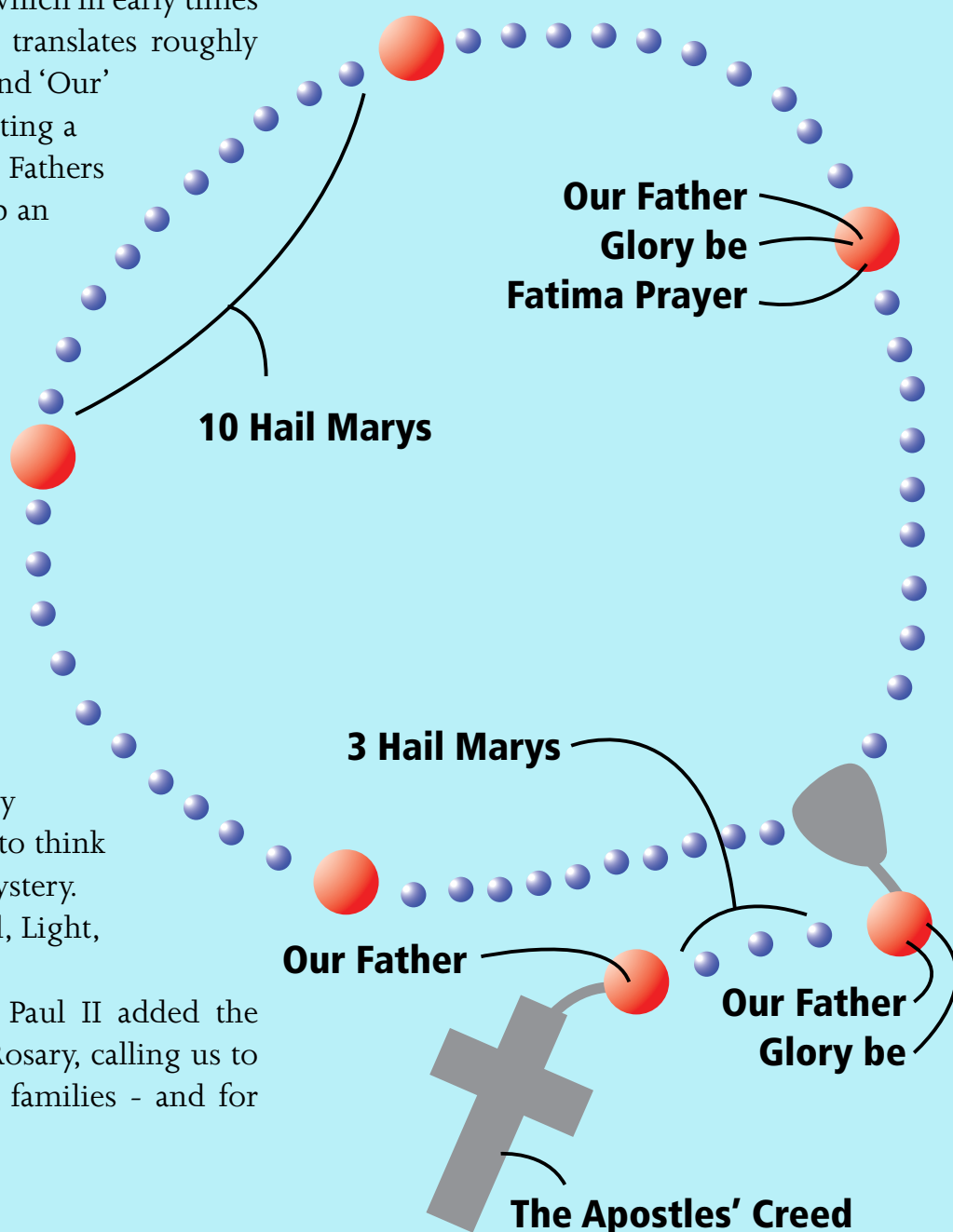
The Rosary is made up of "decades". A decade is one "Our Father" followed by ten "Hail Marys" and a "Glory Be".

Whilst it is usual to say five decades at a time, it is better to say one decade well, rather than five decades badly. As you say each decade think about a story in the life of Mary and Jesus. There are 20 stories to think about. Each story is called a Mystery. There are four Mysteries; Joyful, Light, Sorrowful and the Glorious.

In October 2002, Pope John Paul II added the Mystery of Light to the Holy Rosary, calling us to pray the rosary daily, for our families - and for world peace.

That is why here at school we are praying the rosary each day in October not only for each other but for our extended family.

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)



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		Rugby Training FUY	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	Rugby Training FUY	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	Rugby Training FUY	Rowing Club DHK	Basketball team training HMN	Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY

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

Deputy Head Teachers
Dr.L.Fripps EdD, MA, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH
B.Woodcock B.Sc.(Hons), PGCE

School Business Manager
J.Hobbs



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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Fisher', is written over a light blue horizontal line.





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 12th October 2014 - The Twenty Eighth 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 12th October 2014 (Matthew 22:1-10): An Invitation to the Wedding Feast

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'The kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called but few are chosen.'



3 Reflect

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

A wedding is a time of joy and of completion after long preparation, a time of love and of complete satisfaction. In Judaism at the time of Jesus, the coming of the Messiah is often compared to the joy of a wedding-feast. The marriage-feast at Cana must have been some party! At Mary's request Jesus produced 900 litres of wine. The Letter to the Ephesians teaches that the love in a human wedding is only a foretaste of Christ's love for his bride, the Church. In the story of the royal wedding in this Sunday's Gospel, however, two things go drastically wrong. First, the original wedding guests refuse to come. Not only do they refuse, but they brutally maltreat the innocent messengers, and the king (who must represent God) ruthlessly burns down their city. Secondly, the man who has no wedding-garment is thrown out: a wedding-garment is a standard Jewish image for works of generosity expected of every faithful Jew. For us Christians too, the story constitutes a double warning.

Are we alert and listening for God's call? Do we rest secure in being called Christians and leave the challenging jobs to others?

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 12th October 2014



First Reading: *The Lord's Banquet*

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations; he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: 'See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.'

The reading begins with the image of the messianic banquet, the banquet which the Lord is preparing for the end of time; Jesus takes up this image in the gospel story of the wedding-feast. After the first lines the image changes; the text now speaks of the removal of the mourning veil and the destruction of death, when every tear will be wiped away. In the earlier traditions of the Bible the dead were thought to lead a wretched existence in 'Sheol', a life which is no life, a sort of half-existence without power or substance, where the dead cannot even praise God. Gradually Israel came to realise that God's love is so enveloping and so enduring that God cannot desert or abandon his faithful even in death; nor can death cut off from God those who are faithful. This text from Isaiah is one of the crucial passages where the permanent, saving strength of God's love is expressed. Speaking to the Sadducees (who did not believe in the resurrection) Jesus will say, 'God is the God not of the dead but of the living'. Paul will say, 'Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus'.

What hope does this passage hold out for those who are faithful? Who are the faithful?

Second Reading: *Ready for Anything – with the Help of God*

Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Paul has reached the final greetings of his letter to the Philippians. Even when he is writing to this beloved community at Philippi, from whom alone he would accept gifts, Paul is anxious to maintain his independence. In the ancient world, as in the modern world, a favour demands a return-favour: 'there is no such thing as a free dinner'! So Paul points out that he could manage without the gift they have given him, since all his strength comes from God. But he also wishes them the blessing of the fulfilment of all their needs from the glory of God in Christ Jesus. This is an incomparable blessing, whose awesome value is obscured by our careless use of the term 'glory'. The glory of God is a term frightening in its richness. No human being can see God and live, but Moses did for a moment glimpse God's glory – after which his face was so seared that he had to wear a veil over it. It is a glory which, by contrast, fills Isaiah with dread at his own sinfulness, and which makes Ezekiel fall to the ground. It is the experience of the limitless power and majesty of God.

Am I ready "for anything, anywhere"?

“The limitless power and majesty of God.”

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org