



right2read



Message from the Head Teacher

Time Flies!

This morning we had our Leavers Mass for Yr 11 students. In many ways it was a strange event.... It only seems like a few months ago when they joined us in Yr 7 and they're not actually leaving yet!

It was a joy to see our young men worshipping together and singing the school hymn with such power and emotion. We have the Mass now because the GCSE examinations are starting and it is a good time to come together and reflect on what has been achieved and what will be achieved.

We often use the term "stress" in a negative way but it is important to remember that manageable stress can be positive and I don't want Yr 11 students being too relaxed about the examinations - these exams matter. All of our students know that we are here to help and support them and if the stress becomes too much it is crucial that they talk about it.

Obviously as the summer term proceeds, the GCSE exams are drawing ever nearer and hopefully our Yr 11 students are now concentrating on study and revision.

I would like to draw your attention to the Examination Guide 2016/17. This is available on the Exams section on the 'Students' tab on the school website. A quick link is <https://goo.gl/21pdL8>.

Students have already been issued with their personalised Exam Timetable; I hope you are aware of the dates and times so that students arrive in good time for their exams. It is also worth reminding you of the arrangements for Results Day which are given on page 8 of the Examination Guide.

If students want someone to collect their results on their behalf, they must give written authorisation for this beforehand as legally the information belongs to the student.

Fred's Prayer for the Week

God our Father, Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendour of creation, in the beauty of human life. Touched by your hand our world is holy. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters, and to experience the joy of life in your presence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)

We are very keen to make this as smooth an experience for students (and families!) as possible.

If you have any queries, please do contact our Exams Officer Mrs Reddington via the school office or by email at brn@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk

Mr N Fisher



Click here to link to the SIMS Learning Gateway

Bexley Recycle

The London Borough of Bexley waste and recycle team are running up-cycling and craft workshops. The workshops are open to Bexley residents over the age of 16 to promote the reduction of waste whilst saving money.

www.tlcbexley.gov.ac.uk
or 020 3045 5176



PE Department Update

The summer term is in full swing and lessons have altered in Key Stage 3 to Athletics, Indoor Tennis, Rounder's and Softball. Athletics lessons are a great opportunity for the boys to put their name in the frame to represent the school at our Athletics meets and even at the Bexley Athletics Championships! Our extra-curricular programme has also changed so see the updated programme in the Weekly News. We have activities on for all year groups throughout the week so get involved!!

Mr Donnelly
Head of PE Dept



Film Evenings 2017

St John Fisher Church Hall,
48 Thanet Road, Bexley DA5 1AP

Tel: 01322 524813

www.stjohnfisherbexley.org

Date	Arrivals	Film Starts	Film
Wed 17 May	7.00pm	7.30pm	Fatima: Movie celebrating the 100th anniversary of apparitions of Virgin Mary to 3 young shepherds.
Wed 14 June	6.45pm	7.00pm	Pope Pius XII: Movie about great yet hidden struggle he waged to save Jews from the Nazis during World War II.
Wed 19 July	6.45pm	7.00pm	Abraham: Movie on the biblical patriach of faith.

D

Monday
Cajun Style Fish served with Sweet Potato
Tuna Pasta Bake
Seasonal Vegetables
Chocolate Rice Pudding

N

Tuesday
Caribbean Chicken served with Rice and peas
Spicy Jerk Style Vegetables
Seasonal Vegetables
Apple and Cinnamon Crumble with Custard

E

Wednesday
Traditional Italian Lasagne served with Cheesy Garlic Bread
Chargrilled Ciabatta
Salad or Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon Sorbet

S



Thursday
Chunky Chicken and Bacon Pie served with Parsley New Potatoes
Broccoli and Cheese Quiche
Seasonal Vegetables
Raspberry Sponge served with Custard

Friday
Fish and Chips
Chicken Korma served with Potato Wedges or Rice
Vegetarian Singapore Noodles
Baked Beans

Available Daily
A wide selection of Hot Snacks, Rolls and Sandwiches

WEEK COMMENCING 08.05.17

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME SUMMER TERM

Day	Year Groups	ART CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	Come and Create!	2:30 - 3:30pm	Ar2

Day	Year Groups	DEBATE CLUB	Time	Room
Tuesday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Practice your debating skills	2:30 - 3:15pm	En4

Day	Year Groups	ENGLISH CLUB	Time	Room
2nd Friday of month	All welcome	Writing Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	En3
Last Friday of month	G & T	Book Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	En3

Day	Year Groups	IT	Time	Room
Wednesday	KS4	Computer Science Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	IT1
Thursday	KS3	Computer Science Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	IT1

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Tuesday	KS3, KS4	Choir Mr Watson Miss Foot	2:35 - 3:15pm	Mu1
	Yr10 Musicians	Rock Band	2:35 - 3:15pm	Large Practice Room
	GCSE Music Students	GCSE Band Rehearsals Student Led	2:35 - 4:00pm	All Practice Rooms
	KS3	Guitar Club	2:45 - 4:30pm	All Practice Rooms
Wednesday	All who play	Piano Students only	1:10 - 1:30pm	All Practice Rooms
Thursday	Students taking drum lessons only	Drum Practice	11:00-11:15am	All Practice Rooms
	KS3 KS3	Drum Club Keyboard Club	2:45 - 4:30pm 2:45 - 4:30pm	
Friday	All years - book with Sir	Band Practice	2:45 - 4:30pm	Large Practice Room
	KS3	Drum Club	2:45 - 4:30pm	
	KS3	Keyboard Club	2:45 - 4:30pm	

Day	Year Groups	PE CLUBS
Monday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Indoor Tennis RCN
Tuesday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9, Yr10	Athletics League Competition HMN REE RDY
Wednesday	Yr9, Yr10	Softball Competition RDY
Thursday	Yr7, Yr8	Softball / Rounders REE
Friday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9,	Youth Club RCN REE RDY HMN

Day	Year Groups	RE	Time	Room
Tuesday	All welcome	KS3 RE homework club SSE	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE1
	All welcome	GCSE catch up sessions JFE	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE2
	All welcome	Boy's Bible Club FOU	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE3
Wednesday	New members welcome any time	RE Film Club See Mr Shoebridge	2:30pm	RE1
Thursday	Yr 9, Yr10	RE homework/catch up club FOU	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE3



Day	Year Groups	STEM CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths	2:35 - 3:00pm	Sc1



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 7th May 2017 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Relax & Remember

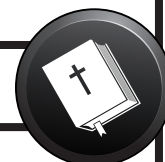
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this 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 7th May 2017 - The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-10)

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'



3 Reflect

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

In each year of the three-year cycle of readings this fourth Sunday of Easter is designated Good Shepherd Sunday, with readings from the parable given in John 10. In the first two Sundays after Easter the meetings with the Risen Lord are described, but after that the most important truth about the Risen Lord which the Church puts before us is that this Jesus whom we encounter is the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament God is the Shepherd of Israel, and indeed in the neighbouring pastoral nations too the protective deity of the nation is commonly called their 'Shepherd'. As the pastoral ancient world well knew, the duty of shepherds is to care devotedly for the sheep, with no regard to the personal cost to themselves. Ezekiel repeatedly castigates the recent leaders of Israel for their failure to care for the sheep and for managing the flock for their own personal advantage. It is especially striking that in all four gospels the divine title of Shepherd is transferred from God to Jesus himself, at least implying not only that Jesus is the perfect shepherd, but also that he is the incarnation of that divine Shepherd, fulfilling the duties which had hitherto been credited to the God of Israel alone. By his selfless generosity Jesus is the model for all rulers and leaders of nations.

What does it mean to you to describe Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Who is your special guide in life and why?

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 7th May 2017



First Reading: *The First Conversions*

Acts of the Apostles 2:14.36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered, 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Last Sunday we heard Peter's explanation of the Resurrection as the fulfilment of God's plan which had been outlined in the scriptures. Now we hear the practical consequences: baptism to wash away sin and reception of the Holy Spirit (like Christ at his own baptism). From the very beginning Luke shows that baptism and the promises are for all people, not just for the Jews. All are welcome into Christ's company. But we must first understand what Peter (and before him Jesus and even John the Baptist) meant by 'repentance'. It is not a doleful moping over sin. It is a change of life, a complete change of our scale of values. The Greek word for 'repentance' means a changed mind-set. The corresponding Hebrew word means turning round and going in the opposite direction. 'Repentance', then, is a serious business, not to be undertaken lightly. Careful scrutiny reveals that we may well have unswept corners where the old standards remain lurking, breeding and reproducing. The Christian is baptised into Christ and into Christ's death in order to rise to new life with Christ, but even St Paul acknowledges that we remain caught up in doing the evil we want to avoid.

Is it possible to take on Christ's life and yet to sin? What helps us in our daily lives to repent and turn to face Christ?

Second Reading: *The Example of Christ*

1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

One of the most striking things about this passage is that it is addressed primarily to slaves, exhorting them to bear with the harsh treatment of their masters after the model of Jesus' own acceptance of harsh treatment. What is staggering for us is that the author does not in the least question the institution of slavery nor sees injustice in that savage treatment which slaves tended to receive. It was not for a millennium and a half that the treatment of slaves and indeed the institution of slavery itself were seen to be incompatible with Christ's teaching on the equal dignity and limitless value of every individual human being. As Pope Benedict pointed out on his visit to Britain in 2010, the extension of this important principle of social justice to slaves is due to the work of Christian political movements in Britain. However, another principle underpinning our reading remains - that we all suffer to a greater or lesser degree, and that our suffering offers a priceless opportunity to draw close to the suffering Christ, and consciously to share in his redemptive suffering. Nor must the suffering of others in union with Christ be neglected. It is easy to despise the poorer and more neglected members of society, and to forget that, by their very disadvantages, they can be the chosen favourites of the Lord.

How easy is it to follow the example of the suffering Christ?

“ A priceless opportunity to draw close to the suffering Christ. ”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org