

SACRED HEART OF JESUS & ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

356 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7SR
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity no. 1199568



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11/12 May 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

'Made in Heaven'

Throughout the weeks of Eastertide we are running a series of articles on the Sacrament of Marriage and its central importance in the life of the Christian community. The articles are written by parishioner David Chiswell who has taught, formed and prepared couples for marriage for many years in his capacity as a leading member of Catholic Marriage Care, and has a wealth of wisdom and insight to offer through these reflections.



David writes... During the last five weeks, we have explored the church's teaching about marriage and how that has changed over the last hundred years or so. As I've journeyed with many couples over the last twenty-five years, I realise that I've learnt more about myself than I ever thought possible and that has contributed to the very richness of the relationship Vivien and I share.

I was brought up as an Anglican and was very involved in church activities as a youngster. Vivien and I married in the Catholic church in Argentina and then moved to the UK. We regularly attended Mass as a family both in London and later in Sonning Common. We moved to Denmead in 1976 when we joined the community at Sacred Heart.

Some years ago I realised that my life had been governed by a sense of service to others, something that started in my early family life and progressed as I chopped and changed jobs and we moved around; I believe my faith was in some way governed by this and I seldom prayed deeply to God because I believed he was telling me to get on with things and he had lots of others who needed his intervention more than I did. I became a Catholic in 1989.

Shortly after joining Marriage Care as a volunteer, I found myself involved in running marriage preparation courses and very quickly I became aware that neither I nor any of the couples understood the Church's teaching about marriage and how this had changed in recent time. So started a voyage of exploration, reading Encyclicals and Exhortations going back to 1888! I very quickly focussed on the nature of love and especially the three forms used in the Bible: philia, eros and agape. The first two brotherly love and erotic love quickly took a back seat but the "pure, wilful, sacrificial love that intentionally desires another's highest good" that is agape changed my life. Over the years I learnt that that fully committed love was not only the driver in our relationship, but it also enriched my relationships with everybody I deal with. And, I'm sure, it has helped me build stronger ties with the couples I help as they prepare for the next stage in their relationships.

Liturgical Week

DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL CELEBRATION	VENUE	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 11 May <i>Of the 6th Week of Easter</i> <i>After Ascension</i> VIGIL SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am 10am 5.30pm 6.15pm	Adoration Mass Confession Mass	St Edmund St Edmund Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Ralph & Muriel Bradley, RIP
Sunday 12 May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am 10.30am 4pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass	St Edmund Sacred Heart QA Hospital Sacred Heart	John Maloney, RIP Jane Kathleen Brunt, RIP
Monday 13 May <i>Of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	7am 7.30am	Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Peter Craig, RIP
Tuesday 14 May <i>ST MATTHIAS, feast</i>	6.30pm 7pm	Adoration Mass	St Edmund St Edmund	
Wednesday 15 May <i>Of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	11.30am 12noon	Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Ian Purvis, RIP
Thursday 16 May <i>Of the 7th Week of Easter</i>	9.30am 10am	Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	
Friday 17 May <i>Of the 6th Week of Easter</i>	10am 6.30pm	Mass Mass	St Thomas More School St Colman	
Saturday 18 May <i>Of the 7th Week of Easter</i> VIGIL SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10am 11.30am 12noon 5.30-6pm 5.40pm 6.15pm	Memorial Mass Adoration Mass for the Sick Confession Rosary Mass	Oaklands School Chapel St Edmund St Edmund Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Tony Higgins Anthony Hill, RIP
Sunday 19 May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.30am 10.30am 4pm 6.30pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass	St Edmund Sacred Heart QA Hospital Sacred Heart	John McErlean, RIP People of the Parish

Havant Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart & St Peter the Apostle



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St Edmund



Napier Road,
Horndean PO8
9LR
Fr. Jeremy Garratt & Fr. James Lewis
Secretary: Yvonne Hands
023 9259 3010
office@stedmundhorndean.org.uk

St Patrick



Manor Road,
Hayling Island
PO11 0QU
Fr. Mark Whiting
023 9246 3854
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St Michael & All Angels



437 Dunsbury
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Leigh Park PO9
5BD
Canon Gerard Flynn
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St Joseph



134 West St, Havant
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Fr. Joe Gruszkiewicz
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St Thomas



24 New Brighton Road,
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Fr. Joe Gruszkiewicz
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St Colman and St. Paul



St Colman Ave, Cosham PO6 2JJ
Fr. Andrew Wagstaff
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Regina Caeli

*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia.
Has risen as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.*

May is the month devoted to Mary

Come and pray the rosary throughout the month of May at Sacred Heart –
Every Saturday @ 5.40pm.

New Rosary Group coming in June...

Steve Leigh writes... I'm pleased to advise that I have been asked by Fr's Jeremy and James, to start a new Rosary Group at Sacred Heart.

It will start on Tuesday 4 June at 6.45pm to 8.15pm in the church with refreshments in the Narthex. If you don't know how to say the Rosary, understand it, the history of it, the composition of it and the spiritual power of it, please come along.

Open to all in our community, post Alpha participants, those going to Medjugorje or just curious as to how to say it, then come along, and we will build this together weekly on Tuesdays at 6.45pm starting the 4 June.

There is more power in Group prayer than individual prayer.



www.portsmouthvocations.org



"As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them." If you think the Lord may be inviting you to carry on His mission as a priest or religious brother or sister, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

Exploring God's Call – God loves you and has a plan for your life

Single, married, religious sister or brother, deacon or priest – We are here to help you discover, discern and respond to God's call. To discover more about Vocations visit our website or contact us. For discussion, accompaniment and prayer – join our discernment seeker group, meeting on the first Friday of the month. Join our next Adult's Discipleship and Vocation Retreat (more below). For information and enquiries use email above.

God calls us all – How will you respond? 'Come Away with Me' Retreat

To all young adults (18-35 ish) to a Summer Retreat Day "God's Call to Missionary Discipleship and Living Our Vocation." Saturday 8 June @ 10.30am at St. Philip Howard Church/Hall, Fareham PO14 1ND. Talks, testimony, prayer and fellowship. After Sunday Mass @ 6.30pm the retreat day will close with an evening meal. Booking required. For information use email above.

Phishing Emails/Texts from 'Fr. Jeremy'

Unfortunately, there has been another round of dodgy emails/texts in Fr. Jeremy's name! Fr. Jeremy will not email or text parishioners requesting money, gifts or a favour. Please let Sue in the presbytery know and delete off your device straightaway.

Second Collection This Weekend

There will be a collection after all Masses this weekend for the Catholic Communications Network. Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day 2024 follows the theme 'Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication'. He asks how we can remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose? You can read the full message here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd24-papal-message/>.

The Second Collection for World Communications Day assists the Church to support this theme and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world. Donations can be made online: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/world-communications-day-second-collection-2024>

Catholic Talks for Youth and Adults

Every Tuesday and Thursday @ 7.30pm at Missio ad Gentes Room, Cosham, junction of High Street and Magdala Road. Come and Listen! God loves you as you are!

Tony Higgins, RIP

On Saturday 18 May at 10am Mass will be offered in Oaklands Chapel for Tony Higgins (pictured), former teacher, who died at the end of January. The Mass will be offered by Rev Trevor Nicholls (also former teacher at Oaklands, now resident in New York, USA). An invitation to Mass is extended to any former staff, parents or students who would like to attend to remember Tony Higgins.



Bible Readings

John McCormack writes... Please join our wonderful Bible reading group this Thursday, 16th of May at 6:45 till 8:15 as we continue to read Acts and the formation of the early church. We are a group of parishioners enjoying the discovery of the Bible. It is not heavy, it is joyful and we are all learning. This week it is Acts 19-22.

Church Cleaning

Mondays 9-11am. Our cleaning team are always on the lookout for new members. Please consider joining our amazing volunteers who make sure the church is clean and tidy for all to enjoy. Even if you can only give half an hour, we would be so grateful.

The Tuesday Club

First and third Tuesdays of each month 2-4pm. If you have never attended before but fancy turning up for a cuppa and a chat, just come along. Any questions – please give Trish a call on 07947 611699.

The Union of Catholic Mothers

Meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month @ 1.30pm in the Parish Centre. New ladies very welcome. Next meeting: Wednesday, 15 May.

Saying Goodbye Remembrance Service - **Cancelled**

Unfortunately, this event has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Hayling Arts Trail 2024 - this weekend!

Hayling Parishioner, Pauline Brice would like to invite everyone to visit the Island this weekend to enjoy the 2024 Hayling Arts Trail. There will be over 50 artists opening the doors to their studios, homes and gardens to the public! Saturday and Sunday from 9am until 5pm. There are booklets available in a number of places. St Patrick's Church will have lots of paintings and cards for browsing/buying and refreshments will also be available. Everyone welcome! You can check out the Trail Guide:

f37a7a_56596b5d68954258a9abe37410126bea.pdf (haylingislandartstrail.co.uk)

Mass for the Sick

There will be a Mass for the Sick at St Edmund's, Horndean, on Saturday 18 May @ 12noon followed by lunch in the hall. Please add your names to the list on the white board at St. Edmund's or contact Yvonne in the office on 023 9259 3010 or office@stedmundhorndean.org.uk

A Day with Mary

A day of instruction, devotion and intercession based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. Saturday 18 May at Bournemouth Oratory, Richmond Hill. Entry Procession @ 9.30am, Mass @ 10.30am, please bring a packed lunch for Lunch @ 11.45am. Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament @ 12.45pm with tea/coffee @ 2.45pm. Day ends with Benediction @ 3.15pm

(Sporting) News from St. Peter's School

Headteacher, Richard Cunningham writes...

As well as regular timetabled lessons of whole class PE, and a range of extra-curricular sporting activities, many children at St Peter's get the opportunity to take part in sports taster sessions organised at local secondary schools and colleges. So far in 2024, different groups of children from across the year groups have taken part in racquet skills sessions, tri-golf, dodgeball, netball and tag rugby tournaments. In school, meanwhile regular inter-house sports tournaments are organised to pit our different houses, named after St Oscar Romero, St John Paull II, St Teresa of Calcutta and St Mary Elizabeth, against one another over the course of the academic year. After indoor athletics and football so far this year, the next inter-house tournament will be tennis, in keeping with the hopefully sunny and hot summer term. There is always a lot of sport going on at St Peter's, and we will be building up to the Paris Olympic Games and the Euro 2024 tournament with further events in June and July.

Family Picnic

Saturday 18 May from 12noon-7pm at St. Joseph's Church, 134 West Street, Havant. Live Music, delicious food and drinks, bouncy castle, artistic performances, sports games and Tombola – FREE ENTRY.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2024 - FULL

The 7-night pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 26 October to 2 November is now full. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please contact Sue in the presbytery.

Cash for Kids

Hunger has no holiday – Every local child deserves a hot meal in the school holidays. You can make it happen by supporting Hits Radio and Greatest Hits Radio with their Cash for Kids campaign.

Please scan the QR code to donate →

You can contact the Cash for Kids Team on south@cashforkids.org.uk



Admittance to Hospital?

When a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family should ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. It is suggested that the patient have a note to give to hospital staff on admission, notifying staff that they are Catholic and would appreciate the Catholic Chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a telephone call from the family to the ward to ensure the request is actioned. When a person is due to go into hospital, please also let your parish priest know so that he can administer the Sacrament of the Sick where appropriate.

Please pray for those who need our prayers...

John O'Neill, Maria Carmen Martin, Damien Haughan, Carole Higton, Elizabeth Evelyn, Margaret Bush, Amrutha Anthony, Michael Lowe, Conor Mills, Ian Cuthbert, Theresa Tierney, Bob Jaques, Saneesh James, Mr. James, Tony Tucker, Justin Quinn, Patrick Patten, Barbara Higgins, Derek & Monica Taylor, Christine New, Anna Chin, John De Battista, John Griffiths, Paul Kessell-Holland, Audrey Dymock, Mike Turner, Mavis Bowden, Lucy Hunt, Claire, Kim Smith, Julie Carolan, Andrew Woolhead, Jonathan Swartz, Diana Beston, Becky Truscott, Richard Dixon, Margo Parker, Matthias Ng, Sally Tee, Jackie Bartolo & Ben Lewis.

For the housebound, lonely, homeless, bereaved, those in nursing homes, hospital and the Rowans Hospice.



If you ask for someone to be prayed for and their name is placed on the Prayers for the Sick in the newsletter, it is your responsibility to ensure that the presbytery is kept informed about their condition. For the long-term sick, a quarterly update would be appreciated. Thank you.

CARJ 40th Anniversary Event - Saturday 25 May

Catholic Association for Racial Justice was established 40 years ago on 16 June 1984 at a meeting of approximately 25 'founding members' from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. From the beginning, CARJ was seen as a black-led, independent organisation where ethnic minorities could find support and a voice, and where people of all backgrounds could work together for racial justice. Despite challenging times in society and in the church, CARJ has secured remarkable achievements along the way.

Since 2006 CARJ has worked in schools, delivering workshops on racial justice, training youth ambassadors and supporting the general educational attainment of black and minority ethnic young people. To mark this important milestone, CARJ is holding a national event on Saturday the 25th of May @ 10.30am at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral London SE1 7HY, at which CARJ will launch a new 'Racial Justice Agenda for Change', which will be the vision for the work of CARJ for the future after these four decades of tirelessly working for racial justice in society. The Agenda for Change builds on the experiences and learning of the past 40 years and puts forward a strategy for bringing about greater equality and creating a racially just church and society, a goal which continues to elude us in the 21st century.

(Open to all and Free to attend, with lunch served and a Sung Mass)

Ukraine

What can we do here in the UK, here in Portsmouth Diocese? Donate money to the DEC appeals to allow the relief agencies including Caritas to continue their work with refugees as they arrive in neighbouring countries. Visit the Caritas website for more information on how you can help:

www.caritasportsmouth.org.uk Please donate cash rather than collect and send donations-in-kind: www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal or www.cafod.org.uk/ukrainecrisis

HOMES FOR UKRAINE: Find out more at www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk

Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Amid the devastating conflict in Israel and Gaza, families are losing their homes and people are dying. They need urgent, practical help! A gift today will provide essentials like food, water and blankets to those who need it. Scan the QR code or donate online at

www.cafod.org.uk



A Prayer for Israel & Palestine

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. Amen.

CAFOD Sudan Crisis Appeal

Please pray and please give. Every gift is needed! Families in Sudan are facing extreme hunger. 25 Million people need urgent help. CAFOD and our Church partners are there, ready to help. £22 Provides essential medicine and hygiene kits. £100 Funds two emergency food packages. More information from www.cafod.org.uk/SudanAppeal or call 0808 5858885 or you can use this QR code →



Job Vacancies and Volunteering Opportunities

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

Please follow the link for current vacancies throughout the Diocese:

<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

The Community Cornerstone

The inaugural edition of a monthly publication from our local Catholic Schools can be found on the next few pages of this newsletter.

[View this email in your browser](#)



THE COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PASTORAL AREA



VOLUME 1, April 2024

A View from Mr Quinn

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the first edition of 'The Community Cornerstone'.

As you are aware, the parishes within the Havant Pastoral Area already work together closely. As the Pastoral Area Plan develops, this will become increasingly important. The current plan recognises the important part that the four schools in the area, Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College, St Paul's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, St Peter's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas More's Catholic Primary and Pre-School, play to fulfil the mission of the Catholic Church. In our schools, we have over three hundred staff working to bring over two thousand four hundred students closer to Jesus.

In the spirit of the Pastoral Plan, we would like to share and celebrate with parishioners, the success of our schools in a single online publication. A new edition will be released about once a month.

Lately at **Oaklands**

Faraday Challenge



On Tuesday 16th April, Year 8 students were joined by teams from Horndean Technology College, Park Community School and Purbrook Park School, in the Gym for the Faraday Challenge. This national engineering competition, run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), challenges students to apply their STEM skills in a real-world setting.

The theme for this year's challenge was "The Future of Green Energy." Students delved into the world of renewable energy sources, exploring innovative ways to generate, store, and distribute clean power.

The competition demanded a skilful application of STEM principles, coupled with a high degree of creativity and resourcefulness. We commend our students for their dedication, teamwork, and unwavering commitment to the project.

Students worked in teams of six to build a prototype of a product that could be used to help road users. They had to use their imaginations along with engineering skills to design and build the product.

One of the Oaklands teams won the event and their score will be entered into the national league table!



Mass for the Community



Oaklands Catholic School is a community that places great emphasis on prayer and reflection. We hold Staff Mass in the Chapel every month, which is celebrated by our local parish priests. This is a time of peace and contemplation for our staff, who can take a moment to pause and reflect on their work and the impact that it has on our community. It is also an opportunity for staff to receive Holy Communion, which nourishes the soul and provides a sense of renewal.

As a large and diverse community, we understand the importance of coming together to celebrate life's joys and to support each other during difficult times. For this reason, we hold Staff Masses during times of jubilation and celebration, as well as during moments of bereavement and loss. This creates a strong sense of community and solidarity, which is essential for our collective well-being.

We warmly invite the staff of St Peter's Primary School to attend our Masses, sharing in our community spirit. We now hold a termly Mass for parishioners of our local Parishes, as we believe that prayer has the power to bring people together and to heal the soul.

Recently, we had the pleasure of hosting Father Andrew Wagstaff from the parish of St Colman's, who celebrated a mass for our community. Father Andrew has been a wonderful addition to our pastoral area, and we are grateful for his contributions to our community.



STEM Showcase



On Tuesday 16th April, Year 7 and Year 8 were lucky enough to have the STEM Roadshow visit Oaklands. The roadshow works in collaboration with BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force, and The Royal Navy to deliver an

engaging theatre roadshow celebrating STEM and the future career possibilities it links with.

The theme of the show was electricity. This highly interactive show explored what electricity is and how we generate it. Pupils and teachers took part in activities that had them describing what it felt like to have a low amount of electricity passed through them, the different parts of a circuit and building a giant circuit, the ways we generate electricity and the positives and negatives of those. As a finale Mr Semple powered a windmill by cycling.

The students were able to consolidate what they have been learning in the curriculum with these interactive activities and find out more about careers they could do in the future related to these areas.

This wasn't your average school day - it was ELECTRIFYING! Students were buzzing with questions and they led the charge, building and testing circuits, after an essential safety briefing. There were even lightsabers! Everyone found it very fun and interesting.



Welcome to St Paul's



We will achieve our vision by living out our Mission Statement - 'Do Everything with Love.' St Paul's to the Corinthians
Welcome to St Paul's Catholic Primary School and Nursery.

St Paul's School is located in the north of Portsmouth and includes an on-site nursery. It has been part of the local community for over 60 years. It has a Church on site with close links to the parish including the formation of its own First Holy Communion programme.

Our Vision at St Paul's is to provide an outstanding education for our children. We want them to be fluent readers, with a love of literacy, to communicate effectively both orally and written and to have an excellent understanding of mathematics. We also want our pupils to have highly developed social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness. Children will be knowledgeable across each of the subject areas through rich and varied curricular provision, which is personalised to their needs. We encourage our children to have high aspirations, to believe in themselves as learners and in doing so be successful at every stage of their education and beyond.

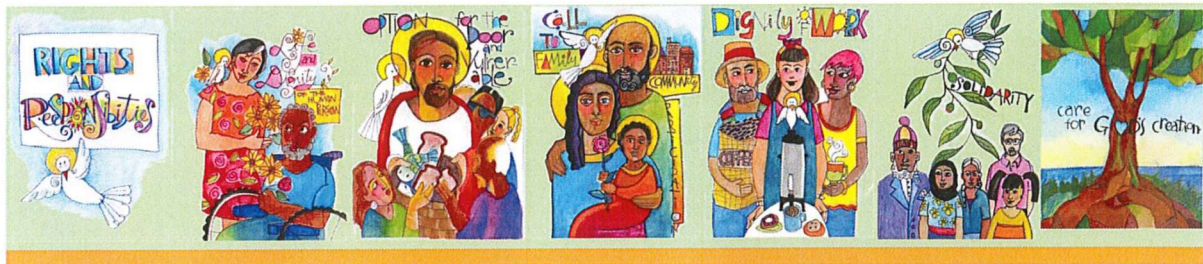
The curriculum at St Paul's firmly underpins our vision and mission statement, from which a culture and ethos is generated that supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Our curriculum is rooted in the Gospel values and reflects our local context. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is at the heart of our curriculum and permeates our daily life as a Catholic school. Religious Education is at the heart of our school life.

The seven areas of CST have been redesigned into six areas whereby each one of the six becomes our focus for each half-term. They are created as child-friendly topic titles and link to the year's areas of study. They include God's Creation, We are One, We all Matter, That's not Fair! I am Responsible and A Powerful World.

In November St Paul's was inspected by Ofsted and we are thrilled to report that we remain a good school (Ofsted 2023).

What Ofsted 2023 said about our school:

- The school's approach to developing pupils' character is highly successful.
- Pupils behave well across the school.
- Pupils are happy and proud to be members of this vibrant school
- Pupils actively involve others in their play and seek to support anyone who needs help.
- Pupils talk about the school being 'a family' where everyone is accepted.
- Pupils learn about different cultures through the school's 'Catholic Social Teaching' and themed events.



Our Lenten Journey

At St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Lent was a key time of the year for us. We focused on the three pillars of Lent 'Prayer, Fasting and Giving'.



Prayer

Each class were given a prayer bag that was blessed in our whole school Mass by Father Andrew. Class teachers chose a child each day to take the prayer bag home to share with their families. The prayer is then shared in class worship on their return.

The children have shared:

'It's a time to spend with God and your family'.

'Some people don't pray at home but if they have the prayer bag then they might want to pray more often at home'.

Our weekly St Paul's Award was dedicated to prayer, and children were awarded weekly, and nominated by their class teacher for their individual prayers for themselves, their families and the wider community.

Fasting

At St Paul's we have a team of 20 prayer leaders. These children are from Years 5 and 6. They are extremely respectful and keen to support and develop their spiritual journey further. They gave up their time during Lent to support and lead our visits to the church for Stations of the Cross and to help lead our prayer stations around the school.

Almsgiving

During our Lent journey, we completed CAFOD's 'Lent big walk' by walking 200 km around the school playground. Each class completed two laps per day which contributed to our overall total. We raised £226 in total for the fishing village in Liberia which can buy a GPS fishfinder to track fish and find shore in a storm, as well as life jackets and a cooler for a fisherman to keep his catch fresh at sea.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed!



Recently at St Peter's

Charity begins at home...and school



The pupils at St Peter's in Waterlooville continue to think of those less fortunate than themselves. As well as a curriculum which educates children on the circumstances and challenges of people around the world, each week at whole school worship, prayers written by pupils are read out asking for help and fortitude for those in need. Furthermore, the pupils are always keen to take part in fundraising events to offer financial support to charities where they can.

Already in 2024 the Year 5 pupils raised over £1000 for Simon Says, the children's bereavement counselling service, by doing a sponsored swim at the end of their series of swimming lessons in school. During Lent, the whole school took part in ten days of daily mile walking as part of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2024 campaign, both walking in solidarity with

children living in the developing world and raising much-needed funds for international aid. Looking further back, Year R and Year 1 raised £120 for Sophie's Legacy, a charity supporting families with children in hospital, by selling programmes for their Nativity plays.

Once again this year the pupils and families of St Peter's rallied to donate Easter Eggs to Stella Maris to pass on to international seafarers who will be in Portsmouth and Southampton at Easter. Pictured here behind well over 250 chocolate eggs are Mr Cunningham, Headteacher at St Peter's, Annabelle, Noah and Blossom, and Patrick Binks. Patrick visits ships in Portsmouth through his work for Stella Maris and will be one of several people who will deliver these seasonal treats along with faith materials to seafarers who themselves are far from home and family this Easter. It is great to know that the children and young people in our schools have charity and benevolence at the heart of so much of what they do.

Forest Schools

Anglo-saxon Day



On a beautiful April morning, we united in the great outdoors to have an Anglo-Saxon day. Our first task was to make an amazing stew and we had to add the mouth-watering potatoes and fresh water. We chopped the potatoes carefully, using a razor-sharp knife and cautiously placed them into the sizzling water.

The second task of the day was coloured weaving. Our starter was picking two colours and transforming them into lovely spirals. Then we got to do something outstanding. We made friendship bracelets, but with a twist, out of thread and kept on twirling the thread. It was so fun and we got to take everything home.

After a delicious lunch, we made Anglo-Saxon dens (homes) out of dried grass and bendy sticks. You could make it however you wanted: fun, heavily armed and much more. My group made the outline first but we also made a river, bushes for cover and walls.

The last thing we did was making a fire! We made the fire using flint rocks and with a specific type of metal. We practised with cotton wool or dried grass. After we practised, we could do some carving.

What a fantastic day of fun in the forest!

By Libby Shawl, Koala Class



Getting Theatrical



During the Spring term pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 embarked on an enriching trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to watch the live adaptation of 'Boy at the Back of the Class' The much-loved novel, written by the author Onjali Q. Raúf, has been a staple text on our Year 5 'Must Read' booklist for the last few years and so, when Chichester Festival Theatre announced that they were staging a production of the novel, we knew it was an opportunity not to be missed.

The story follows Ahmet, a Syrian refugee, who becomes the focus of his new classmates' efforts to reunite him with his family. Through a series of heart-warming and often humorous adventures, the children learn about empathy, friendship and standing up for what is right.

On each of the class trips, the school minibus was filled with chatter and excitement, as pupils shared their favourite moments from the book and speculated about the stage adaptation; for many this would be their first experience of the theatre. Guided by their teachers, and with snacks in hand, the pupils made their way into the theatre, where the atmosphere buzzed with anticipation. As the lights dimmed and the curtain rose, the stage came alive with the world of 'Boy at the Back of the Class'. The talented cast transported us into the shoes of Ahmet and his friends, weaving a captivating narrative that mirrored the story of the novel. From moments of spontaneous laughter to poignant reflections, the performance captivated our pupils until the final curtain call. Just like the novel, the theatre adaptation successfully tackled complex themes offering a moving exploration of the refugee experience and the universal human desire for acceptance and understanding.

Following the show, pupils were eager to share their thoughts and emotions about the production and animated discussions ensued as they reflected on key scenes, comparing the adaptation to the novel, and reflecting on the overarching messages of empathy and inclusion.

The trip to see 'Boy at the Back of the Class' at Chichester Festival Theatre was a resounding success, not only reinforcing the importance of reading but also igniting a passion for theatre and storytelling in our pupils. As they returned to school, it was clear that this experience would be one that pupils remember for some time to come.

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At St Thomas

More's

It's a Bug's Life!



Our Infant School pupils had a few interesting new additions to their classrooms this week...some were spiky, some were slimy, some were tickly, some were super strong, one was very dangerous ...but they were all super fascinating!

They were very lucky to receive a visit from Nick at BugFest who brought along his amazing collection of bugs. The teachers were allowed to hold the tarantulas and the children, if they wanted to, got to hold a hissing cockroach, a millipede, a huge snail and a large stick insect.

Everyone learned so much and it really was fantastic to be able to handle and get up close to so many wonderful bugs!

A Snapshot of Holy Week

Thank you to all the children and adults who joined us when we prepared and took time to reflect ahead of Good Friday.



Monday started with Year R telling the events of Palm Sunday then all KS2 children reflecting on the Lenten reconciliation. On Tuesday we reflected on the Last Supper led by Jupiter. Then on Wednesday Columba led us in a moving reflection of agony in the garden ending with a heart-felt mesmerising performance from Lyra of the crucifixion.

Another well done to ALL other classes who led personal Lenten reflections in the chapel.

As part of Lent's reflection, the children also did the Big CAFOD Walk.

We all worked together this Lent to stamp out poverty one step at a time. As always, we appreciated support from parents and carers on our journey through Lent.



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Everyone Welcome!

Join Caritas Portsmouth as we host an online session on how to be a Dementia Friend.



An Alzheimer's Society initiative

Ideal for parishes who are thinking of running a Dementia Cafe, wanting to make their parishes a more Dementia Friendly space or for anyone just want to know how to support family, friends or people in the community.

Tuesday 21 May | 7-8:15pm

One in two of us will be affected by dementia in our lifetime.
Either by caring for someone with the condition, developing it ourselves, or both.

Find out how you can help.



Sign up using the QR code
or visit our website
<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>

 **Caritas**

Portsmouth Diocese

