

Catholic Life of Pield Heath School 2020-21

Masses / Services



A New School Year

We had a whole school Service to start the new year and to welcome all our new staff. In addition, on 9th September we had a Mass which Staff and Governors attended. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Nicholas Schofield, Dean at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael Parish, Uxbridge. Staff and students had the opportunity to follow the Mass on a livestream link at school.

The Well



For the benefit of new families and staff who have recently joined us this is just a brief summary. Following a successful application to the Cardinal's Appeal Fund, we were given a grant to set up a Community café. The name 'The Well' was chosen based on the encounter of the Samaritan Woman and Jesus from St John's Gospel Chapter 4. This Café Enterprise offers the ideal opportunity to develop many essential life skills including communication, working as a team, catering, handling money. It also importantly acknowledges our students and gives them the recognition that they are making a valuable contribution to society. Another important aspect is to provide a warm welcome to rest and relax. The importance of water for our mental, physical and spiritual refreshment and overall wellbeing is also another central theme.

Rose Memorial Garden



As this has been such an emotional time for everyone, each class in the school was invited to plant a Rose of their choice in the school grounds. This garden will provide us with a place to think and pray for any loved ones we have lost. Thanks to Nicky Grieve our Outdoor Learning Development Manager for working with the students to plant and maintain this special garden.

The God who speaks



As this special time which was designated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference has been extended, it gives us the perfect opportunity to work towards its aims which are 'Celebrating, Living and Sharing God's Word.' During the year we will continue to be do a variety of activities and events to help our whole school community to engage meaningfully with the Bible.

Caritas Love In Action Programme



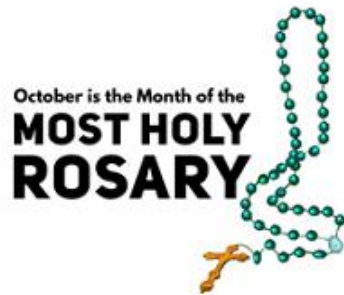
Love in Action is an engagement programme designed by Caritas, Westminster to introduce Parishes and Schools to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

This Half Term we have been looking at the Principle of Dignity

RE Ambassadors

We are delighted to have our new RE Ambassadors who come from both the lower and upper school and represent many of the major world religions. This year the team includes Yash, Mason, Hajira, Emily, Amber and Calvin.

The Rosary



On 7th October we had a special Service which was prepared by VBC Group A to mark the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and to remind everyone that October is the Month of the Rosary. In addition to this all staff were given the opportunity to journey with the Diocese of Westminster and pray in solidarity for our school communities. We continue to pray to Mary our Mother for you and all of your loved ones during these uncertain times.

Upper School Retreat



Students in Key Stage 4 were invited to participate in a special retreat on 21st October. The theme for the Retreat was 'Looking after Ourselves' The day started with a service after which there were activities which focused on the importance of water. We looked at the Story of the Samaritan Woman from The Gospel. Students visited The Well and the Retreat ended with a sharing service in the chapel to celebrate the day.

Journey to Bethlehem



As we were unable to have a Christmas Performance this year we still felt very much that we wanted to share the Christmas Message with everyone. As we are still in a special year - The Year of The Word, The God who Speaks, The RE Department with the RE Ambassadors and Tutors made a Presentation called 'Journey to Bethlehem'. It tells the Traditional story of Christmas however there are also some modern day adaptations. Thank you to all the Tutors who responded so enthusiastically with this project that Agnes Komasiak coordinated. The RE Ambassadors and students enacted various scenes of the story. Thanks also to Sahil and Josley for their IT support. We hope that you will enjoy watching it, join in with the Christmas Carols and that it brings happy memories of past Pield Heath Performances.

Advent



We marked the Season of Advent in various ways to help us prepare for the great Feast of Christmas. We had an Advent Service to mark the start of the Season. Students took part in designing Advent Wreaths and marked the 4 weeks of Advent by decorating candles. In December we had a special service to mark the Feast of St Lucy. The theme of the service was the Gift of Light. We also had weekly reflections provided for all staff. Sincere thanks to Sr Rosemary Clerkin for providing us with these inspiring reflections.

The Mexican Posada Tradition



As in previous years we followed the old Mexican custom called Las Posadas where, during Advent, people dressed as Mary and Joseph and travelled around their villages knocking at peoples' doors to see who would give them hospitality.

This journey symbolises Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus. Due to social distancing restrictions this year instead of travelling to groups every class was invited to create their own Christmas Crib.

As Pope Francis said:

"The nativity scene is like a living Gospel... I encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene at home, in the workplace, in schools, hospitals and town squares."

Christmas Mass



We had a Christmas Mass which everyone was able to follow via Zoom in their classes. We were delighted to be joined by all our staff and Governors as well as our Sister School St Johns, Chigwell who also followed the Mass online. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Nicholas Schofield, Parish Priest at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael, Uxbridge.

The Year of St Joseph

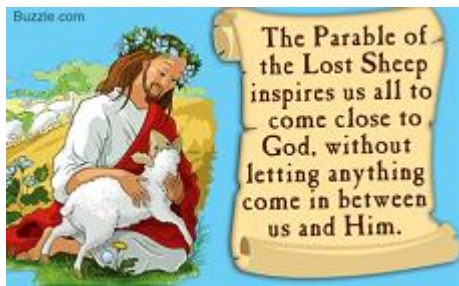


As you may be aware Pope Francis has declared a Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart") on the 80th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. On this occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 2020 to 2021.

The Pope wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic which has helped us see more clearly the importance of "being in the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day." The Holy Father described Saint Joseph as "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and humble man who played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Various activities to mark this special event.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep



This term in their RE lessons students learned about Local Community. They took part in various activities and looked at different jobs and the way people serve as community helpers. They also focussed on the role of the Priest as a Spiritual leader. In their RE lessons, students shared Bible Stories and listened to The Parable of the Lost Sheep, as an example of how we can find ways of being closer to God.

Caritas 'Love in Action' Programme



Love in Action is an engagement programme designed by Caritas, Westminster to introduce Parishes and Schools to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

There are 6 Principles that we will be looking at over the programme.

- Dignity
- Solidarity and Peace
- Option for the Poor
- Creation
- Community and Participation
- Dignity of Workers

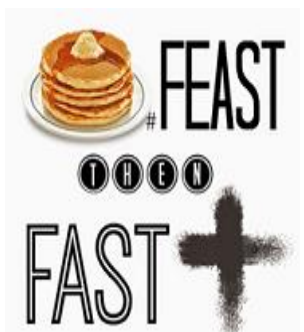
In Spring Term 1 we have been looking at ways in which we can highlight the principle of Option for the Poor.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes



We marked the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day of the Sick by having a special service.

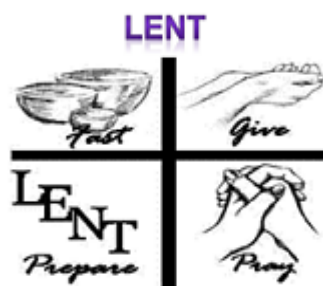
As you know our school comes under Uxbridge Parish which is called Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael, so it is a special day also for our local Parish.



Lent - Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday

As you may already be aware next Tuesday 16th February is Shrove Tuesday, so you can enjoy making and eating pancakes!

This is followed by Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. In normal circumstances we would have had a whole school Mass but due to the current situation and as this year it happens to fall in the half term, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has sent information entitled 'Ash Wednesday at Home' which can be found on our school website.



Thinking of You



As this has and continues to be such a challenging time. In our chapel we have an ongoing display called Thinking of You. All staff and students are welcome to go along to our chapel where they can place a candle to remember anyone they wish. This will also be an ongoing reminder for our whole school community to keep these intentions in our prayers. If there is anyone you would like to be included please send their details for Thinking of You to admin@pieldheathschool.org.uk.

Year of St Joseph



1st May Feast of St Joseph The Worker Aware that Pope Francis has declared a special Year of St Joseph. With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart) which runs from 8th December 2020 – 8th December we marked another of his Feasts. Thank you to Nicky Chance who prepared a Service to mark the Feast on 1st May of St Joseph the Worker. After the year we have just experienced it gave us the ideal opportunity to thank all those who work to look after us as well as to pray for those who have struggled and have not been able to enjoy the dignity of having work.

Month of May



Fr Nicholas Schofield Parish Priest at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael, Uxbridge said a special Mass for us in our chapel. 4M attended all other classes as well as staff and Governors followed via Zoom The theme was to mark May as the Month of Mary. After Mass we had a May procession to Mary's Grotto. Fr Nicholas said a prayer for our whole community and we sang the Circle Song. After that we were joined by the whole community who were invited to bring their flowers and pray at the Grotto. Many thanks to everyone who kindly sent in flowers for this special annual Mass. Thanks also to Nicky Grieve our Outdoor Learning Development Manager and her team of Gardeners who help to maintain the Grotto all year round so that we can pray and worship in our beautiful school ground

Feast of Victor Braun



We marked the Feast of Victor Braun, the Founder of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary on 18th May. This day always give us a chance to our greetings the Sisters in the Congregation as well as to our Communities all over the World.

Laudato Si'



The 10-day Laudato Si' Week 2021 from 16th – 25th May marked the 6th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical. The theme this year was "for we know that things can change." We shared a video by Pope Francis with everyone where he invites the whole world to take part in the joyful celebration and to undergo an ecological conversion.

Pentecost



Joanna Wasilwska and 4M Class Team led a Service to mark the Feast of Pentecost. They enacted the story where the disciples experienced the wind and the flames as they received the power of the Holy Spirit. They also showed how they were given special gifts and were able to communicate God's message with everyone in different languages. Thank you to all involved for this beautiful and prayerful service

<p>The God who Speaks</p>		<p>As we continue to journey through this special year this half term we have been look at some of the Women of the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at the stories of Miriam, Deborah, Jehosheba, Ruth, Esther and Anna.</p>
<p>Year of St Joseph</p>		<p>We have continued to mark this special year. In June we had a special week devoted to St Joseph in our RE Curriculum. The week ended with a special assembly about Father's Day. During the week students learned more about St Joseph and his special qualities. They took part in art/craft activities which included making the St Joseph Lilly. These was made out of recycled material to raise awareness of the need to look after our world. After a short service the lillies were placed by our RE Ambassadors at the statue of St Joseph in the entrance of our grounds.</p>
<p>Special Feast Days</p>		<p>We had a special Service to mark the Feast of 2 Great Pillars of the Church – St Peter and St Paul on 29th June. On 11th and 12th June we marked the Congregations Feast Day as we wished The Community of The Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Students designed a card with our school logo and presented a plant they had grown.</p>
<p>World Day of Grandparents</p>		<p>In March 2021 Pope Francis declared A Year of the Family, five years after he wrote Amoris Laetitia which is about the beauty and joy of love in the family, as it is the Feast Day of Jesus' Grandparents (Anne and Joachim) in July, the Pope has announced the very first World Day of Grandparents/ Elderly to take place on 25th July '21. The Theme is 'I am with you always' (Matt 28:20). Thank you to all those of you who have already sent in photos. Please continue to do so as we will be an ongoing tribute to Grandparents in the Autumn Term.</p>
<p>Leavers Mass</p>		<p>We joined the Mass with schools across Westminster Diocese to pray for all our Leavers. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Willie Skehan, Tower Hamlets Deanery. After the Mass school we followed a video where Fr Nicholas Schofield, Uxbridge Parish Priest shared a blessing for all our whole school community.</p>
<p>Leavers Retreat</p>		<p>The theme of the Retreat was Thanksgiving. It was a time to thank the Leavers for all they have shared with us during their years at Pield Heath and an opportunity to wish them well as they start a new chapter in their life</p>

