St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter

Including Mark Ten Mission and Wellbeing Challenge

Friday 23rd October 2026

CATHOLIC LIFE

Loving God and Loving Our Neighbour

This week, we reflect on how we can put our faith into action through care, generosity and service. In the Gospel for Sunday 25th October, Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbour as ourselves. These two commandments remind us that loving God and caring for others belong together.

For our school community, this means looking beyond ourselves and noticing where we can make a difference. A welcoming smile, a patient response, an offer of help or a thoughtful donation can all be expressions of God's love.

Our Christmas appeal (details below) provides a practical opportunity to live out this message by supporting families in our local community.

South West Herts Christmas Appeal (Please also see poster below)

We are delighted to be working with the South West Herts Partnership Family Support Service again this year to support their Christmas Appeal.

The appeal will provide Christmas Wellbeing Bags for local families, bringing comfort, warmth and care during the festive season. We invite families who are able to do so to donate an item from the lists below. Please remember that all donations must be brand-new.

Items for adults

- **Hand cream or lip balm.**
- **Bubble bath.**
- **Hot chocolate sachets or sets.**
- **Cosy blankets.**
- **Warm socks, including slipper socks.**

Items for children

- **Selection packs or festive sweets.**
- **Books.**
- **Stationery packs.**
- **Bath bombs.**
- **Winter hats or socks.**

How to take part

Please bring donations to school by **Friday 27 November 2026**.

South West Herts Partnership will collect and deliver the donations.

There is no expectation for every family to donate. Every contribution, however small, will be gratefully received. Thank you for helping us to show kindness and care to our neighbours this Christmas.

Catholic Social Teaching in Action

Through this appeal, we invite our children to reflect on the dignity of every person and our responsibility to care for one another. We want them to understand that generosity is not about how much we give, but about noticing the needs of others and responding with love.

Our school community can take part in different ways: through donations where possible, through prayer and through thoughtful conversations about how we can support people experiencing difficulties.

Foodbank Collection: Putting Our Faith into Action



Regarding faith in action, thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to Thursday's foodbank collection (pictured left). Your generous donations of food are a practical way of showing care for people in our local community who are experiencing challenges. We are grateful for every contribution.

This collection brings Catholic Social Teaching to life, particularly the principles of solidarity, human dignity and the preferential option for the poor. It helps our children understand that every person deserves care and respect, and that we have a shared responsibility to support our neighbours.

By giving what we can, we put Jesus' teaching to love our neighbour into action. Thank you for helping our children see how small acts of generosity, brought together as a school community, can make a meaningful difference.

SVP Twinning

As shared in last week's newsletter, one of our objectives this year is to establish an overseas twinning link through the St Vincent de Paul Society.

We hope this will help children develop a deeper understanding of our worldwide family of faith, building connections through prayer,

learning and practical support. We look forward to sharing further information as these plans develop.

Family Reflection

Talk together at home:

- Who is our neighbour?
- How can we notice when someone needs help?
- What can we give that does not cost money?
- How can we show love through our actions this week?

Black History Month

Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month, an important opportunity to recognise and appreciate the achievements, contributions and experiences of people throughout history and in our world today.

Across our school, Black History Month encourages children to learn about inspirational individuals who have helped shape our society through their courage, determination, creativity and commitment to justice and equality.

This celebration also reminds us of our belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and kindness.

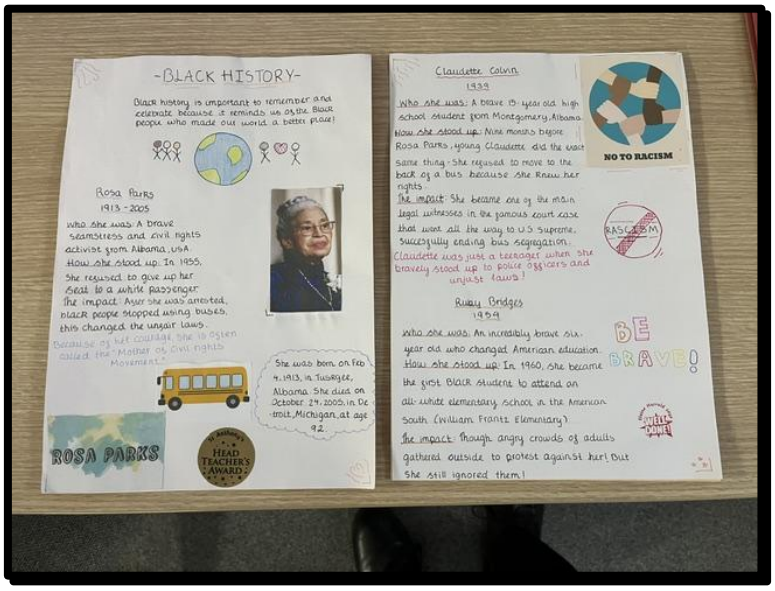
We encourage our children to recognise the richness of different cultures, challenge prejudice and understand the importance of treating everyone fairly.

Black History Month reminds us that celebrating diversity, recognising the achievements of others and standing up for what is right are values we should embrace not just during October, but throughout the year.

Andria in Year 6 has produced a thoughtful and beautifully presented piece of work exploring the lives of Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin and Ruby Bridges.

Through her research, Andria has highlighted the courage and determination of these inspirational individuals, who challenged racial discrimination and helped bring about positive change. Her work reminds us of the importance of standing up for what is right, treating everyone with dignity and respect, and having the courage to challenge injustice.

Well done, Andria, for your excellent research, creativity and presentation!



St. Michael's Tournament

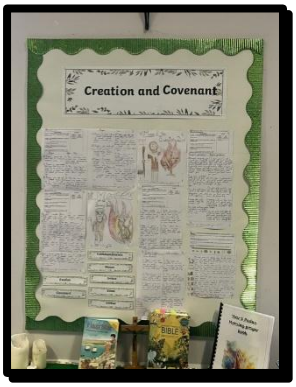
As part of our commitment to work in partnership with other Catholic schools, Year 6 attended the St. Michael's Sport Tournament at the beginning of October. This is always one of the highlights in children's year.

Here is what Morgan and Leonnie had to say about the day.

We went to St. Michael's for a football tournament and our A Team reached the semi-finals. We lost to a late goal, 1.0 and eventually finished in 4th place but we were proud about how we played.

We went to St. Michael's for our netball tournament. Our team got to the semi-finals which was exciting! I enjoyed the atmosphere and being with my teammates. It was nice to see some St. Michael's students who used to go to St. Anthony's. They spoke to us and were very friendly.

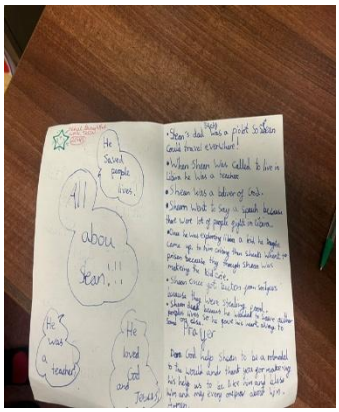
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

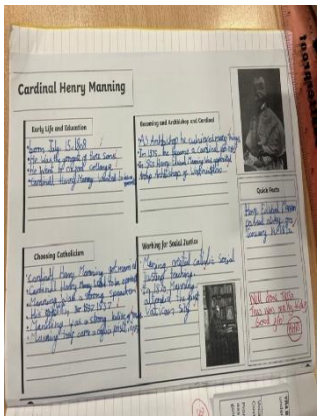


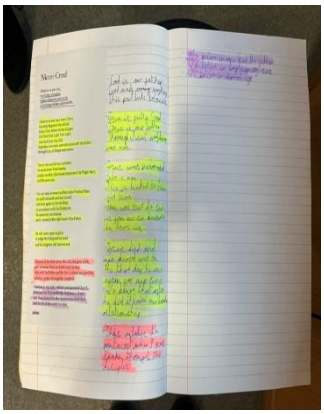
This is the last week of Branch 1: Creation and Covenant.

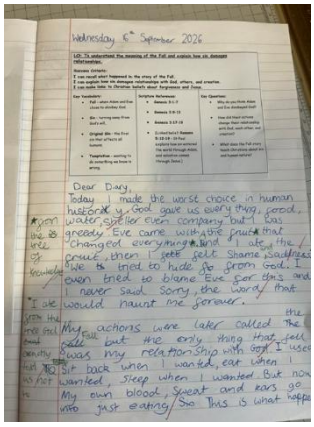
We invite children to reflect on what they have learnt about God, the world and our responsibility towards one another.

Our learning encourages us to recognise the beauty of creation, appreciate the gifts we have been given and consider how we can use those gifts wisely. Caring for creation also means caring for the people with whom we share our world.








Wednesday 6th September 2026

LO: To understand the meaning of the Fall and explain how sin damages relationships.

Success Criteria:
I can recall what happened in the story of the Fall.
I can explain how sin damages relationships with God, others, and creation.
I can make links to Christian beliefs about forgiveness and hope.

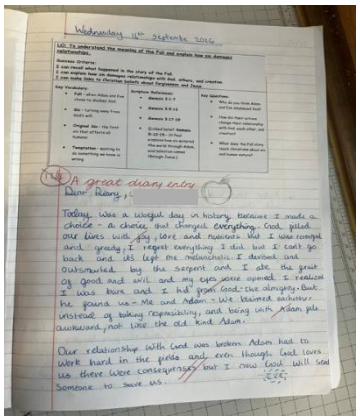
Key Vocabulary: Fall – when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God; Sin – turning away from God's will; Original Sin – the first sin that affects all humans; Temptation – wanting to do something we know is wrong.

Scripture References: Genesis 3:1-7; Genesis 3:8-13; Genesis 3:14-19; Genesis 4:1-16 (What happens how sin entered the world through Adam, and sinful sin comes through Cain.)

Questions to Think about: Why do you think Adam and Eve disobeyed God? How did their actions change their relationship with God, each other, and creation? What does the Fall story teach Christians about sin and human nature?

Dear Diary,
Today I made the worst choice in human history. God gave us everything, good, water, coffee even company but I was greedy. Eve came with the fruit that changed everything. And I ate the fruit, then I felt felt Shame, Sadness. We tried to hide for from God. I own tried to blame Eve for this and I never said Sorry, the word that would haunt me forever.
My actions were later called the Fall but the only thing that fell was my relationship with God. I used to sit back when I wanted, sleep when I wanted, eat when I wanted, Now my own blood, Cycat and Cars go who just caring. So This is what happens




Wednesday 11th September 2026

LO: To understand the meaning of the Fall and explain how sin damages relationships.

Success Criteria:
1. can recall what happened in the story of the Fall
2. can explain how sin damages relationships with God, others, and creation.
3. can make links to Christian beliefs about forgiveness and hope.

Key Vocabulary: Fall – when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God; Sin – turning away from God's will; Original Sin – the first sin that affects all humans; Temptation – wanting to do something we know is wrong.

Scripture References: Genesis 3:1-7; Genesis 3:8-13; Genesis 3:14-19; Genesis 4:1-16 (What happens how sin entered the world through Adam, and sinful sin comes through Cain.)

Key Questions: Why do you think Adam and Eve disobeyed God? How did their actions change their relationship with God, each other, and creation? What does the Fall story teach Christians about sin and human nature?

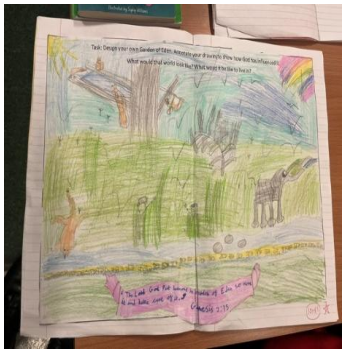
A great diary entry

Dear Diary,

Today was a weigtal day in history because I made a choice - a choice that changed everything. And filled our lives with joy, love and nuerons but I was corrupt and greedy, I regret everything I did but I can't go back and its left me melancholic. I devised and outsmarted by the serpent and I ate the fruit of good and evil and my eyes were opened. I realised I was bare and I hid from God, the almighty but he found us - Me and Adam. We blamed eachother instead of taking responsibility, and being with Adam felt awkward, not like the old kind Adam.

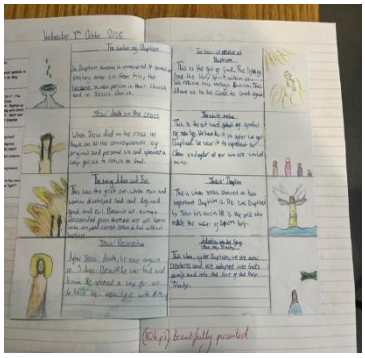
Our relationship with God was broken. Adam had to work hard in the fields and even though God loves us there were consequences but I owe God will send someone to save us.

EVE.


Task: Design your own Garden of Eden. Remember you'll have to think: How has God provided for you? What are all the world gifts that you want to be able to have?

I trust and God for having dreams of Eden for me. He will take care of it.

Genesis 2:15


Wednesday 1st October 2026

The Easter Triduum

The Triduum describes the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. It starts on Holy Thursday and ends on Easter Sunday.

The Story of Easter as Narrative

This is the story of God, the Trinity and how God's love for us is shown through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Jesus chose to be God's Son.

Jesus' Death on the Cross

When Jesus died on the cross He took on all the consequences of our sins and personal sin and opened a way for us to return to God.

Jesus' Resurrection

This is the act that takes us from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. We look back on Jesus' life and death and see that God's love was at work in it all. Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate sign of God's love and power.

The Meaning of Blood and Sin

This was the point at which man and woman disobeyed God and they could no longer be in God's presence. Consequently, since humans are all born with sin, we can't come close to God without a sacrifice.

Jesus' Ascension

This is when Jesus returned to his Father in heaven. Ascension is His last physical act on earth. Jesus now sits at the right hand of God the Father.

Jesus' Incarnation

Jesus chose to be born as a human baby. He grew up and lived a life without sin. He suffered a lot of pain and was killed on the cross. He died and was buried in a tomb.

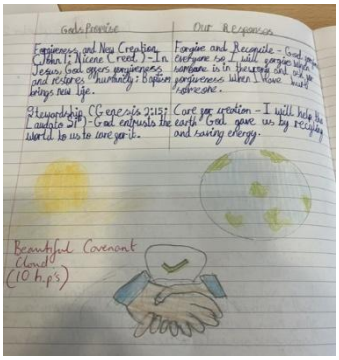
Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to many people and showed them that He was alive. He showed them that He had defeated death and sin.

Jesus' Ascension

Jesus returned to His Father in heaven. He sits at the right hand of God the Father. He is now with God in heaven.

(10h.p.) beautifully presented


Gods Promise

Forgiveness and New Creation (Jesus, Nicene Creed) - In Jesus, God offers forgiveness and restores humanity; Baptism brings new life.

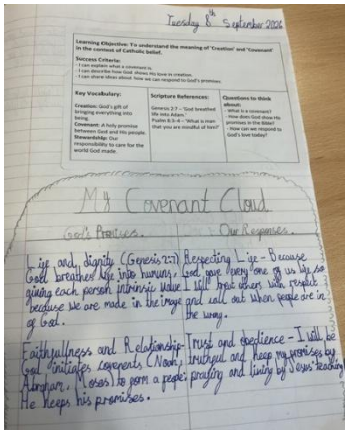
Stewardship (Genesis 2:15; Laudato Si') - God entrusts the earth; God gave us by recycling world to us to care for it.

Our Responses

Forgive and Reconcile - God gave everyone sin. I will forgive those who harm me and ask for forgiveness when I have done wrong myself.

Care for creation - I will help by reducing and saving energy.

Beautiful Covenant Cloud (10 h.p's)


Tuesday 8th September 2026

Learning Objective: To understand the meaning of 'Creation' and 'Covenant' in the context of Catholic belief.

Success Criteria:
- I can explain what a covenant is.
- I can describe how God shows His love in creation.
- I can share ideas about how we can respond to God's promises.

Key Vocabulary: Creation: God's gift of bringing everything into existence. Covenant: A holy promise between God and His people. Stewardship: Our responsibility to care for the world God made.

Scripture References: Genesis 2:7 – 'God breathed life into Adam.' Psalm 8:3-4 – 'What is man that you are mindful of him?'

Questions to think about: What is a covenant? How does God show His promises in the Bible? How can we respond to God's love today?

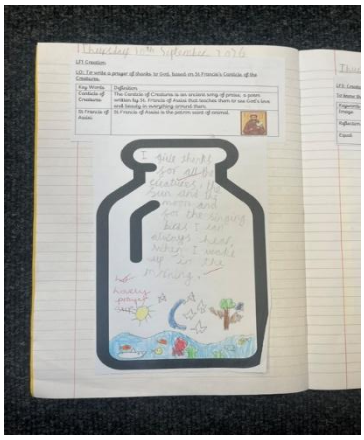
My Covenant Cloud

God's Promises

Life and Dignity (Genesis 2:7) Respecting Life - Because God breathed life into humans, God gave every one of us life so giving each person intrinsic value I will treat others with respect because we are made in the image and will call out when people are in the way.

Our Responses

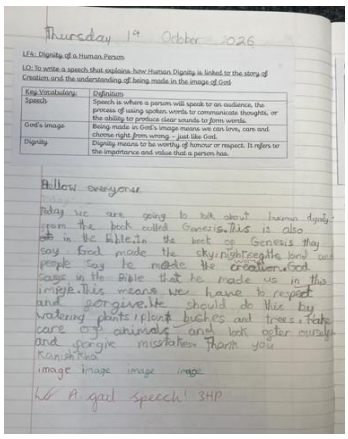
Faithfulness and Relationship Trust and Obedience - I will be God initiates covenants (Noah, Abraham, Moses) to form a people; prophets and Jesus' teaching. He keeps his promises.


Tuesday 16th September 2026

LF1 Creation.

LO: To write a prayer of thanks to God, based on St Francis's Canticle of the Creatures.

Key Words	Definitions
Canticle of Creatures	The Canticle of Creatures is an ancient song of praise, a poem written by St. Francis of Assisi that teaches them to see God's love and kindness in everything around them.
St Francis of Assisi	St Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animal.


Thursday 1st October 2026

LF4: Dignity of a Human Person

LO: To write a speech that explains how Human Dignity is linked to the story of Creation and the understanding of being made in the image of God.

Key Vocabulary:	Definition
Speech	Speech is when a person will speak to an audience, the process of using spoken words to communicate thoughts, or the ability to produce clear sounds to form words.
God's image	Being made in God's image means we can love, care and choose right from wrong - just like God.
Dignity	Dignity means to be worthy of honour or respect. It refers to the importance and value that a person has.

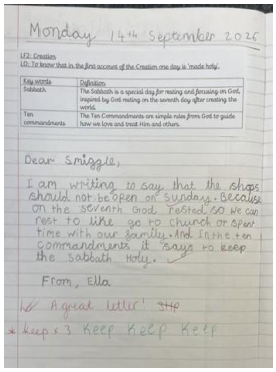
Hellow everyone

Today we are going to talk about human dignity from the book called Genesis. This is also in the Bible. In the text of Genesis they say God made the sky, night, earth, land and people say he made the creation of God. Same in the Bible that he made us in this image. This means we have to respect and forgive. We should do this by watering plants, plant bushes and trees, take care of animals - and look after ourself and forgive mistakes. Thank you.

Kind Regards

image image image image

L6 A good speech! STHP


Monday 14th September 2026

LF2: Creation
LO: To know that in the first account of the Creation one day is 'made holy'.

Key words	Definition
Sabbath	The Sabbath is a special day for resting and focusing on God, inspired by God resting on the seventh day after creating the world.
Ten commandments	The Ten Commandments are simple rules from God to guide how we love and treat Him and others.

Dear Smizzle,

I am writing to say that the shops should not be open on Sundays. Because on the seventh God rested so we can rest to like go to church or spent time with our family. And in the ten commandments it says to keep the Sabbath Holy.

From, Ella

A great letter! STHP

keep x 3 Keep Keep Keep





A question for children and families to consider together:

How does believing that everyone is loved by God change the way we treat other people?

Children could discuss:

- Something they have learnt from a Bible story.
- Something in creation for which they are thankful.
- A way they have shown care for another person.
- One choice they could make to help look after our world.

PRAYER LIFE

Celebrations and Prayer Intentions This Week

The calendar below follows the Catholic calendar for England and Wales. The saints listed as optional memorials may be celebrated instead of the weekday.

Monday 19 October – Weekday in Ordinary Time

Following World Mission Sunday, we continue to pray for those who share their faith and serve communities around the world. We ask God to give us courage to show his love wherever we are.

Tuesday 20 October – Weekday in Ordinary Time

Today, we pray for families in our local community, especially those facing financial pressures, illness or uncertainty. May they receive kindness, understanding and practical support.

Wednesday 21 October – Weekday in Ordinary Time

We give thanks for people who work quietly to help others: volunteers, carers, parish groups and those who support families. We ask God to help us recognise opportunities to serve.

Thursday 22 October – St John Paul II, Pope

Optional memorial

We remember St John Paul II, who encouraged people to welcome Jesus into their lives with courage and hope. We pray for children and young people throughout the world.

Friday 23 October – St John of Capestrano, Priest

Optional memorial

We pray for those who teach and share the Christian faith. May our words and actions bring encouragement and help others to feel valued.

Saturday 24 October – St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Optional memorial

We pray for all who share the Gospel through teaching, writing and communication. Help us to use our own words responsibly and kindly.

Sunday 25 October – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Matthew 22:34–40, Jesus teaches us to love God and love our neighbour. We ask God to help us turn these words into everyday acts of kindness, patience and generosity.

SAINT OF THE WEEK St John Paul II



St John Paul II was born in Poland in 1920. His name was Karol Wojtyła. As a young man, he enjoyed literature and later became a priest, bishop and, in 1978, Pope.

He spent his life sharing the Christian faith and encouraging people to draw closer to Jesus. He also enjoyed walking in the mountains and spent time with young people as a university chaplain.

At the beginning of his ministry as Pope, he encouraged people with the words:

“Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!”

What Can We Learn from Him?

St John Paul II’s example invites us to:

- Trust Jesus when something feels difficult.
- Use our gifts to encourage and support others.
- Make time for prayer.
- Be courageous in choosing what is right.

Community Challenge

Think of someone who might need encouragement. Offer them a kind word, invite them to join you or help them with something they find difficult.

At the end of the day, take a quiet moment to pray for that person.

CHAPEL

Our school chapel, located in the Year 3 corridor, is a place of peace, prayer and reflection.

This week, children are invited to:

- Write a prayer for a family who needs comfort or support.
- Give thanks for someone who cares for them.
- Pray for the work of the SVP and South West Herts Partnership.
- Reflect on how they can love their neighbour.
- Spend a few quiet moments speaking to God in their own words.

The chapel is open most lunchtimes between 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm for Key Stage 2 children, as outlined in our usual arrangements.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for Our Neighbours

Loving God,

Thank you for the people who care for us
and for the many gifts we receive each day.

Open our eyes to notice those who need help.
Open our ears to listen with patience.
Open our hearts to respond with kindness.

Bless the families supported by our Christmas appeal
and everyone working to bring them comfort and hope.

Help us to share what we can,
to welcome others
and to remember that every person is precious to you.

May we love you through the way we love our neighbours.

St John Paul II, pray for us.

Amen.

Parish Links

Holy Rood Church Weekly Newsletter

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/watford/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2026/10/Newsletter-18.10.26.pdf

St. Bede's Church Weekly Newsletter

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/croxleygreen/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2026/10/20261018-NEWSLETTER-2026.pdf

Liturgical Colours to be worn at Mass

Green for Ordinary Time

Green is used for the weekday Masses of Ordinary Time and for Sunday 25 October. Where an optional memorial is celebrated, the colour appropriate to that saint is used.

Look after your wellbeing this week

Every week, we offer optional activities to support the wellbeing of our school community and cover five main elements:

Focus	What it means
Connect	Be with friends and family.
Be Active	Move about every day.
Keep Learning	Try new things and ask questions.
Give	Be kind and help others.
Take Notice	Look, listen and enjoy the world around you.

This Week's Challenge: **Connect**

This week, make time for a thoughtful conversation with someone at school or at home.

- Ask someone about the best part of their day.
- Invite another child to join your game.
- Share a book or play a board game together.
- Talk to a trusted adult about something on your mind.
- Thank someone and explain why you appreciate them.
- Listen carefully without interrupting.

Mark Ten Mission

This Week's Mission – Holiness and Love

This week, our Mark 10 Mission focuses on holiness and the importance of showing God's love through our words and actions. In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the two greatest commandments: to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

We also celebrated the feast day of St John Paul II on 22nd October, a particularly special occasion for our Key Stage 2 children who belong to St John Paul's House. Throughout his life, St John Paul II encouraged people to live with faith, kindness and courage, famously reminding us: "Do not be afraid!"

Our mission this week is to put love into action by thinking of others, showing kindness and finding simple ways to make a positive difference. We encourage all our children to follow St John Paul II's example and remember that holiness begins with the small acts of love we show each day.

THE MARK 10 MISSION

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

At that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'

WONDER QUESTIONS

If Jesus was asked to give the one great commandment, why do you think he gave two?

Who is a person you know that shows agape love and how do they do it?

FIND + MEMORISE

We love because ___ _____

_____ ___.

1 John 4:19



Your Mark 10 Mission *is to think of something that you would love for somebody to do for you. Then, find a way to do that for another person.*

Watch this week's episodes

WORD OF THE WEEK

HOLINESS

ACT

Beginning with the letters of AGAPE, give examples of what you can do to show agape love.

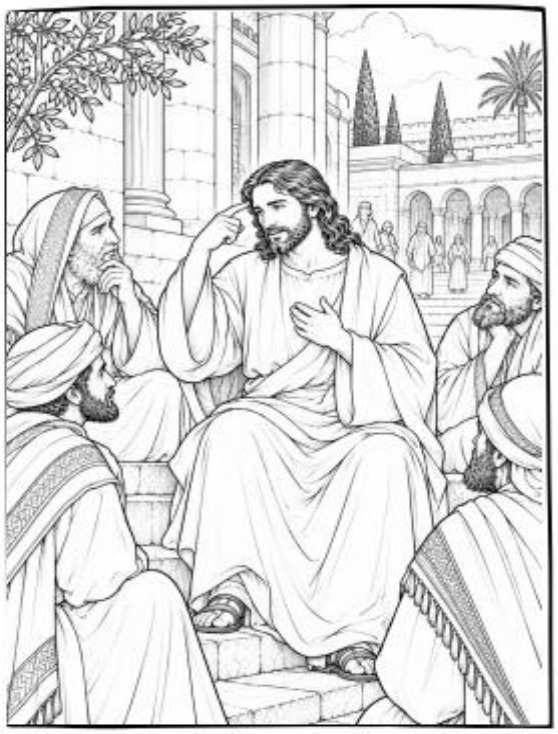
A lways put the other person's needs before my own.

G _____

A _____

P _____

E _____

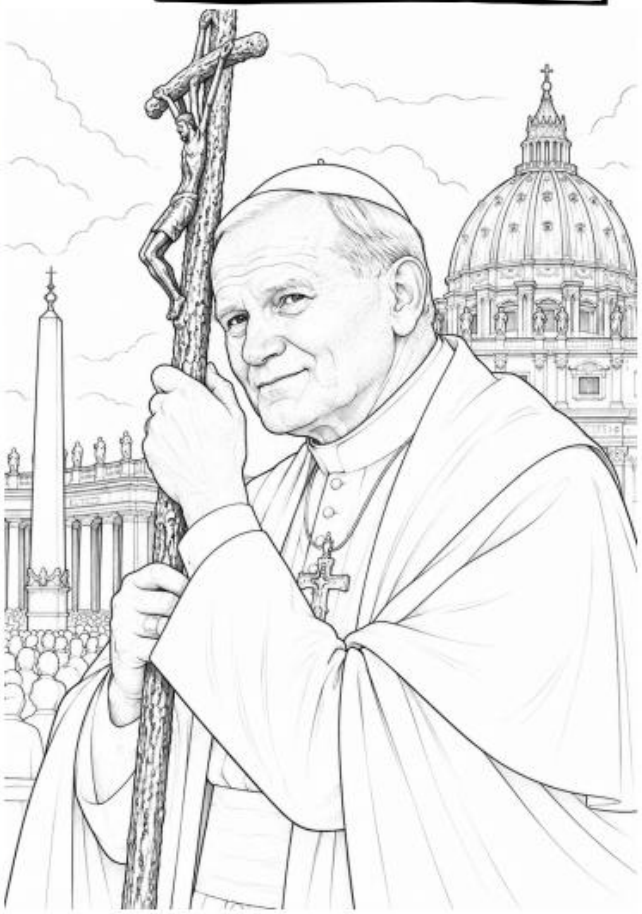


SAINT OF THE WEEK

POPE

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

FEAST
OCTOBER 22ND



WHO IS HE?

Pope St John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyła in Poland in 1920, and his great love for Jesus gave him courage when his country suffered under Nazi and Communist rule. He stood bravely for what was right, reminding people that every human life is precious to God and that no one should be afraid to live their faith. Through his Theology of the Body, he taught that our bodies are wonderful gifts from God and that we are made to love and give ourselves to others. He travelled the world sharing Jesus with millions, especially young people, encouraging them with words we can remember too: "Do not be afraid!"

WORDS OF ST JOHN PAUL II

"Listen carefully to God's voice in your heart. Do not be afraid.

Open your hearts. Open up your hearts to Christ.

The deepest joy there is in life is the joy that comes from God and is found in Jesus Christ, the son of God. Jesus Christ is the hope of yours. He is my hope. He is the hope of the world."

SAINT MISSION

Research what happened to Pope St John Paul II on 13 May 1981, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. You will discover the story of a dramatic event in St Peter's Square. More importantly, find out what St John Paul II did afterwards. How did he show the forgiveness and mercy of Jesus to the man who had hurt him?

SWHP CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2026



Christmas Wellbeing Bags:
Our school is supporting this year

Our school will be supporting the SWHP - Family Support Service Christmas Appeal this year. Would you like to donate? Every item helps to bring comfort, warmth and care to local families at Christmas.

BRAND NEW ITEMS ONLY

What to donate

Children
- Selection pack/festive sweets
- Books
- Stationery packs
- Bath bombs
- Winter hats / socks

Adults
- Handcream / Lip balm
- Bubble bath
- Hot chocolate sachets / sets
- Cosy blankets / Warm socks, including slipper socks



How to take part

1. Choose brand new items from the lists above.
2. Drop your donation in to your school reception.
3. Please bring items in by Friday, 27 November (we are unable to accept items after this date).



Every donation brings festive cheer.

SWHP will collect and deliver your generous donations and add a Christmas Card in there featuring all the donators and a QR code for families to leave their thanks and thoughts.

We look forward to sharing these with you after Christmas.