14th February 2020

Dear Parents,

**Catholic Life at Sacred Heart Catholic School**

Our half termly Catholic Life newsletter is one of our ways of sharing the mission of our school with you and keeping you informed of how you can become more involved in the Catholic Life of our school. Please take time to read of all the wonderful events that have happened this half term and our plans to lead children through the season of Lent.

Year 3 led us in a wonderful assembly on the theme of Lent and Reconciliation this week. As we look forward to the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we will be encouraging the children to consider how they can make sacrifices just as Jesus did for us.

***Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving***



**One Life Music**

On Wednesday, all of the children in school were lucky enough to have the opportunity to have a special class retreat time where they learnt some beautiful new hymns and songs led by Emily from *One Life Music.* We hope you enjoy listening, learning and joining in with these new hymns during future masses and assemblies; remembering that singing is like praying twice!

**Vocations- Tharushi Perera**

Tharushi from the vocations team joined us this week to speak to the children about what God has called them to be. It was so inspiring that our Year 6 Faith Ambassadors have decided that they would like to share the information with our Year 5 children during Lent. This is a wonderful example of how your children are leading others in their journey of faith. Tharushi also presented the school with a beautiful blessed framed picture of St. John Henry Newman which reminds children of the service God called them to do.

*Our vocation is God’s plan for us to be the happiest that we can be;*

*we are the HAPPIEST when we do what God wants for us.*

**Parental attendance at weekly Mass**

Parental attendance at mass is continuing and we have been blessed with lovely comments from parishioners and visitors who have praised the reverence and prayerfulness of this celebration.

Thank you to the parents who came to our special mass on Thursday to welcome the new children who have started since October to Sacred Heart School.

**School website- *Our Faith***

Our school website is updated weekly to keep parents and families up to date with the Catholic Life of the school. We celebrate the children’s achievements in our Gifts from God assembly each week and these photographs are posted on our website so all can see your children’s wonderful talents.

**Joyous January- Scripture Meetings**

During the month of January, Miss Joseph has been overwhelmed with the number of families who have joined each Thursday to read with their child after school. During this month, the children have been volunteering each Wednesday to read St. Matthew’s Gospel with the Faith Ambassadors as part of *The Year of the Word*. It is wonderful to see so many children learning to understand the words of the Bible and how they can use these to live in the way Jesus taught us.

**Forth-coming events**

**Ash Wednesday- Wednesday 26th February**

The Lenten season starts on Ash Wednesday and we invite all parents and families to join us for mass on **Wednesday 26th February** at 9.10am to celebrate mass and receive the symbol of ashes. The ashes, made from the burnt palms from last year’s Palm Sunday, symbolise the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

**Lenten Prayer Bags**

Each child will be taking home a Lenten prayer bag to help them with their journey of faith through Lent.

We have also purchased Lenten activity books for each child so that they can focus their thoughts during the 40 days of Lent. Please spend some time in prayer with your children, write some prayers and reflections to share in class and think about how they will prepare spiritually for the season of Easter.

**Praise Passports**

As part of preparing during Lent, we will be introducing a positive behaviour reward system in school to encourage children to go ‘above and beyond’ what they normally do. The children will receive stamps for showing impeccable manners, acts of kindness, living out the Gospel and Virtues and being wonderful role models to others. The children will be awarded with a coloured star each time they complete one full passport until they work through the colours of the rainbow and on to our prestigious Sacred Heart pin badge.

**CAFOD Fundraising for Lent- ‘*What’s your Goal?’***

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to pray, fast and give alms. As part of our almsgiving, we will be taking part in this year’s CAFOD fundraising project entitled, “What’s Your Goal?”

The Amazon rainforest is crucial to the planet’s climate. But people are not caring for our common home, caring for the Amazon region, and both the rainforest and the climate are in a critical state. More than one football pitch of rainforest in the Amazon is being lost every minute. This cannot go on. We aim to raise whatever we can to make a big difference, helping communities in the Amazon to defend their land and save their homes.

We will be holding many exciting events based on the theme of football fundraisers including: penalty shoot outs, ‘keepie-uppie’ challenges, football non uniform day, squash and biscuits sales and Easter eggs raffles.

More information will be given after Lent.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 have been working hard towards preparing for the Sacrament of First Confession on Sunday 15th March at 9.00am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Please keep all of these children in your prayers as they remember how Jesus died to save our sins and give us forgiveness.

**Congratulations**

The winning house this week was: St Mark

Please encourage your children to wear their Saint badge with pride.

**Commendations**

Well done to the following children: Patrick Lupu, Joaquin De La Cruz, Amaan Khan, C’Asia Amae Christian, Janna Bargil, Sha’khye Gayle and Mechach McKenzie**.**

**Presentation award:** Abigail Asfaha, Tomass Lusis, Lucas Netaby, Bisrat Alexander, Malika Bridgen-Insular, Halfrida Aigbe and Ashaea Robinson.

**Gospel Virtues**

Next half term, we fill be helping the children to be faith-filled and hopeful. Pupils will be growing to be **faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future.

This week the following children have displayed their wonderful virtues of being compassionate and loving: Mercy Adedire, Justus Joseph, Idrees Gordon, Monae Sculley, Lois Kutten-Nkrumah, Africa-Beauty Garcia-George and Christel Mjeda.

**INSET Day reminder**

Please remember that school will be closed for staff training on **Monday 24th February.**

Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God’s laws; our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same.

“Lord, open my heart, mind and ears to receive your Word.”



Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not imagine that I have come to destroy what the Law or the Prophets taught. No, I have come to make them complete- to show you what they meant. I tell you truly, until heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke of a pen, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. “

**Wednesday’s Word is**

**Teacher**

*“Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.”*

Pope Francis

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Cooper

Acting Vice Principal



Mrs G Elliott

Acting Head of School

Mr G M O’Hara

Executive Principal