

CHAPLAINCY TEAM NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

Meet the Team

St Francis' Prayer Team is made up of 11 members of Year 6. Our job is to encourage children to pray and learn about their faith. Here are some reasons why we enjoy being part of the team.

"I like planning activities and liturgies." Ella

"I enjoy working with my friends and helping younger children to pray." Jonah and Jessie

"This has developed my faith in God and helped me to think about how to help the poor and vulnerable." Valentina

"I like doing fun activities and helping those in need." Pippa

"I enjoy running fun, faith events to help younger children." Lily

"This experience has made me closer to God." Sarah

"Being part of the Prayer Team has allowed me to get to know myself and other people through prayer." Elliott

"I enjoy helping out in Mass and my favourite job is holding the holy water when people go into the hall because it feels like the Prayer Team has given me the power to bless others." Tadeo and Eloise

"Although I've only joined recently, I am already helping others become closer to God." Paige

The Emmaus Project

Throughout Terms 1 and 2 we have been very busy learning about Catholic Social Teachings and helping the Poor and Vulnerable. We have raised about £3480.00 for the Emmaus Project since we started fundraising last year. The Emmaus Project is also called the Uganda Water Fund because the money we raise will buy a water pump for a school in Uganda. We have collected money in many different ways.

Our cake sale raised £200, the harvest sale raised £360 and the KS2 Christmas Carol Service raised £291. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.



Harvest Sale

We wanted to help people in need so at harvest time we discussed how we could raise money for the poor. We also wanted to show God that we are thankful for all the food we have. We had a Harvest Sale and sold chocolate bars, which we had donated. We sold the chocolate bars to the rest of the school and raised £360. All of the chaplaincy team took part and everyone enjoyed it because we had fun and helped others.



Mass

There were several Masses in Terms 1 and 2 and we helped with all of them. We all had different jobs to do and they were all really fun. When visitors come to Mass, we welcome them and say 'We hope you enjoy the Mass.' As people go into the hall, we hold bowls of holy water so everyone can bless themselves as a reminder of their baptism. We do lots of singing at Mass and one of our jobs is to play the percussion instruments to make the music even better. We often do the readings and a drama to explain them. You are always welcome to join us for Mass – we are sure you will enjoy every single one.

Reconciliation Service

In Advent we organised a reconciliation service for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. We did this because Advent is a time to say sorry and to try to be better. During the service, we encouraged everyone to think about their sins and ask God for forgiveness. One of the activities we did was to pass a heart or a stone to everyone and they could say a sorry prayer in their heads or out loud.

After the service, the children evaluated it by saying what they had liked and what they thought we could do to improve. We had lots of fun preparing the liturgy and it helped us to think about what Advent is about.



Epiphany – Blessing of the doors

On Friday 6th January, after the Epiphany Mass, three members of the Prayer Team (Pippa, Lily and Jessie) went around the outside of the school with chalk (blessed by Father Reg) to bless each door. We wrote 20+C+M+B+23 which means Christ Bless this Mansion (House) in 2023. CMB are also the names of the three Kings (Casper, Melchior and Balthazar). The crosses show Christ will bless the people who go through the door. We do lots of things like this so we can help the younger children develop their understanding of our religion.



Looking Forward

In terms 3 and 4, we will be organising some activities for Lent and we hope to organise some more Masses, Assemblies and Prayer Services. We will be sharing our plans with you in the school newsletter. Please let us know if you have any ideas for things we can do.

Thank you for reading our first newsletter and HAPPY NEW YEAR!