

## **“Virtues to Live by”**

***“Our educational work should have a purpose: to elicit a change in our students, to make them grow in wisdom, to help them undergo a transformation, to provide them with knowledge, with new feelings and, at the same time, achievable ideals.”***

*(Pope Francis 2013)*

**Spring Term:**

**FRIENDSHIP**

## **Blessing**

O God our Father,  
We bring to you this day all our friendships.  
We ask for your blessings on them, knowing that you are doing better things that we can desire or pray for.  
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

God our Father, you created us to live in friendship with others.  
You reveal to us through your holy word how we should live in friendship with others and the challenges and rewards of true friendship.  
Help us to make friendships that are rooted in love and truth.  
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ Your son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

## **READING:**

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart,  
and the pleasantness of a friend  
springs from their heartfelt advice.

*Proverbs 27:9*

## **REFLECTION**

*There are many levels of friendship in life. We should be friendly and welcoming to all but there are also deeper closer friendships we make during our lives.*

*Having good friends is a beautiful gift – just like the beauty of perfume in a room. It makes you smile when you are part of it or when you see it in others.*

***Can you think of a friendship you have that makes you feel that way?***

*When we are in a true friendship with someone there is real joy and confidence in knowing there is a shared love and care for each other.*

***Think of a special time you have had with a friend recently. Thank God now for that conversation or meeting together, no matter how brief.***

*Being a good friend also means that you will need to be truthful with the other. This can be hard at times as we don't want to hurt feelings but if our friend seeks advice, we need to give it truthfully and bravely, always desiring what is best for them. We also need to be able to hear and receive advice too.*

*We make good friendships by being willing to give of ourselves. Our time, energy and resources – our very life.*

***How do you give of yourself to your friends?***

***How do your friends give to you?***

*We listen to each other's joys and sorrows.*

*We share a meal or go for a coffee together.*

*We help each other in times of trouble.*

*We celebrate together at different times in our lives.*

*We forgive each other when we get things wrong.*

*The scriptures are full of stories of friendship.*

*Our story starts with God's friendship with us at the very beginning. God created us for friendship with him. He still wants that friendship now. He is always waiting for us, available to us, loving us, and providing us with all we need.*

*But the ultimate friendship is that which Jesus offers each one of us today, just as he did 2 thousand years ago with His disciples. Jesus laid down his life for us, His friends, so that if we believe in Him, we can share in eternal life with Him in heaven.*

***Friends talk and listen to each other. What would you like to share with Jesus, our friend, in this very moment?***

## **LIVING OUR VIRTUE**

Inspire each one of us that we may help our children to:

- Be friendly
- Treat others as they want to be treated
- Show an interest in others
- Say kind and loving words
- Show love to their friends

- Share their time and things with others
- Help a friend when they are in need
- Do little things for others that make them happy
- Forgive their friend

May we support our children in recognising opportunities for growth so that they can make the most of the opportunities life presents.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God our Father, Help us to learn how to be good friends. Give us the graces we need to choose friends wisely, to give our love generously and to seek your guidance before giving advice.

Help us to be friendly to all we meet, spreading the perfume of your love wherever we go.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

#### **VIRTUE TO LIVE BY**

**I am friendly and show my friends love.**

**I want the best for my friends.**