

“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)

Autumn Term:

CITIZENSHIP

Blessing

O God our Father,
You desire that we live together in community.
Let your blessing rest upon us.
Unite us all in love for you,
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

OPENING PRAYER:

God our Father, you created mankind to live in unity together and with you.

You have given us all different gifts and resources so that only together can we live a fruitful life.

Open our eyes to see how we can live together in unity, providing for those in need, helping those who need encouragement, serving others as your son Jesus taught us.

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:

Hebrews 13: 1-2,14,16:

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

REFLECTION

Jesus came to show us the way to our heavenly home – the Kingdom of God. Many in Jesus' time found it hard to accept His message of love. One of putting the needs of others first and considering ourselves last.

This is no easier now, when our culture tells us we deserve everything, and what we desire is what is most important. This is not the message of the Gospel.

Jesus is the only way to our heavenly home and like the first Christians and those down the centuries – it isn't always easy to follow Jesus.

So let us reflect today on how we can each contribute more of the talents, time and resources that God has given us, to our community and world.

This will involve some sacrifice. Giving away our life for someone else. If we practise, we will get better at it. This is our calling as a Christian.

We ask God to open our hearts and minds to his prompting so we can respond with a loving and unselfish 'yes' to the needs of others.

LIVING OUR VIRTUE

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

- show love for their neighbour through their actions
- see that they are part of the school community
- make a positive difference
- look for opportunities to serve others
- play their part in looking after the environment

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 see the beauty and humanity in every person we encounter. Help us to understand and accept the responsibility of your commandment to “love thy neighbour;” and to put our trust not in our privileges and blessings, but in you.

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

VIRTUE TO LIVE BY

I am a good citizen.

I show love for my neighbour through my actions.