

“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:

LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR / COMPASSION

Blessing

God our Father, you are the source of all love and compassion. Bless us with your graces this day so that our hard hearts will be softened and we will see the needs of others and have a willingness to act with generosity and kindness.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

OPENING PRAYER:

God our Father, you give each one of us many opportunities every day to love our neighbour.

We are sorry that sometimes we close our eyes and our hearts only thinking of our own needs and desires.

Help us to realise the truth that it is in giving that we receive – that through loving others we expand our hearts to receive more of your perfect love.

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:

And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, 'Master, **what must I do to inherit eternal life?**'

He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus said to him, 'You have answered right, do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus,
'And who is my neighbour?'

In answer Jesus said, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of bandits; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead.

Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came on him was moved with compassion when he saw him.

He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him.

Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper and said, "Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have."

Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits' hands?' He replied, 'The one who showed pity towards him.' Jesus said to him, **'Go, and do the same yourself.'**

Luke 10:25-37

REFLECTION

We have most probably heard this story many times but it is good to reflect on how we can all be like the three travellers on the road of life.

We can be like the priest or Levite by crossing the road and walking by when we think:

I am busy doing something important and good at the moment – I haven't got time to change my plans.

I can't help, I haven't got much money or resources myself, I need to keep it just in case I need it.

I find it hard to deal with people in pain, in hospital, homeless, I will leave it to someone who finds it easier.

They are from a different culture, country, religion, group – they aren't like me. I feel uncomfortable. Let someone like them help.

There are times though that we are like the Good Samaritan. We offer help to someone in need by:

Visiting a sick friend, neighbour or relative. We give generously to foodbanks, Disaster appeals, charity fundraisers. We give our time to be with someone who needs help at school, at home or in our locality. We don't walk by or turn our eyes from someone who is suffering, needs our love, our time or our resources.

We too want to inherit eternal life. We ask God to help us to be compassionate, good neighbours by following Jesus' command,

'Go, and do the same yourself.'

LIVING OUR VIRTUE

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

- I treat others as I want to be treated
- I say kind and loving things
- I share my things with others
- I do little things for others that make them happy
- I show affection
- I notice when someone needs my help
- I show I care by listening to others

- I help people and animals in need

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, give us compassion that we may show your face to those we meet. Give us a generous heart that we may share the gifts you have given us. Above all give us love that we may bring joy into the lives of those around us. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

VIRTUE TO LIVE BY

I know that loving my neighbour means loving EVERYONE.

I show my compassion when I am patient, understanding and loving to my neighbour.