

“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:

THANKFULNESS

Thankfulness:

I am grateful for all I have and praise God for all he has given me.

Blessing

God who gave us Creation to play in,
with rolling landscapes of delight,
with wonders of earth, sea and sky
and endless discoveries of beauty and wonder:

Give thanks to the Lord, give thanks

God who made us in infinite diversity,
with all the vivid colours of our differences,
all the mystery of our unknowns
to be explored and celebrated:

Give thanks to the Lord, give thanks

We worship you.

God who is Holy Spirit

The dance and song in all creation:

Give thanks to the Lord, give thanks

OPENING PRAYER:

God our Father, help each one of us to be thankful for the gift of your creation. Help us to be thankful for our own gifts, our loved ones and those we encounter in our work and on life's journey.

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:

Now on the way to Jerusalem he travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests'. Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

LK 17:11-19

REFLECTION

To be able to offer thanks, to be able to praise the Lord for what He has done for us: this is important!

We can ask ourselves: Are we capable of saying "Thank you"? How many times do we say "Thank you" in our family, our community, and in the Church? How many times do we say "Thank you" to those who help us, to those close to us, to those who accompany us through life?

Often we take everything for granted! This also happens with God. It is easy to approach the Lord to ask for something, but to return and give thanks... This is why Jesus so emphasizes the failure of the nine ungrateful lepers: "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was no one found to return and give praise to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

LIVING OUR VIRTUE

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

- Recognise everyone is made in the image of God
- Recognise everyone has the capacity to be thankful
- Be receptive to the wisdom of others.
- Believe that, with encouragement, they will recognise when they should be thankful.
- Recognise that being thankful is a way of showing your love.
- Recognise that, through prayer, God will give us the grace and strength to be grateful.
- Learn to be thankful even when it is difficult.

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, let us go forth together and in everything let us be thankful. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. **Amen**

VIRTUE TO LIVE BY

Thankfulness

I am grateful for all I have and praise God for all he has given me.