

"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)

Summer Term:

COURAGE

Blessing

Circle me O God

Keep protection near and danger far away.

Circle me O God

Keep hope within, keep doubt without.

Circle me O God

Keep light near and darkness far away.

Circle me O God

Keep peace within, keep evil out.

Circle me O God

Keep calm within, keep storms without.

OPENING PRAYER:

God our Father,

You call us to build Your kingdom here on earth through love and care of those around us.

We ask for your gift of courage this day so we are able to do and say what is right and good no matter how difficult it may be for us. Help us to be a courageous community, speaking out for the truth and supporting those without a voice.

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:

Jesus walks on the water

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”
“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

Matthew 14: 25-31

REFLECTION

There are times in life when it feels like we are being asked to walk on water.

Whatever the task, it just feels too much, too big, overwhelming or even impossible.

Something deep down tells us that we should do it or it needs to be done or said because it is the right thing to do.

We even want to do it – but can easily talk ourselves out of it or put it off to another time.

We need courage!

Is there something you need courage for today?

Ask our Lord now – he calls us to come to Him and He will give us the courage we need to do God’s will.

And even if our courage fails half way like Peter (as it often does) we just need to call out to Jesus again and He will reach out to us and be with us.

It is hard to step out alone.

How can we encourage and walk alongside each other when someone is being courageous and doing what needs to be done or said?

LIVING OUR VIRTUE

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

- have the courage to ask for help.
- make the right choices.
- stand up for what is right.
- reflect on the choices they have made.
- be not afraid to fail

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

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant to us the serenity of mind to accept that which cannot be changed; courage to change that which can be changed, and wisdom to know the one from the other, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

VIRTUE TO LIVE BY

I have courage.

I am willing to try new things.