



RE NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

October - November 2023



Welcome



My name is Marta Pugsley. I am delighted to have been appointed as a Foundation Governor with responsibility for Religious Education and the school ethos. I very much look forward to working with you all, staff, students and parents.

I attended FCJ secondary school and remember, as a Year 7 student, standing in front of the plaque (which can be found inside Grainville School) as it was unveiled and the school officially opened by Cardinal Heenan. My school years were very happy ones. The school nurtured my faith for which I will always be grateful.

My two sons attended the primary school before moving onto secondary education at De La Salle. I worked as a qualified social worker in the field of childcare for 23 years, both in the UK and Jersey, before moving to work at Beaulieu Convent School as their lay chaplain for 14 years. The circle is now complete in returning to my educational roots and giving something back to the FCJ community. When you see me, please stop and say hello! Please remember me in your prayers as together we strive to live the Gospel values within this special school community.

Year 1

During our topic of Catholic Social Teaching this term, the children were presented with the 'Big Question' - how can we share God's love for the world? We shared ideas of how we can look after God's world and what our world would look like if we didn't care for it. The children also listened to the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:34-40). We thought about the difference between how a sheep and a goat behave. The children recorded these on an animal template.



All Saints Day

We were delighted to welcome Father Edward into school on All Saints Day to celebrate Mass with us. Although the weather was wild and windy outside (this was the day before Storm Ciarán hit the Island), the hall was filled with hymns of joy, and we reflected on the theme of Father Edward's Homily - 'superheroes' of our faith. It was very special to have the opportunity to come together and pray for our school, the Island and the world. Amelia, Aby and Sophia from Year 6 were our wonderful Altar Servers, undertaking this role for the first time. A very sincere thank you to Father Edward for helping us celebrate the feast of All Saints!

Year 5



In Year 5, pupils have been considering who Jesus identified as the marginalised and how he sought to help them. The children have studied various passages from the Bible including Luke 4:14-20. In the lessons, Year 5 have considered who feels isolated and lonely in our society today and have identified ways they can ensure each person feels valued and included. As part of this topic, Year 5 are working on a special Christmas project for the residents at St Joseph's Residential and Nursing Home. We are excited to be involved in such a meaningful project and look forward to sharing more with you in our next Newsletter.

Year 3

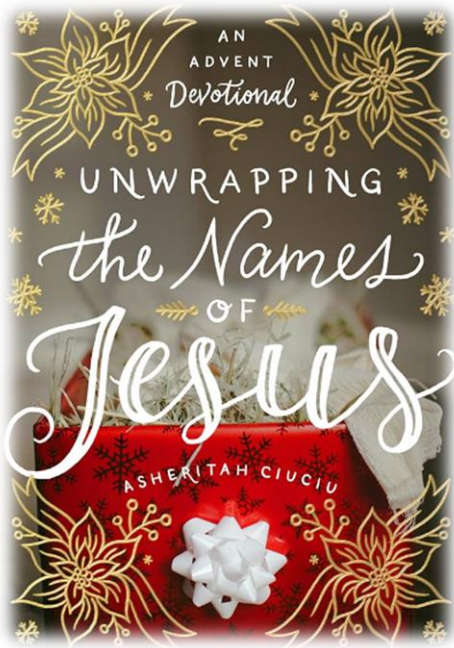
Year 3 have been exploring how to be stewards of God's creation. They explored the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, created fantastic freeze frames and explored the theme of 'dignity'.

Year 3 also enjoyed learning more the Catholic Social Teaching theme of 'A Preferential Option for the Poor'. The children looked especially at the charity CAFOD. They created posters to explain the work CAFOD does and also tried to think of some exciting ways to encourage others to support this charity.



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Advent 2023



Our Advent theme for 2023 will be 'Unwrapping the Names of Jesus'. This will be launched on our Advent Day which is planned for Tuesday 28th November.

On this day, pupils will be invited to visit prayer stations in the hall and complete activities within the classroom. There will be a display of Christmas presents in the centre of the chapel which reflects the theme for this year. These gifts will be items of food wrapped and labelled with a different name of Jesus. At the end of our Advent season in school, these parcels will be donated to SVP and thus benefit families in our local community. During each day of Advent, we will 'unwrap' a new name and reflect upon its meaning and message.

Support materials for parents will be sent home with activities that can be completed as a family. These simple ideas will allow you to create time and space for prayer and reflection during Advent.

The main themes within the **Advent (November-December)** topic are:



- YR –Advent as a special time when we get ready for the birth of Jesus.
- Y1 – Learning about getting ready for the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph.
- Y2 – Learning about the symbolism that helps us get ready to meet Jesus.
- Y3 –Advent as a time when we recognise Jesus in the world.
- Y4 – The First Coming of Jesus is placed in historical context
- Y5 – The coming of Jesus, connected to the promise in the Old Testament.
- Y 6 –Advent through parables, prayers and hymns of the Church.

Reverse Advent Calendar



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare to celebrate the special season of Advent, we would like to remember those less fortunate than ourselves by having our annual '**FCJ Reverse Advent Calendar**' in school once again. The idea is simple; as well as opening our Advent calendar doors to a chocolate or picture at home, we will also do a little giving!

For the three weeks of Advent, before we finish for the Christmas holidays, we would like to collect items to be donated to the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) food bank. We would dearly love to bless this organisation who give so much support to islanders in need throughout the year and especially in these challenging times.

Each week we will have a different focus grocery to be collected and the donated items will be delivered to the food bank to contribute to the work that they do, just in time for Christmas. We will begin our Reverse Advent Calendar, the week before Advent begins in order collect a variety of products for the charity.

Week 1 (27th November)– Tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits

Week 2 (4th December)– Tinned food (e.g. beans/sausages/pies)

Week 3 (11th December) – Baby Food, Nappies, Powdered Milk for babies. More details will follow about specific items for families.

It is also a time when SVP like to gift one or two extra treats to families such as a Christmas pudding, biscuit selection box, chocolates, minced pies, etc and even crackers for Christmas day. These items can be delivered at any time during Advent.

Parish News



The Parish Advent Service takes place at St Bernadette's Church on Sunday 3rd December at 6pm.

SVP Jersey is open Wednesdays between 2-3.30pm and Saturdays 10-11am. It can be found to the side of St Thomas Hall on Val Plaisant. Donations can be left in the red baskets at the churches.