



Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.



Thank you for taking the time to read our first ever Chaplaincy newsletter and also a thank you to those of you who attended our year 8 'Life in Palestine at the time of Christ', all the different liturgies that happened throughout the year - year 8, year 14, and our Mass of remembrance in

November, the uplifting and challenging presentation given by Fr. Peter Mc Verry in May, your presence and support were greatly appreciated.

It is my hope to continue some similar and even more liturgical experience in the new academic year. Please keep an eye on the chaplaincy web-site for regular updates.



I am very excited about the year ahead and thought I should first share with you what I believe the aims of chaplaincy are.

Roles and Responsibilities

- To set the right example to all pupils and staff
- To try to live out the mission statement
- To help staff and pupils to encourage our faith and beliefs - through the information and resources I provide on a regular basis
- To help spread the word of God - in the classroom and onto the corridors
- To make the school a happy and religious place - to encourage more use of the school oratory
- To encourage believers to be confident in being Catholic
- To help others grow in Christ
- To work hard for the community in which we share
- To guide people on the right path to God
- To encourage pupils/staff to spread the word of God
- To help people to understand the Mass and Rosary and other forms of prayer which are part of our faith tradition
- To offer help in the parish for special times of the year.

All of us have so much to be thankful for each day.

When we awake to a new day, when a friend is in touch with us, for the food we eat, for the water that flows into our homes, for flowers, birds, trees, our health, for doctors close by who care for us: the list can go on and on.

Thanking God should be part of our daily lives.

It is also good to tell God about worries and concerns: about jobs, relationships, family, health, whatever comes to mind.

Sharing those thoughts with God will often help to lessen the burdens we carry.

Take time -- lots of it -- each day to talk to God in prayer.

If you spend time with family members or friends, engage them in prayer with you, and listen to how they share their joys/concerns/thanks with God.

Summer Prayer

Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank You for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence, and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Amen.

What Chaplaincy hope to achieve this year?

The main aim is to guide and lead the whole school community in prayer and the Christian Way of life.

Hopefully this will happen by presenting assemblies and

leading prayer sessions on a regular basis in our school oratory and school assembly hall.

We also hope to raise money for many charities in fun and inventive ways as well as explaining the main aims of the charity.

My first charity event will be the 'Shoe-box Appeal' which I hope to get up and running by the middle of September.

(Check school web-site for items to be included in shoe-box)

Another of the big projects that I am looking forward to doing along with the R.E department, is a grotto style prayer garden that people can go to and reflect for a little while. - *'Where there is faith, there is love; where there is love, there is peace; where there is peace, there is God; Where there is God, there is bliss'* - Sri Sathya



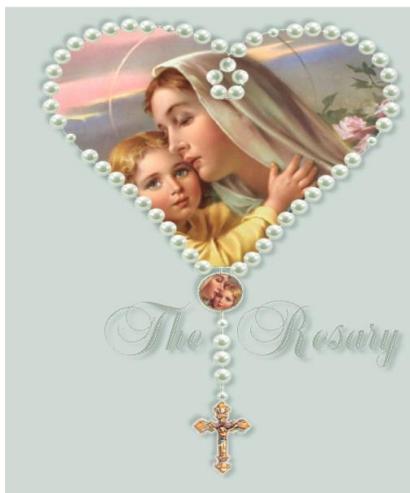
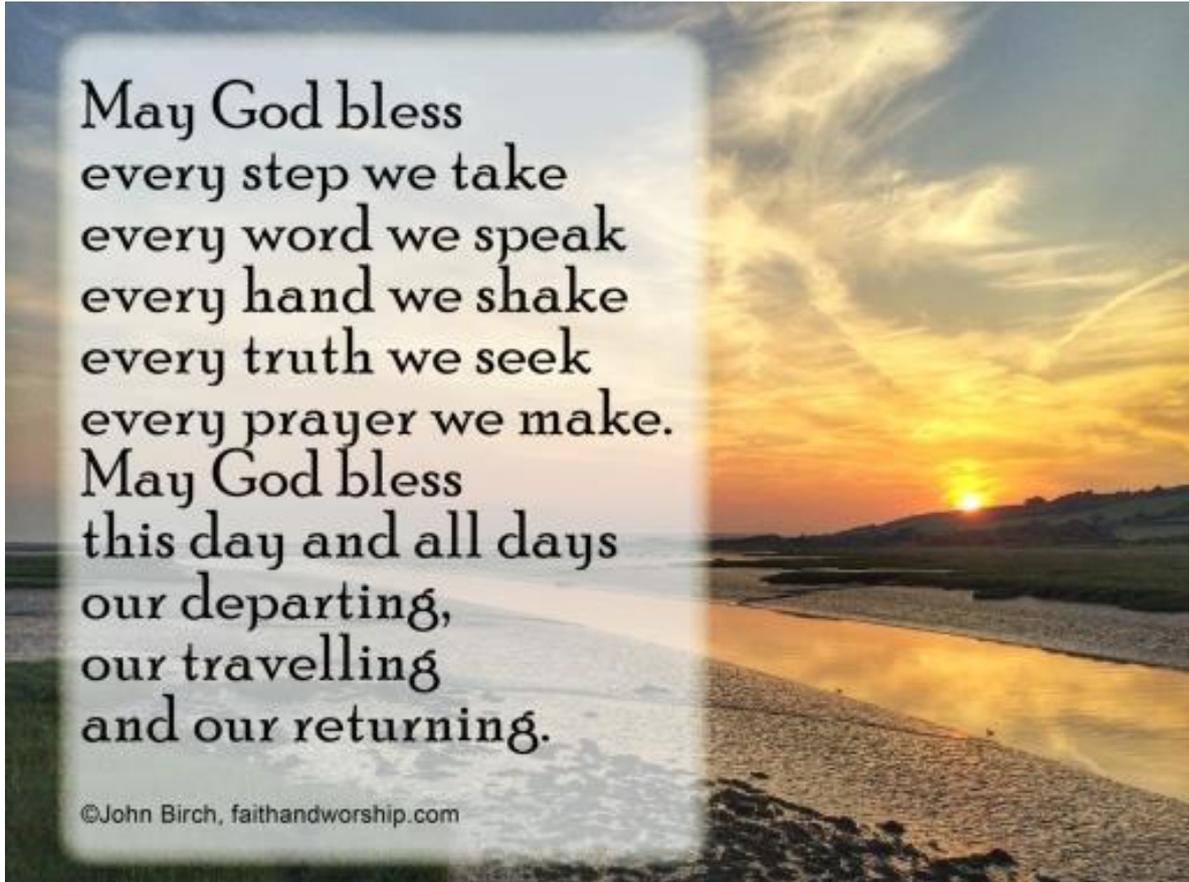
Retreats will form a part of the liturgical life of the school. Year 9 pupils will be given the opportunity of a retreat in either Lough Derg (letter to parents to follow at the beginning of the school term)

or in a retreat centre.

Year 8 will be receiving a retreat on site with an out-side retreat team delivering the programme

May God bless
every step we take
every word we speak
every hand we shake
every truth we seek
every prayer we make.
May God bless
this day and all days
our departing,
our travelling
and our returning.

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October - The Month of the Rosary

October is the month of the Rosary. The Rosary is a type of Catholic prayer. The different mysteries of the Rosary should be prayed on the following days:

Monday – Joyful Tuesday - Sorrowful Wednesday - Glorious Thursday - Luminous Friday - Sorrowful Saturday - Joyful Sunday - Glorious
Try to make some time to pray.

November - The Month of Remembrance –

all Key stage 3 pupils made a visit to the school oratory for a special prayer service. They were given the opportunity to write the names of their deceased loved ones.



November is the month of remembrance of the faithful departed. Tuesday 1st November is the Feast of All Saint's and Wednesday 2nd November is the Feast of All Souls.

There will be Mass in school - keep checking the [chaplaincy web-site](#) for more information All are welcome to attend.

Remember to write in our prayer book on the Chaplaincy display.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

December - Advent Preparation and Christmas –

Our Crib was put up in the foyer and pupils were invited to go and say a prayer. All classes were provided with prayers and resources to enable them to reflect and pray together as a form or year group



Advent - the four weeks before season of Christmas. It is the time before the birth of Jesus our saviour. We reflect on the journey Mary and Joseph took to have this special baby. Each class will receive or see an image of a crib and each pupil in Key stage 3 will be given one as part of their learning so they will be able to take it home to reflect with their family. Assemblies will be held and pupils will be reminded of the significance of

this event in our Christian life

Our joint Advent/Christmas assembly will take place towards the end of term

Prayer Life - Pope Francis'

5 Finger Prayer

Pope Francis says, "The family is one of the most precious assets of humanity



Pope Francis introduced a way of praying using our 5 fingers. **Thumb** (people who are close to you) These are your close friends and family, often

the first you think about when you pray. Give thanks to God

and ask his protection on your parents, siblings, friends, and classmates.

Pointer (people who point the way) These are leaders in your life, such as teachers, adults, priests and nuns. Offer God your thanksgiving for them and ask him to help them in their important work.

Tall Finger (people in authority) The big people in the world need prayer too. Ask God to give wisdom to our government, those who make important decisions and those who protect us.

Ring Finger (people who are weak) This is your weakest finger. We should remember others who are sick, live in poverty, or are treated badly. Pray that Jesus would give them new strength and courage.

Little Finger (your own needs) God wants to hear your needs too, especially when you put others first. Pray for your own growth in mind, body, and spirit.

Pope Francis provided the Prayer below [for the Synod of Bishops on the Family](#):

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the
Gospel
and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth,*

may families never again experience violence, rejection and division:

may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,

and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, true God and true man, graciously hear our prayer.

Mary and Joseph, co-operators with God's plan, pray for us.

Amen!

*“May God give you... For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care, a promise,
And a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, A faithful friend to share, For every sigh, a sweet song, And an answer for each prayer.”*

(Irish Blessing) ~ JollyNotes.com

I invite you to follow all of our activities/news/prayers on the chaplaincy section of our school website.

God bless, Sr. Marjorie