

Theme of the Week - Your Brother

The message from Jesus in Matthew's Gospel can be one we find most difficult to accept or live out in our actions. However, this message is one that we must strive to do to fulfil the wishes of Jesus.

Firstly, Jesus in the Gospel is preparing his friends for the time when he will be gone. And at this point, He is telling them what they must do if there are disagreements between themselves. Jesus says that they need to give each other a chance to make amends in private, and support each other when they have complaints against someone.

So do you find it easy to sort things out with friends and loved one after a disagreement? Can you forgive and forget without making a big fuss when people have been unfair to you?

When we try to answer these two questions, we should first look at the 2nd reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans before going back to the Gospel; it follows with its handling of the principles of Christian living. St Paul writes all the commandments are gathered into the one concept, 'love' - the love that is of the will, part of God's language, freely and endlessly giving. Paul, in a further letter to the Corinthians famously gives the meaning of Love...'*Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous....*' And so on.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus explains to us how we can regulate our behaviour in a spirit of love. Jesus is fully aware that we will not always be able to see eye to eye. When people are in a relationship with each other, there will be areas or times of conflict and disagreement and dealing with these in ways that honour the teaching of Jesus can be a challenge.

How often do we remind ourselves of the meaning of Love and how do we demonstrate it with one another when we disagree?

Whenever people gather together as we do as a school community and are in relationship there is always the risk of conflict and disharmony. There is always the risk that we may upset others by our actions and our words. Whether it be intentional or accidental, the risk of conflict is always near. The challenge of the Gospel is a personal one, and the restoration of relationships are paramount to our call as Christians. It may well be useful to reflect on the ways in which you resolve conflicts in the different areas of your life - family, workplace, faith community.

Reconciliation is at the very heart of Christian living, and it is a responsibility to all who are part of the Church to be called to restore relationships with each other when these are broken. As we mark Education Week with the focus of working together in harmony and the importance of relationships with one another "Together in Mission". Let us reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit across our school and diocese, with our friends and families, where we can see Christ through the presence of each other. Let us make an effort to reconcile any differences we have this week so the Lord's work can be done through our own words and actions and allow love to embrace all those we encounter.

Your Brother

Weekly Reflections
10th September 2022



A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (18:15-20)
Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, as we come together as a school community, be with us as we live out your message with those around us. Give us the courage to support those in need so they too can feel your presence through love and compassion in their daily lives. Through Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Feast Day - Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14 September 2023

The 14th September is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to honour the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

The universal symbol of the Christian faith, the cross represents Christ's victory over death. The feast celebrates the redemptive transformation of a barbaric instrument of torture into a divine tree of life. In His sacrifice, Jesus showed true **Love and Compassion** for all of humankind.

Day 1

The Gospel from Matthew is the teaching of Jesus for when we disagree with others.

- Why do you think Jesus had to explain this to his followers? How often do you have disagreements with those you love?
- Why do you fall out with them?

Day 2

Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

How do you demonstrate your love for friends and family?

Day 3

The act of reconciliation with those we have fallen out with can be challenging. Why do you think this is most important to do and how can you demonstrate your love to those you have fallen out with?