

Theme of the Week – The Good Samaritan

Where has the school year gone? Can you believe that this is the 40th time a Theme of the Week sheet has been produced and now this is the last one for the year? Time flies when you're having fun! Can anyone remember what the theme of the week was way back on the 1st September 2024? 5 positive points for the person who can either state the theme of the week or explain the Gospel for that week. Answer revealed on Thursday.

In the Gospel on Sunday, Jesus was telling a parable to an expert in law. The Priest and Levite whom Jesus mentions did not help the blind man. The two were so preoccupied with their jobs they were made blind to the obvious need of another. Jesus challenges the lawyer, if he follows the ritual law, he then ignores the spirit of the law. The Law of Moses decreed that touching a dead or bleeding person would bar them from their sacred temple duties until ritual cleansing could be completed. So do you follow the law word for word but in doing so allowing someone to suffer or follow the spirit of the law?

The parable would have shocked the listeners at the time, as Jews had a long history of hostility with the Samaritans because of intermarriage with pagans. So casting a Samaritan as the hero of the story would have been horrifying to the Jews. The payment of the silver coins would have been a Roman denarius, equivalent to a day's pay, so to spend that much money really showed how generous the Samaritan was practically but also in spirit. But the Samaritan in the story that Jesus told did not worry about religions or differences – he just saw someone who needed help and was filled with pity for him. Many people today hurry past hurting people, so what is Jesus telling us in this story about how we should treat each other?

The Theme of the week for the 1st September was 'The Commandment of God'. The Gospel for that Sunday was when the Pharisees challenged Jesus when the disciples did not wash their arms up to their elbows before eating, thus not following the traditions of the elders. Jesus said to them 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean.' In this Gospel reading Jesus wants us to listen to our hearts within as this is how we can truly listen to God. And when reading the Gospel on Sunday, again if we listen to our hearts and do the right thing, we would all be like the Samaritan. Throughout the course of this year, we have seen so many of you 'Unlock Your Belief' by listen to your hearts and live out our Pupil Profile in numerous ways but the **love** and **compassion**, **generosity** and **gratefulness** you have demonstrated has been truly outstanding. Within the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church you have shown the **Options for the Poor** by: **SVP Christmas Hampers**, **Sandwich for the homeless**, **supporting Access to Shine** and the **Baby Bank Appeal**. **Solidarity** with others through: **House Assemblies** and **competitions**, **Sports Day**, being part of a **team or club**, **electives** and **TVLP projects**. **Stewardship** by: **Sustainability elective**, **Harvest project** we have recently done, **recycling requests in DT**. Demonstrated **Peace** in coming together in: **Remembrance service** in November, **Pillow Case Appeal** for Ukraine, **prayers** throughout the year for those in war. The **Common Good** is always seen in our celebration of **Multicultural Day**, **retreats** you have taken part in, those that have **mentored** or been part of **student leadership** helping out with **parents evening** or **Academic Review Day**. **Dignity of Work and Participation** through all the **extra-curricular activities**, **work experiences** and **fayres** you have taken part in and the service in coming together with other schools and institutions in our **St Joseph in the community day**. Lastly, **Human Dignity** throughout the year in your **positive relationships** to your **peers**, **staff** and all the **visitors** who come into school and say how wonderful you are! Thank you for making this year so special. Have a restful and safe summer and continue to listen to the Lord with Spirit and bring it to others you encounter. Have a wonderful summer.

The Good Samaritan

Weekly Reflections
13th July 2025
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Gospel of Luke 10: 25-37

At that time: Behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? How do you read it?' And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.'

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back." Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' And Jesus said to him, 'You go, and do likewise.'

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus,

Sometimes we have listened to others around us rather than following our loving hearts. At the end of this academic year, we thank you for the times we have followed our hearts and understood and witnessed the great things we can accomplish through service to others. Allow us to follow your Spirit always.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Day 1

Can anyone remember the theme of the week for the 1st September 2024?
What do you think the lawyer should do and why? Follow the law or help another person?

Day 2

Why do you think those listening to the parable would have been so shocked?
What is Jesus trying to teach us with this parable?

Day 3

How have you contributed to our school life this year, by showing our school virtues and Unlocking Belief in All?

Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet. Caring for the earth is integral to our task of tackling the scandal of global poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion. Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources. The late Pope Francis said "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Laudato Si' 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Laudato Si' 159.

How this half term can you promote Stewardship in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?