



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 23rd J 2023



Year 11 Prom 2023

Last night our Year 11 students attended their prom at Ditton Manor and a great time was had by all. See more exciting photographs within the newsletter...



Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly video message link is:

[Headteacher Message NEWSLETTER 23 06 23 - YouTube](#)

All Headteacher videos can be watched on our new YouTube channel @SloughStJosephs.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SloughStJosephs>

Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Josephs content.

Have a fantastic weekend everyone.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Theme of the Week – Do not be afraid

In Jesus' time the image of the **TWO WAYS** was very popular, and used to express the fact that every person has to **MAKE A CHOICE** about which direction they want to give to their life. We all have different backgrounds and stories, but we all come to a crossroads and have to decide whether we go left or right. In Deuteronomy 30:19 God says: *I have set before you **life and death**, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.* One of the first catechetical texts of Christianity, the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles (more ancient than the Gospel of Matthew) begins saying that there are **TWO WAYS**, one of LIFE and one of DEATH, and that the difference between them is great. Jesus himself spoke about the **NARROW DOOR** and the **WIDE DOOR**. Every road leads to a destination. All human beings want to have as a destination HAPPINESS, JOY, PEACE, so the big question is: **Which of the two ways will lead me to these?** Jesus told us that HE IS THE WAY, and it is only through Him that we can know real JOY (Remember that the first Christians were not called such, but "People of the WAY"). The way proposed by Jesus is that of SELF-DENIAL, SERVICE, FORGIVENESS. **Not many walk along this way.** Jesus may still have many sympathizers, but very few true followers.

We know very well that this proposal is completely different from the way that most people chose to live; very often they walk in the **opposite direction: SELFISHNESS, POWER, REVENGE**. When the true believer sees the many who walk the opposite direction, he/she starts wondering whether they are right and he/she is wrong. Imagine driving down a one-way street and meeting ten cars who are driving in the wrong direction; even though they are wrong, they start flashing their lights at you, honk at you, call you 'idiot', to the point that for a moment you wonder whether they are right and you are driving in the wrong direction. Some of them even wonder whether the world is right and the way to happiness is indeed MONEY, SEX, POWER, STATUS etc. It is normal for the Christian to have some FEAR about their commitment to Christ, in particular fear of being mistaken, and fear of remaining alone. **Jesus in the Gospel repeats three times DO NOT FEAR, and after each he adds a reason not to fear. FEAR itself is a good thing, a natural instinct implanted by God to protect us from dangerous situations, but sometimes it can become an obstacle and paralyze us to the point that we are not capable to make courageous decisions, like investing our life on Christ's proposal.** Jesus says that we must not be afraid for three reasons. Firstly, **EVERYTHING NOW HIDDEN WILL BE MADE CLEAR**, that is to say that the truth of the Gospel will one day be before the eyes of all! We often hear that ours is a post-Christian society, when in fact it's a PRE-CHRISTIAN one. Do not be afraid to be among the losers of history by choosing Christ, because His truth one day will prevail. Secondly: **DO NOT FEAR THOSE WHO CAN KILL THE BODY BUT NOT THE SOUL**. Those who walk in the opposite direction to the Gospel do not understand Christians and are actually annoyed by them. They insult them, saying that they are not in step with the times, cancel their opinions that do not conform to the world's new dogmas, call them idiots, bigots, and haters. Often they will persecute them, deprive them of their jobs, goods, dignity, sometimes killing them socially through social media. Jesus says, **DO NOT FEAR THEM**, because as much as they fret, they will not be able to touch the LIFE THAT YOU HAVE IN ME.

The third reason why we must not be afraid is that **God looks after each and every one of us**, we are **DEAR TO HIM**, and even though he does not promise that he will take us out of trouble through miracles, he does promise that he will be there whenever we suffer to help us and that if we only TRUST IN HIS PROJECT FOR US, our joy will be full. *Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart* (Ps. 37:4).

Jesus uses the significant example of sparrows. These were hated in antiquity because they ate the seed and ruined crops (A Jewish book of blessings called *Berakhot*, contains blessings for all animals except sparrows!). **So, if God looks after even the most insignificant and obnoxious animal, how much more will he take care of us who are made in his image, who are HIS DELIGHT? He knows us so well, that he knows even every single hair on our head. We are special to HIM.** Jesus ends this Gospel with a promise: *I will recognise before my Father those who have recognized me in front of men.* He is not talking about the Last judgment, but the present. Jesus recognizes himself in those disciples of his who **ARE NOT AFRAID TO CALL HIM LORD ON FRONT OF THE HOSTILE WORLD.**

Do not be afraid

Weekly Reflections
25th June 2023**From the Gospel of Matthew (10:26-33)**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Day 1

Jesus said that his followers must pass through the **Narrow Door**. This imagery of the two doors or two ways is predominant in Scripture.

- What do you think Jesus meant by **Narrow Door=way of life** and **Wide door=way of death**?

Day 2

Jesus repeats for three times in our Gospel the words "DO NOT BE AFRAID".

- Reflect on the concept of fear. Is it always good or always bad?
- What are you afraid of?

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, you tell us not to be afraid, but we are weak and sometimes the weight of our anxieties and worries overwhelms us. Help us with your Spirit, that we may understand your loving care for us, and find the courage to entrust our life into your hands. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Saint of the Week**St Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer (1902-1975)**

Born in North East Spain to a middle-class family, Josemaría once saw the footprints of a barefoot monk in the snow, and realized he had a vocation to the priesthood. He studied in Rome and Madrid, and became a well-known Doctor of Law and Theology.

During the Spanish Civil War he was forced into hiding; nearly 7000 bishops, priests, nuns and monks were brutally tortured and executed by the revolutionists, who also desecrated and destroyed about 20.000 churches. He had a vision for incorporating lay people into the life of the Church through the sanctification of their secular work, and in 1928 he founded the **Opus Dei** (Latin for "work of God"). He was declared a saint in 2002 by St John Paul the II. Father Escrivá was

LEARNED AND WISE**Day 3**

Jesus uses the image of two sparrows and the hairs on our head to invite us not to fear.

- What do you think that means?

Reporting Student Absences

If you are registering your child as absent due to illness, injury or an appointment, can you please do this by 8.30am on EVERY day of absence and give full details of the reason for absence. Please include medical evidence if this is possible. Just stating your child is unwell will not be sufficient.

Please remember that all absences must be reported through ClassCharts. In a separate attachment are instructions on how to do this.

Year 7 News

Dear Year 7's,

Well done to all of Year 7 who have completed their tests this week. A reminder now the hot weather is here please ensure that you have a water bottle with you. We have a busy few weeks coming up with sports day, awards evening and Thorpe Park, these are really great events within the school calendar.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 7

Year 7 Art News – Fantastic photo of once class of Year 7 students creating Picasso photomontages.



Year 8 News

Year 8 have been busy this week working hard on their progress tests. This is a brilliant opportunity to collect valuable data on the progress of the year group and will help us with planning and interventions in the future. Keep up the hard work Year 8!

Please remember to sign up and pay for the Thorpe Park rewards trip if you haven't already. This will be a really enjoyable day for all involved and I look forward to seeing many of you enjoying the trip.

Drama News

Rehearsals for our next show Shrek are now underway. Keep your eyes peeled for dates so you can get your tickets early.



Year 10 Tree Planters

Year 10 have been involved in trying to make our school more eco-friendly. Today the students planted an apple tree that was kindly donated by a parent from the school, and two cherry trees that were donated by a member of our staff. The students have been particularly interested in creating areas of rich biodiversity and using pollinators to attract and support our butterfly population. These students are part of our eco school club and will be tasked with ensuring the trees are watered and looked after!

We have also been given a water butt and compost heap so that our school can become more environmentally friendly. We would like to thank everyone that helped us to achieve this and funded our project, we are truly grateful.



Information about the Trees

Apple trees (*Malus pumila*) are a member of Rosaceae family. It is a deciduous tree (it loses its leaves seasonally). It reaches an average height of 16 feet (5 meters). Standard apple trees can reach a height of 25-35 feet (7.5 – 10 m) or even more.

Cherry plum is a broadleaf deciduous tree and one of the first *Prunus* species to flower in spring. It can grow to 8m. Its bark is dark grey and develops fissures with age, and its twigs are green and covered in a fine down when young.



Giant Chessboard

The St-Joseph's Chess Club has acquired a large Chessboard which is situated at the front of the school. Those who use this magnificent spectacle should play by the rules listed below:

Rules of Play

- 1) No student should be playing during lesson (this includes P6 if they have one).
(Being **Faith-filled**, **Learned** and **intentional**)
- 2) Players must reset the board with all the pieces when the game is over.
(Being **Attentive**, **Loving** and **Hopeful**)
- 3) Do not use the pieces to play any other game e.g. Draft, football etc.
(Being **Curious**, **Prophetic**, **Compassionate** and **Eloquent**)
- 4) Just have fun and exercise good sportsmanship.
(Being **Grateful**, **Discerning**, **Truthful** and **Wise**)



Figure 1: Students enjoying a game of chess while others look on.

Photo by SSE (16.06.23)

Y11 Prom 2023



Y11 Prom 2023





#IcandoMaths

Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- C Let the length of each edge of the rhombus be x . Then, as the rhombus and the smaller regular hexagon have an edge in common, the length of each edge of this hexagon is also x . So the length of each edge of the larger regular hexagon is $2x$. The two regular hexagons are similar. Therefore the ratio of their areas is the square of the ratio of their edge-lengths, that is $1^2 : 2^2 = 1 : 4$.

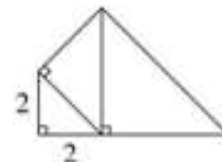
Solution to the Break time Teaser:

- A The number of claps achieved per second is $\frac{1020}{60} = \frac{102}{6} = \frac{51}{3} = 17$.

Problem of the week

The shape shown is made up of three similar right-angled triangles. The smallest triangle has two sides of side-length 2, as shown.

What is the area of the shape?



- A 14 B $12 + 12\sqrt{2}$ C 28 D $24 + 20\sqrt{2}$ E 56

Break time Teaser:

Which one of these is a multiple of 24?

- A 200 B 300 C 400 D 500 E 600

Send your answers to Mr Allinson. Complete answers will get positive points on Class Charts.

| EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

Do You Know?

Research shows at the age of 11 a parent is as important as a teacher in a child's education. When parents are involved in their education, children do better on a wide range of measures. These positive effects include:

- Better behaviour
- More confidence and greater self-esteem
- More enthusiasm about learning
- Better results etc.

"It's what parents do rather than who they are that counts."

Professor Charles Desforges University of Exeter

Talk to your children about what they are doing in subjects in their first language. If they do not understand, encourage them to use:

- Dictionary
- Google Translate <http://translate.google.com>

In fact, John Hattie's seminal 2008 study, *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement* found that "the effect of parental engagement over a student's school career is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student's education".

Free Online resources

Useful Internet website for English exercises for all levels

<https://agendaweb.org/>

Pupil Nominations of the Week

YEAR 7

Vittorio Fernande, Dean De Guzman and Seb Nowakowski for great work in French this week.

YEAR 8

Samantha Albalate and Oliwier Remfeld for achieving the most positive points this week.

Class 8X2 French for their positive attitude to learning this week.

Cadfan Rodrigues for his exceptional progress in analysing language in English.
Kamila Cebulska (8J) for helping some of her peers to prepare for a Spanish speaking assessment.

YEAR 9

Ariyana Maraj (9T) for being so proactive and helpful during the Progress tests for her Form group.

ROSA JARRETT 9V

For her calm, collected and compassionate approach to each day at school, encompassing the values of our school such as: eloquence & truthfulness; attentiveness & discernment. She has also achieved the joint highest amount of positive points so far!

Alicia Kasongo, Rianna Picardo and Maryanne Rosas in 9YL1 FRENCH.

For their outstanding research project work on the Refugee crisis in France, collaboration and creativity including reading, summarizing and giving opinions from the French press - demonstrating the qualities of active and curious, learned and wise.

Year 10

Isabelle P, Elise J and Wiktoria P and Oskar B for outstanding Spanish homework.
Kanav Bara, Dhembher Villegas, Mary Ann Tanner, Wiktoria Trzos for achieving the most positive points this week.

YEAR 12

Rhys Wilder as pupil of the week for his increased engagement and questioning in Media and independent study.

Rhys Wilder and Aaron Cabasa for increased engagement in revision and media outside of lesson time
Homework superstar- Igor Wojtczak 12P