



St Joseph's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Friday 16th December 2022



A Massive Thank You

To all that donated we were able to prepare over 50 hampers for The St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) who help struggling families and individuals who need support as the cost of living crisis deepens this winter threatening millions with poverty.

Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hope you are all safe and well.

My weekly message is in video format. Please do take a listen and let us know what you think, any feedback is welcome.

Please find below the link to our website to view my message:

<https://www.st-josephs.slough.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Letters/15-Newsletter-1.m4v>

St Joseph, pray for us

Mr Stapleton



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

Important Message

GCSE & ALEVEL Exam Certificates

If you have sat an exam at St Joseph's in 2021 or 2022, your exam certificates are now ready for collection from the school office.

The school office is closed during the Christmas holiday and will re-open at 8.30 am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

We are unable to post these out to you as they must be signed for on collection.

Theme of the Week - Mary Mother of God

At the Midnight Mass, we heard about the angels appearing to shepherds and telling them "Today a Saviour is born TO YOU". The first thing that strikes us is the fact that the Angels did not go to the priests or the king to announce the birth of the Saviour, but to shepherds. These were considered filth of society, ritually impure because they did not attend temple worship, and more similar to the animals they lived with than human beings. God is born in Bethlehem...**FOR THE LAST** of society. The shepherds struggle to believe this; they had been told over and over again that God rejected them...and then that same God is born **FOR THEM?**

Do you ever feel unlovable? Why?

Overwhelmed to be at the receiving end of such love they go to Bethlehem **WITH HASTE**. When we are overjoyed about something and long for it we often say "I can't wait". The shepherds too couldn't wait and went, and so did Mary after she was told that she would carry God's son in her womb; she went "with haste" to see her cousin Elisabeth to share her joy.

Are you prompt to act when joy makes you understand the right thing to do, or do you drag yourself along finding a thousand excuses and making a 'risk assessment'?

The shepherds too contemplate in awe the **NEW FACE OF GOD** shown in Jesus. Not a mighty God who destroys sin and condemns the wicked, but a God who is **LOVE AND ONLY LOVE**. A God who comes down as a babe not to give out orders, but simply to share our journey as a human being. A God who cries, who needs his mother's caresses, who feeds and suffers just like us. This is the meaning of the name Emmanuel, God-with us. **This God goes to meet first those who need his love the most, those who have made mistakes and poor choices in life.**

Do you need God's love? Is there room in your heart for it?

As they arrive at the stable, and refer the words of the angels, they see someone there who had not been preannounced: **Joseph**. Joseph doesn't say a word, because he is **the custodian of the Word-made-flesh**. At the birth Joseph found himself face to face not with the terrible and mighty God preached by official religion, but with a helpless babe. He is surprised by joy and contemplates in silence these thing not understanding everything, but knowing that his life will not be the same from that moment on.

Sometimes we are more comfortable with the idea of a mean God because it is more like us. If we understand God is only love our life will change forever and takes us in places we never thought we could go. Are you ready for that adventure?

Mary too, in silence, "treasures...and ponders in her heart". The original text is best translated "retains inside and puts together". Mary, open to the grace of God and his plan, interiorises his words and slowly puts together the pieces of this great story of love and salvation. Mary, though **MOTHER OF GOD** for carrying Him in her womb, is nevertheless **OUR SISTER** as she

went through the same journey of faith that we are asked to undertake in silence and meditation of God's word.

The last line of the Gospel mentions the circumcision, but most importantly the naming of the baby: **JESUS**, which means **GOD SAVES**. Not God judges, punishes, rewards...**HE SAVES**. As we too contemplate the nativity scene, we need not bother ourselves with too much theology. It is, very simply put, **GOD'S LOVE LETTER TO US**: *I became weak for you, I know what it means to suffer. Walk with me and I will show you true joy and purpose for your life. I LOVE YOU.*

Commandments are much needed boundaries to guide our life in the ways of God, but for a moment, **LET US JUST DWELL AND REJOYCE IN HIS WONDROUS LOVE.**



St. Joseph's Catholic High School
warmly invites all staff to the
Induction Mass of our new School
Chaplain:

Dr. Orazio Camaioni

Time: Thursday 5th January 2023 at
3:30pm

Location: St Joseph's Catholic High
School, Shaggy Calf Lane,
Slough. SL2 5HW

Mary Mother of God

Weekly Reflections

1st January 2023

A reading from the Gospel of St Luke (Lk 2:16-21)

And the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Prayer for the Week

God our Father, out of pure love you sent your Son that we may have life: lead us to seek Him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, so that they too may rejoice and sing "Glory to God in the Highest and peace on earth to those loved by Him". Amen

Day 2

Christmas is not a time for many words, but a time for contemplation and silence. Spend 5 minutes looking at a nativity scene.

- What thoughts come to your mind?
- What do you think it is all about?



Day 3

When the long-expected Messiah was born, the angels did not go to announce it to the priests or the King, but to shepherds, which were considered some sort of human beasts and despised by all

- Why do you think God made that choice?

Day 4

A BEAUTIFUL MARIAN POEM

Lovely Lady dressed in blue, teach me how to pray
 God was just your little boy tell me what to say.
 Did you lift him up sometimes, gently on your knee?
 Did you sing to him the way mother does to me?
 Did you hold his hand at night, and did you ever try
 telling him stories of the world, oh, and did he cry?
 Do you really think he cares of I tell him things?
 Little things that happen and do the angels wings
make a noise? Can he hear me if I speak low,
 does he understand me now? Tell me for you know.

Lovely lady dressed in blue teach me how to pray
 God was just your little boy and you know the way.

Mary Dixon Thayer

Day 5

It is clear from Scripture that God has a predilection for the poor, the humble, the sick and those who don't have a high opinion of themselves. We often help these people in order to 'show' kindness, but God doesn't need to show anything since HE is LOVE himself.

- If that's the case, why do you think God prefers the humble/poor to the proud/rich?

Whole School Mass – 16th December 2022



CHAPEL SIGN

A big thank you to Ms Suleyman for using her time and expertise to produce this beautiful sign for the Chapel.



Year 7 News

Well we made it! What a successful half term we have had. From amazing lessons to fun electives culminating in Christmas Dinner yesterday and Mass today. A massive well done to all the students who took part in the Carol Service on Tuesday. It was a lovely evening and really got us all into the Christmas spirit. Finally I hope you have a happy and holy Christmas and I will see you in the New Year.

Mrs Dunleavy, Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

We have had a busy week in school with lots of exciting Christmas activities to get everyone into the festive spirit this week. I want to wish all of our staff, students and families a very merry Christmas and I hope you all enjoy a safe and relaxing break from school.

I look forward to seeing everyone back for our Academic Review day on 3rd January for a chance to have that valuable meeting with form tutors in order to discuss progress.

Mrs Miller, Head of Year 8

Year 12 News

Well done Year 12 on a great first term. I am really proud of how well you have settled into your studies and how hard you have all been working. Make sure you do a little bit of work over the Christmas break in preparation for your return in January, but do also have a rest and spend some time with your families.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Mrs Finn, Head of Year 12



Year 13 News

Special mention must go to Lewis Passos Wiggs who has completed his work experience at Resource Productions. He presented Resource Productions with entrepreneurial ideas for the company's growth and the distribution of their feature film The Little English Film and went on to pitch his own animation idea called Autism Story.

Christmas Jumper Day – 15th December 2022

Staff
united
morning

and sing
and



and students
on Thursday
to spread
Christmas cheer
Christmas songs
carols.

Year 9 - School Immunisations – Tuesday 24th January 2023 - Meningococcal ACWY & Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio Booster

The School Immunisation Team will be visiting St Josephs on Tuesday 24th January for the Meningococcal ACWY & Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio Booster Vaccination. On the day the nurse will be vaccinating only students in Year 9 students.

Consent is required in order for your son/daughter to receive their vaccination. Please provide e-consent using the website link. The link can be found in the letter attached with the newsletter.

Any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school office

Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Kind Regards,

School-aged Immunisation Team



NHS
Berkshire Healthcare
Children, Young People and
Families services

Academic Review Day – Tuesday 3rd January 2023

In order to review the progress of your child's academic and personal development since the start of the academic year we will be holding a mid-year Academic Review Day on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**. Every student in the school, accompanied by a parent or carer, will attend a meeting to review their progress both. The day will enable you and your child to come into school, during the school day, for a **15-minute** appointment to discuss your child's academic and holistic progress with their **Form Tutor in their Form Room**.

The school will be closed other than the Academic Review Meetings on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**. Work for students will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams. Students should attend their meeting in full uniform.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE




 Scan for more

Ice Safety

Be careful around water in winter. Frozen water is dangerous and can have fatal consequences.

Our Advice:

- Never venture onto frozen water. Even if it appears thick from the bank, it can easily break and you do not know how deep the water is below or how thin the ice is.
- Do not be tempted to test the thickness of the ice. It is easy to slip from the bank and fall through into the freezing water.
- Time your walks to make the most of the daylight; if you need to walk in the evening only use well-lit areas or take a route that avoids water.
- Do not wander near the edge, icy or wet conditions could cause you to slip.

What to do if you fall through the ice:

- Keep calm and shout for help.
- Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you.
- If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs to slide onto the ice.
- Lie flat and pull yourself towards the bank.
- If the ice breaks, work your way to the bank-breaking the ice in front of you.
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.
- Once you are safe, go to the hospital.

If you see someone fall through ice:

- Shout for assistance and phone 999.
- Do not walk or climb onto the ice to attempt a rescue.
- Shout to the casualty to 'keep still' and offer reassurance to keep them calm.
- Try to reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, or anything else which can extend your reach, such as clothing tied together.
- When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice.
- If you cannot reach them, slide something which floats across the ice for them to hold onto whilst help is on the way.
- If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services and continue to reassure the casualty.
- Make sure an ambulance has been called.
- Lay the casualty flat, check for normal breathing.
- Prevent them from getting colder by covering them with warm clothing and blankets.
- Create some shelter and get them out of the cold if possible.
- Do not rub their skin and do not apply hot water bottles.

f RoyalBerksFRS t @RBFRSOfficial i RoyalBerkshireFire
 Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service www.rbfrs.co.uk

December 2022

Design and Technology Department



It has been a productive and joyful term! Advent has seen pupils preparing for Christmas by learning and developing some practical skills in the workshops and kitchen. Year 9 lessons in particular have resembled Santas workshop at times.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best over the holidays and into the new year. With love from The D&T team.

KS3 Makes and bakes



DT Makelt elective



A Christmas theme to this terms Make it elective. It has been fabulous (especially in the last session of this elective) to see pupils independently putting into practice some of the skills that they have learned this half term.



D&T Stars of the term

Romain Janot and Coco Janot- for consistently demonstrating the pupil profile virtues:
Active and curious.

Kacper Kostrakiewicz- Most positive points in D+T and particularly skilled and independent practical work

DT social media



We try to post updates and points of interest on our Instagram page we also share some of the great work being done by our DT pupils....

Sew Easy Elective

Skillful and creative work from the Sew Easy elective. During advent pupils have been preparing for Christmas by demonstrating their new skills and creating fabulous Christmas decorations. Well done to this terms students. Merry Christmas.



Art Elective

This week students have been finishing off their work in the art elective by creating some Christmas inspired sculptures out of clay.

Each student learnt a range of different techniques and then used them to create animal sculptures based on their own designs.



Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- E The square has sides of length 2π , so its area is $(2\pi)^2 = 4\pi^2$. Each of the four semicircles has radius π , hence the sum of the areas of the semicircles is $4 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \pi \times \pi^2 = 2\pi^3$. Therefore the required area is $2\pi^3 + 4\pi^2 = 2\pi^2(\pi + 2)$.

Solution to the Break time Teaser:

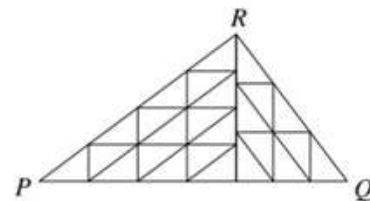
$$C \quad (4 - \frac{1}{4}) \div (2 - \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{15}{4} \div \frac{3}{2} = \frac{15}{4} \times \frac{2}{3} = \frac{5}{2} = 2\frac{1}{2}.$$

Problem of the week

Triangle PQR has been divided into twenty-five congruent right-angled triangles, as shown. The length of RP is 2.4 cm.

What is the length of PQ ?

- A 3 cm B 3.2 cm C 3.6 cm D 4 cm
E 4.8 cm



Break time Teaser:

Which of the following has the largest value?

- A 2^6 B 3^5 C 4^4 D 5^3 E 6^2

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

Pupil Nominations of the Week

YEAR 7

Jessica L and **Carla C** for really embodying the pupil profile.

YEAR 8

Michal Kundys (8 Teresa)
Natalia Zaworska (8 Cecilia)
For achieving the most positive points this week.

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

Felmica Souza and **Aleksander Jozwiak** for the most positive points this term

YEAR 11

YEAR 12

Daisy Loft and **Melissa Pala** for earning the most positive points over the term. Thank you to all the Year 12's that gave up their time to help with the vaccinations this week.

YEAR 13

Mateusz Cieslak and **Sania Siqueira** for the most positive points.