



St Joseph's Catholic High School

# Newsletter

Friday 28th April 2023



## St Josephs Day

On Friday 28th April, we celebrated our Feast Day which involved Bishop David celebrating Mass and the school took part in a 'Faith Walk' to Eton and had lots of fun activities going on in school... more exciting photos are within the newsletter.

## Head Teacher Message

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Hope you are all safe and well.

**My weekly video messages can be watched on our new YouTube channel @SloughStJosephs**

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

Link to our YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/@SloughStJosephs>

**Please find below the link to this weeks video to view my message:**

<https://youtu.be/0TxCmH4Sp3Q>

Have a fantastic Easter Holiday everyone.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton



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

## Letter from Head Teacher

Please ensure you familiarise yourselves with the proposed curriculum and timings of the day change from September 2023. Letter is a separate attachment.

## Strike Action

### Tuesday 2nd May

Polite reminder that due to strike action the school will be partially closed on Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

Please find in separate attachment the letter sent to parents from the head teacher.

## Theme of the Week – Jesus the Gate

The fourth Sunday of Easter is always dedicated to **Jesus the Good Shepherd**. This image was so dear to early Christians that already in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century we see many Christian burial stones depicting Jesus as a Shepherd. By doing this people were basically saying that in the most difficult moment of death they still trusted Jesus to bring them to the new pastures of heaven. (Psalm 23: *The Lord is my Shepherd...even though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil!*).

In this week's Gospel Jesus puts to his audience a sort of riddle, talking about the **gate of the sheep** and thieves and brigands who try to enter the sheepfold by stealth rather than through the gate. Oftentimes we have interpreted this story as a reference to Jesus keeping the sheep safe in the sheepfold, but the real meaning of the riddle is rather shocking, so much so that when the scribes and Pharisees understood it, they were determined to kill Jesus.

The word that we translate 'sheepfold' (*aule* in Greek) in reality means 'enclosed space', 'precinct' and was used mostly to indicate the **enclosed precincts of the Temple of Jerusalem** or **the house of the High Priest**. Jesus is referring to the fact that His sheep are kept prisoners in the enclosures of an established religion which has twisted the relationship with God and reduced it to a 'tit-for-tat': You obey God's law, offer sacrifices and prayers, and God will bless you. If not, you will be cursed and perish. The temple of Jerusalem was a place where sheep were sold and bought, exploited and eventually killed. Jesus is saying that the time has come for His sheep to be liberated from every enclosure that keeps them from the freedom God intended for his children.

Let's have a look at some of these enclosures: One, as Jesus pointed out, could be the **WRONG UNDERSTANDING OF RELIGION** as a series of external practices aimed at winning God's favour and securing prosperity for our lives. God wants us to have a relationship with Him, not to use Him as our life insurance or, even worse, please Him out of fear for his chastisements. The new pastures mentioned in the Gospel are something similar to the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve before the fall walked and lived rejoicing in the presence of God. Another enclosure could be **IDOLATRY**. This seems like a big word, but idolatry is, simply put, **making something other than God the most important thing in our lives**, the thing that influences all our decisions: money, career, power, pleasure. When we fall into these enclosures we may have the impression to be free when in fact we are enslaved to the very false god we have chosen. **REGRET, REMORSE and GUILT** too can become an imprisoning enclosure: These sentiments are good when they prepare us for acknowledging our wrongdoing, repenting, and starting over, but can become a dangerous dead end when we become incapable of accepting the forgiveness of God, ourselves and other people and precipitate in spiral of self-loathing and self-beating. This is not the freedom we were created for! All the false ideals and people who wish to exploit their brothers and sisters by confining them into one of these enclosures are **thieves and brigands**, says Jesus. They do not want the good of the sheep, but to use them for their own gain and satisfaction.

So, Jesus is the **GATE** through which we pass to be liberated and taken to the new pastures, and his Gospel is His **CALL**, but who is the **GATEKEEPER** he mentions, the one who lets Him in? It is our **CONSCIENCE**. In most cases the human conscience knows instinctively what is true and good and what is bad and damaging. The conscience listens to the words of Jesus and knows immediately that His message is good, it frees, brings healing, life and transforms people. How many times we ourselves have made this experience when listening to an illuminating sermon or reading the Scriptures. Human beings are **WELL MADE**, and their hearts are naturally predisposed to welcome God's proposal of happiness. Sometimes, though, thieves and brigands with their false ideals introduce themselves into the sheepfold and do all they can to keep people imprisoned in whatever enclosure they propose.

If we look at ourselves, what is the enclosure or enclosures that keep us prisoners and unhappy? Whatever they are, **Jesus has come to destroy them and take us to the open pastures of His Kingdom, where we will not only have life, but have it in abundance.**



## Jesus the Gate

### From the Gospel according to John (10:1-10)

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,  
I am the gate of the sheepfold.  
All others who have come  
are thieves and brigands;  
but the sheep took no notice of them.  
I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:  
he will go freely in and out  
and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes  
only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come  
so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

### Day 1

The fourth Sunday of Easter is always dedicated to Jesus the Good Shepherd. Many ancient Roman tombs feature Jesus the Good Shepherd as the main theme. Why do you think Christians chose this particular image for their brethren's burial?



### Day 2

The gist of the Gospel is that Jesus does not want to keep the sheep in the sheepfold, but bring them out. There is an implication that the sheepfold is a prison rather than a safe place to be. Can you think of some of the enclosures that keep people of our age locked in as prisoners?



Weekly Reflections  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2023



### Prayer for the Week

Risen Lord, very often we allow ourselves to be imprisoned in the enclosures of selfishness, guilt, vice and a wrong understanding of your purpose for us. Come to set us free and lead us to the pastures green where you promised us life in abundance. Amen.

### Saint of the Week

St Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)



Caterina Benincasa was born in Siena, the daughter of a tanner. Already as a child she showed compassion toward the poor by giving away family possessions (bed linens, clothes etc.) to those who knocked on her door. She was also a very willful and strong-minded girl, pushing back her family's numerous attempts to force her into marriage. She joined the Third Order of the Dominicans and spent the rest of her life caring for the poor and sick, bringing peace between families and in the church, and enjoying such an intimate relation with Jesus that she was allowed to partake in the suffering of His crucifixion through invisible wounds. She was indeed

**LOVING & COMPASSIONATE**

### Day 3

Jesus is the **gate**, the Gospel is His **voice**, but who do think is the **gatekeeper** who allows him in so that he could speak to his sheep?

### **A Day With Doug Lemov – STCAT conference – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

On Monday's INSET day earlier this week, St Joseph's was delighted to host the inaugural St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust (STCAT) conference for all of the teachers across the schools within our Trust. Our keynote speaker was internationally renowned educational researcher, writer and practitioner Doug Lemov, author of *Teach Like A Champion* and other significant publications, which influence British teaching and training on a daily basis. With just over 500 delegates from our Trust present, this meant that 0.1% of the entirety of teachers in England were in attendance. Whilst normally this might appear to be an inconsequential statistic, in reality this reflects how our staff can go out and influence over 8000 children in our family of schools with some of the most cutting-edge practice and are equipped with the research behind them. The event has created a real buzz around St Joseph's and our entire family of schools this week, and we are continuing to work on how best to incorporate Doug Lemov's work into our day to day lessons and interactions with our students to give them the best deal possible.



### **King Charles Coronation**



**COME AND CELEBRATE KING CHARLES' CORONATION HERE AT ST JOSEPH'S ON FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**



HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN WITH KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA  
ENJOY ROYAL TREATS IN THE SCHOOL CANTEEN  
WEAR RED, WHITE AND BLUE MUFTI

#### COMPETITIONS

GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF – BAKE A ROYAL CORONATION CELEBRATION CAKE (BRING CAKES TO THE HALL BY 8.20AM ON FRIDAY)

DESIGN A CONGRATULATIONS CARD – WINNERS WILL BE SENT TO THE PALACE!

WRITE A POEM ABOUT THE CORONATION – THESE WILL BE SENT TO THE PALACE TOO!

BEST OF BRITISH – ANYONE WISHING TO PERFORM MUSICAL ITEMS AT LUNCHTIME FROM ANY BRITISH BAND OR ARTIST – SEE MISS COOPER ASAP

**ALL ENTRIES TO BE SENT TO MISS COOPER BY THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 5PM**



## St Josephs Day

On Friday 28th April, we celebrated our Feast Day which involved Bishop David celebrating Mass and the school took part in a 'Faith Walk' to Eton and had lots of fun activities going on in school.









### Year 7 News

Dear Year 7's,

It was great to see everyone back on Tuesday ready to go for the summer term. 7 Mark had their feast day on Wednesday where they celebrated with a mass in the morning with Father Kevin Followed by doughnuts at break time. Today was our whole school feast day where we had a lot going on. Mass in the morning followed by a faith walk to Eton then fun and games in the playground followed by a BBQ and staff V students football match. Can I remind you that Monday is a Bank Holiday! In the meantime have a great weekend.

Mrs Dunleavy – Head of Year 7

### Year 11 News

I just wanted to say how amazing Year 11 have been on our first week back. We are working exceptionally hard and this will play dividends.

Well done as well to everyone who came in during Easter for revision, I heard that every student was outstanding in their efforts.

#### Celebration assembly

In 2 weeks we will have our celebration assembly on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

As part of that I need lots of amazing photos of our Year 11s throughout the year both in and outside school. This includes any baby photos for 'guess the baby'!

If you have any great photos please send them to me on [c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:c.robinson@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk)

### Year 11 Exam News

#### Year 11 French Foundation students - GCSE Speaking Exams

Please can you students be aware that speaking exams will take place as planned on Tuesday 2nd of May.

All students can find their times on Teams and should make their way to the Chapel.

Ms L. Debiais – Head of MFL

#### Year 11 History Additional P6

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Year 11 will have an additional revision session. This will start promptly at 3.30pm and finish at 5pm and take place in the History Department.

This session is for students to watch the documentary, "Norman Conquest 2", which covers the majority of the Normans in great depth. This session is compulsory for all Year 11 historians as it is no longer available online and should not clash with any other interventions or Period 6. If, for any reason, it is a case that your child is unable to attend, please do let me know by email or a note in their journal before Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

There will be pizza available for students on the night also.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on [E.Weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:E.Weir@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk).

Ms. Weir – Head of History



**Word of the Week**

## Preliminary

Meaning - preceding or done in preparation for something fuller or more important.

(E.g. Unranked tennis players must win several preliminary rounds before they can play in Wimbledon)

**Idiom of the Week**

## Pull yourself together

Meaning - to take control over your sad or anxious feelings to behave in a more calm and focussed manner.

(E.g. Person A: (distressed) Help! I'm in serious danger! Help!

Person B: Pull yourself together, it's only a pigeon.)

**St Joseph's**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**MULTI CULTURAL DAY**  
19th May 2023

- Enjoy the visual display of different countries
- Wear the traditional clothing of your culture to school
- Have a taste of food from all over the world
- Watch and perform the many cultural dances and songs
- Take part in many other activities during the day

Help to represent, and respect all of the beautiful cultures that make St Joseph's High School a great school!

More info coming soon...

## Drama News

The next show is underway..... Shrek the musical which will take place in December. No rest for the wicked, and talking of Wicked we took our Year 10 and 11 students to see the musical on Wednesday at The Apollo Victoria Theatre London. I am safe to say they loved it and a great experience was had by all.



## PE After School Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1 Year 8,9,11		Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball AAN	
Lunch 2 Year 7,10,12,13	Badminton and Basketball THU MJO	Badminton and Basketball THU MJO	Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball AAN	Badminton and Basketball THU MJO
Afterschool	Volleyball (until GCSE exams start) HMC THU  Badminton JCO MJO (until GCSE exams start)	Rounders MJO  Softball/Cricket THU  Golf JCO	Basketball JCO  Athletics AAN THU MJO HMC		Girls and boys Football @ Slough Town Football Club All year groups THU, EED, MJO  Year 10,11,12,13 Basketball CWH



Please see the below flyer. If any parents/carers know of anyone interested in teaching experience/internship to pass it on to them:



### Our Aim:

To help anyone interested in training to teach to explore how rewarding and challenging a career in teaching can be.

### The Programme:

- A three-week programme
- **Paid scheme:** secondary maths, physics, chemistry, modern foreign languages and computing undergraduates (£300p/w)
- **Unpaid scheme:** all other secondary subjects and primary teaching.
- Placements in Surrey, Sussex, Berkshire and Hampshire

*As part of the programme, interns will have the opportunity to get involved in all aspects of school life,*

*Including the following:*

- A bespoke centralised training programme;
- Working closely with a mentor in a placement school to observe and teach lessons;
- The chance to meet with NQTs and SCITT trainees;
- Fast-track interview for a SCITT place with us.



### Why take part?

- To gain a true understanding of what a career in teaching involves;
- To receive high quality training from outstanding teachers in outstanding schools;
- To meet other interns in a similar position to you;
- To accelerate your interview process for our SCITT;
- To gain valuable and unique work experience for

Find out more: [k.middleweek@xaviercet.org.uk](mailto:k.middleweek@xaviercet.org.uk) Tel: 01932 578682 [Visit our website](#)

### Watford FC Girls Coaching Session – 25<sup>th</sup> April

Fantastic day of coaching for our students followed by a great tournament at the end of the day.





### Watford FC Ladies v Oxford United Ladies

An exciting opportunity arose for a small group of our students to attend Watford FC Ladies v Oxford United Ladies at Vicarage Road Stadium on Thursday 27th April 2023. We have been exclusively offered a small number of tickets to the match by Watford FC to help promote girls football within the school. This



was a league  
Watford FC are  
league and are  
United who are  
league.



deciding match.  
currently second in the  
playing against Oxford  
currently first in the





## EAL NEWS (English as an Additional Language)

### *Do you know?*

Raising multilingual or bilingual children is a long-term commitment. To make multilingualism work for your child and family, there are things you can do each day and might need to think about over the long term. These things include:

- sticking with your heritage language, even when there's pressure to choose English
- reminding yourself that using your heritage language helps to strengthen family bonds
- using your heritage language to play games, read books, cook food and do other fun things that make it positive for your child
- making sure your child gets plenty of chances to hear and use their heritage language

Children who grow up in a family where parents have only limited English do better at learning English in school if they keep speaking their heritage languages at home. That is because a solid base in their first language makes it easier for them to learn a second one.

#### Free Online resources

International Children's digital library: this website aims to enable families to have access to the books of their cultures and language regardless of where they live.

[http://en.childrenslibrary.org/library/books\\_by\\_language.html](http://en.childrenslibrary.org/library/books_by_language.html)

On Tuesday 30th May at 10:30am and Wednesday 31st May at 6:30pm

Jane Keyworth from FACE ([facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk))

is delivering a one hour

Cannabis Awareness talk

Followed by a half hour Q&A session

Live online

Book Now online £12 per person

For more information contact Mrs Ossei-Brainoo at [j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:j.ossei-brainoo@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk) (Head of PSHE)



# #IcandoMaths

## Solution to last Week's Puzzler

- B** In order from 00:00, the times when the digits 2, 0, 1, 9 appear in some order are 01:29, 02:19, 09:12, 09:21, 10:29, 12:09, 19:02, 19:20, 20:19 and 21:09. So, in total, there are ten such times.

## Solution to the Break time Teaser:

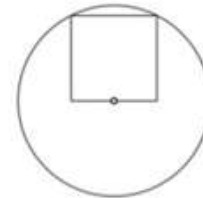
**B** The required fraction is  $\frac{26}{206} = \frac{13}{103} \approx \frac{13}{104} = \frac{1}{8}$ .

## Problem of the week

The circle has radius 1 cm. Two vertices of the square lie on the circle. One edge of the square goes through the centre of the circle, as shown.

What is the area of the square?

- A  $\frac{4}{5} \text{ cm}^2$    B  $\frac{\pi}{5} \text{ cm}^2$    C  $1 \text{ cm}^2$    D  $\frac{\pi}{4} \text{ cm}^2$    E  $\frac{5}{4} \text{ cm}^2$



## Break time Teaser:

Which of the following numbers is the largest?

- A 1.3542   B 1.354 $\dot{2}$    C 1.354 $\dot{2}$    D 1.3 $\dot{5}$ 42   E 1.354 $\dot{2}$

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



## Pupil Nominations of the Week

### YEAR 7

**Chloe Webster** and **Julian Kosmala** for a great start back.

### YEAR 8

**Patrycja Szczepanska** (8 Peter) and **Fabian Lukomski** (8 Jerome) for achieving the most positive points this week

**Aleisha D** for good progress in Spanish.

### YEAR 9

**Oliver Bathke** and **Nathan James** for achieving the highest amount of positive points this week

### YEAR 12

**Isabel Stachura** and **Chiadi Emekwuo** for your fantastic engagement in the World of Work conference. The business volunteer from the CPS was really impressed with your comments.

### YEAR 13

The following Y13s: **Nathaniel Fernandez**, **Lewis Passos-Wiggs**, **Dawid Fulara**, **Kacper Szustorowski**, **Jakub Jedrzejewski** for intentional revision and practice of Media within the Easter break