



Archdiocese of Birmingham

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss H.M. Cusack M.Ed.



14th May 2019

Dear Parent

MAY IS DEDICATED TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER, MARY.

Y4L Class Assembly – Friday 17th May 2019

Please join us for our collective worship on Friday, led by the children in Miss Horton's class. All welcome. Assemblies begin at 9.15am. Please be on time. Thank you.

School Mass – Wednesday 22nd May- 9.30am

Wednesday, is the feast day of St Rita of Cascia. The altar of St Rita in our church is the most popular of all with candles lit daily. She was a mother and Augustinian sister. She is known and loved as the saint of impossible causes (along with St Jude). We invite you all to join with us in celebrating this great saint.

Sacramental Celebrations

Our Y3 children who received the Risen Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time last Sunday were: Matteo, Nicole, Zachary, Bobbie, Olivia, Sachin, Edison, Benjamin, Brittany, Batseba, Chiara, Connie, Lucia, David, Sophie, Kyle, Joseph, Liam, Jasmine, Julian and Bori. The rest of our children will be making their First Holy Communion on Sunday. We thank God for this great gift and continue to pray for our children that they will recognise and treasure the Gift they have received.

The children will celebrate together at our whole school mass on Friday 24th May. This will be followed by the May Procession (which they will lead) on the afternoon of the 24th May – 2:00pm start.

We also remember our Y6 as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation - 21st May at 7:00pm Please keep them in your prayers as they make this important step on their journey of Truth.

May Altar

We are overwhelmed with flowers and plants and are so very grateful. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and may you be blessed for your offerings.

Short half Term/ School Closure

You will be aware of the shortness of this half term and that we have been asked to be a polling station on **23rd May for the European Elections**. This will mean that on 23rd May (penultimate day of term) we will be **closed except for the public who will be voting**.

Clubs

Due to the shortness of this half term, there will be no multi sports this half term on 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th May.

Multi-sports will recommence for Y1 and Y3/4 in Summer Term 2, from week commencing 3rd June.

Reception Class Visit to the Safari Park

Reception parents please note that the Gateway to make payments for this trip to the Safari Park is now open. Thank you.

Section 48 RE Inspection

Next Tuesday and Wednesday we invite Mrs Huxtable and Mrs Richmond to our school. They are both current Headteachers who are also trained RE Inspectors. They will investigate and evaluate the quality with which we fulfil the requirements of the Archbishop in the way our school operates as a Catholic learning community. I am sure that many of you will have an opportunity to speak with them.

**'Jesus invites us all to follow him, to identify with him,
to take on his attitudes and values,
to live as he lived
and to share in his mission'**

Columban Missionaries

PTA Uniform Sale

The PTA will hold a 'uniform' sale next Friday 24th May at the end of the school day. All items of clothing will be very reasonably priced (bargain level) so please take a look to see if there is anything that would help stock up on uniform for your child.

School Uniform!

We still have daily left overs without names – hence the above! School uniform is very expensive and the children need to have their jumpers/cardigans identifiable from all the rest – there is no better way to do this than to put each child's name in the garment.



Water Bottles – some children still do not have their own water bottles in school, please ensure that they do particularly in this warmer weather. Working hard is thirsty work!

Invitation to Mission 2019 – Mr Blaney

For Easter 2019, I accompanied five other volunteers from across England in response to the Columban 'Invitation to Mission' in the Philippines. Our ten days there, in the northern islands of Luzon, were educational, humbling and often awe-inspiring. We saw several projects and are now thinking of ways to support them.

Background

The people of the Philippines are very hospitable and lovely – always appearing to be happy and smiling despite the hard economic realities that so many of them face each and every day. The parishioners of the 'Our Lady of Remedies' church in Malate had the joy of the Risen Christ to comfort and sustain them; prompting them in many different corporal works of mercy for their neighbours in need.



We learnt of the injustice to those children who are forced to live on the streets. For low level crimes, children are locked up without trial. Very tragically, some are even killed by 'death squads'. Columban Fr Shay Cullen's 'Preda' Project, mercifully, rescues such children, educates them and makes them reclaim their self-worth in a society in which the political class seems to judge them to be expendable. The boys receive vocational training to learn new skills and give them a foothold in the employment market. The girls are similarly empowered and learn karate, dance and, most importantly, their human rights to fight for justice.

The Ieta People – Mango project

The indigenous peoples of the Philippines live side by side with other Filipinos, many who are descendants of past Spanish rulers. However, their 'old' way of living is at odds with the wasteful, technological and stressed society at their doorstep. They choose 'nature' and time honoured methods to grow and harvest their crops; they use medicines gathered from the plants and herbs of their locality. They have much to teach us all!

Their Fair Trade produce – *Preda's 'Forest Feast' dried mango slices* – brings them much needed income to help send their children to school and to afford basic health care. Please see these on sale in our local Waitrose and help support the wonderful Ieta community.



WOW! bags project



Enterprising mothers in Manila's Malate parish are turning discarded plastic into new products: a variety of shopping bags and pencil cases in their 'Wonders of Waste' project.

St Mary's plans to make their WOW! bags available to the whole school community after half term. 100% of the proceeds will go to these wonderful women who strive to improve their lives and those of their children.

Yours sincerely

HM Cusack

Helena Cusack
Headteacher