



St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools
Birtley



Monday 27th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Lent – the season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



Today, the ashes, which had been blessed on Ash Wednesday in St. Joseph's, were distributed in our Monday whole-school liturgical prayer sessions. We discussed:

- How and what to pray - and who to prayer for
- The fasting obligation – and what we could give up to walk through Lent with Jesus
- What our fundraising efforts will help Cafod to achieve.

We also discussed the importance of 40 days of Lenten season.



Today, each child completed the following template.

During Lent, I will pray for...

During Lent, I will give up...

During Lent, I will try to...

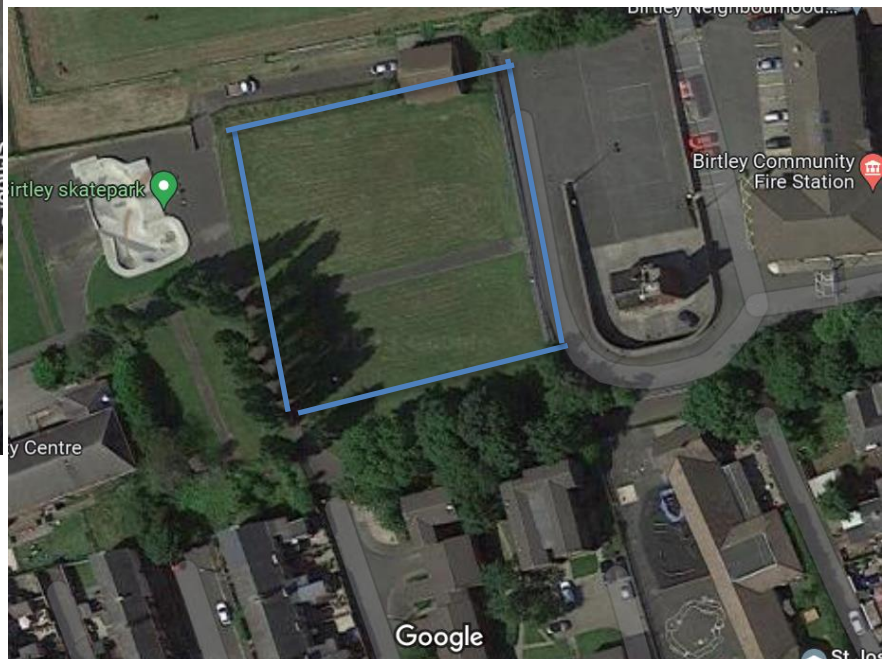




The Junior School mile track is painted on the yard.

As part of our Lenten fundraising – CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) has proposed a 'The Big Lent Walk' campaign.

We are going to join others and walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. We are therefore proposing that each week, our junior children will walk/run the mile around either the playground or our large field.



Our infant children will walk/run laps of the community field closest to the Infant School.

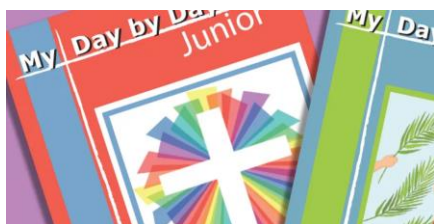
As well as raising our children's awareness of global poverty, Cafod are also suggesting that we could ask for sponsorship for the walk/run.

It is hoped that our children might be able to agree a sponsorship plan with their families e.g. £1 a week, to help raise funds to fight global malnutrition. As a collective effort, our school community is likely to walk in excess of 1,000 miles over the course of the six weeks - a phenomenal achievement! If we could raise £5 per child, then we would raise over £900 for Cafod!

We have set-up a St. Joseph's, Birtley Just Giving Page that allows Gift Aid donations to be sent directly to CAFOD. Remember by using Gift Aid, charities can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give to the cause. It does not cost you any extra. **For this reason, we will not be using SchoolGateway for payments – but will be using Just Giving only.** Thank you in anticipation of your support as we help to overcome global health and nutrition inequalities. [The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development \(CAFOD\): The Big Lent Walk \(enthuse.com\)](https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/stjosephsbirtley)
<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/stjosephsbirtley>

Tuck Shop:

Our Fairtrade Friday tuck shop will be having a rest during Lent, as we will preserve fasting from our treats, each Friday.



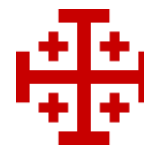
Thank you to St. Joseph's Parish who purchased Lenten 'My Day by Day' booklets for the Infant and Junior School children. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Little Liturgical Prayer:

Our Year 2 children are looking forward to seeing their family and friends at our first Little Liturgical Prayer session on 28.2.23. Please remember to enter school via the respective school offices so that we can avoid congestion in the corridors. Thank you!

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher

The Holy Sepulcher Order has at its heart an individual commitment to personal spiritual development with the collective endeavour of supporting the Church and Christian people across the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem – which includes Cyprus, Jordan and the Holy Land. We are delighted that one of our parents has been appointed as a Knight to the Order of the Holy Sepulcher and has agreed to come to school to speak to the children about his role. The main ask from the Order is to pray for the people they serve and for the members of the order. We ask you to keep the members and their work in your prayers throughout the Lenten season.



Dates for the Diary (Please note that dates are subject to change):

- Wednesday 15th February – Year 6 and Year 3 Reading Buddies
- Tuesday 28th February and Thursday 2nd March – Parents' Evenings
- Tuesday 28th February – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer (please gather in the school hall for 9am) and filming for prospectus
- Friday 3rd March – World Book Day
(Children can dress-up as their favourite book character with a donation of £1 to go towards school - to purchase new books)
- Friday 3rd March – Reception Parental Mathematics Workshop - 8:45am for a 9am start
- Friday 3rd March – Year 4/5 Girls' Football Competition
- Monday 6th March – Talk from Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher
- Wednesday 8th March – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Thursday 9th March – Mr Taylor for KS2 Bible Story – 1:15pm
- Thursday 9th March – Football team matches @ Kibblesworth
- Tuesday 14th March – Year 1 Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Friday 17th March – School Mass at Church – 10am
- Wednesday 22nd March – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am start
- Wednesday 22nd March – Year 5 Visit to Gibside
- Thursday 23rd March – Football team matches @ Kibblesworth
- W/C Monday 27th March - Shakespeare Week
- Tuesday 28th March – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 10am start – in Church (KS1 only)
- Tuesday 28th March – Easter Disco @ St. Joseph's Catholic Club (Times TBC)
- Thursday 30th March – Football team matches @ Edmondsley
- Friday 31st March – Year 5 to lead Stations of the Cross – 2pm – in Church (KS2 only)
- Wednesday 19th April – Year 4 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am start
- Thursday 20th April – Football team matches @ Ouston
- Tuesday 25th April – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 3rd May – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
- Tuesday 16th May – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 24th May – Year 6 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
- Tuesday 6th June – Reception Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 14th June – Year 5 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am
- Tuesday 20th June – Year 2 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul – TBC
- Tuesday 4th July – Year 1 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9am
- Wednesday 12th July – Year 3 Little Liturgical Prayer – 9:05am

Visit: [St Joseph's Birtley Bulletins \(stjosephsbirtley.co.uk\)](http://stjosephsbirtley.co.uk) for more information

