

# The Catholic Life of St John's School 2021/2022



# Feast of Exaltation of The Holy Cross

During assembly, the children learned about St Helena's pilgrimage to find Jesus' cross. The children made cross shapes with their bodies and practised making the sign of the cross accurately.





**Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children visited our church.**  
**They had the opportunity to meet Father Azad and to see the font and the Easter Candle.**  
**They learnt that at Baptism the Church invites and welcomes the person into God's family.**



# Rosary

October is known as the month of the rosary and we mark this in a special way in school. The children are encouraged to pray a decade of the rosary at various times to remember the life of Mary. As part of our celebrations for the Month of Mary; Mr. Burns, Miss Pienkowska and the Catholic Life Committee leads a decade of the Rosary for families. This takes place each morning during the Rosary Week at 8.30am outside the school.





# All Saints' Day

On 1st November, we celebrate All Saint's Day. It is a time when we remember all of the saints who have died and the wonderful things they have done. In the school assembly; Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 children prayed and gave thanks to the saints. They learnt that the saints in heaven can strengthen and help us to follow the path that leads us to God's love.

KS2 children attended the Mass via Zoom.

The children in KS1 were invited to use the internet or books to research a patron saint of their choice as their RE homework project. The children's work is displayed in our school.







# Remembrance Day

The children in all of the classes took part in the two minutes silence on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11am to mark Remembrance Day. For some children this took place in the playground at the end of playtime. Others were in the classroom.



# Advent



# How would you welcome Mary and Joseph into your home?

In our KS1 assembly, children were introduced to Mary and Joseph's figures. The children from Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to journey with Mary and Joseph during Advent. Each child will be given the opportunity to take the figures home and share their home experience with them.

Children were asked to welcome Mary and Joseph into their home, read the First Christmas Story and talk about how these characters from the Nativity story feel while they are waiting for the birth of Jesus. Children were also asked to talk about Christmas and why we have Christmas.

Children were welcome to draw a picture, stick a photo or write a sentence about Mary and Joseph's visit to their home in the book provided with the figures.



# KS2 Christmas Homework Project

KS2 children were given a homework project before Christmas, they were asked to create a picture of The Nativity Story using different types of materials. Some of their beautiful work has been put on our Advent display.









# KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

The parents joined with us for our first ever outdoor carol concert.

The children were a joy and a special praise and thanks must go to our choir and especially Marianne for her solo harmonies.







# The Christmas Story by Reception Class





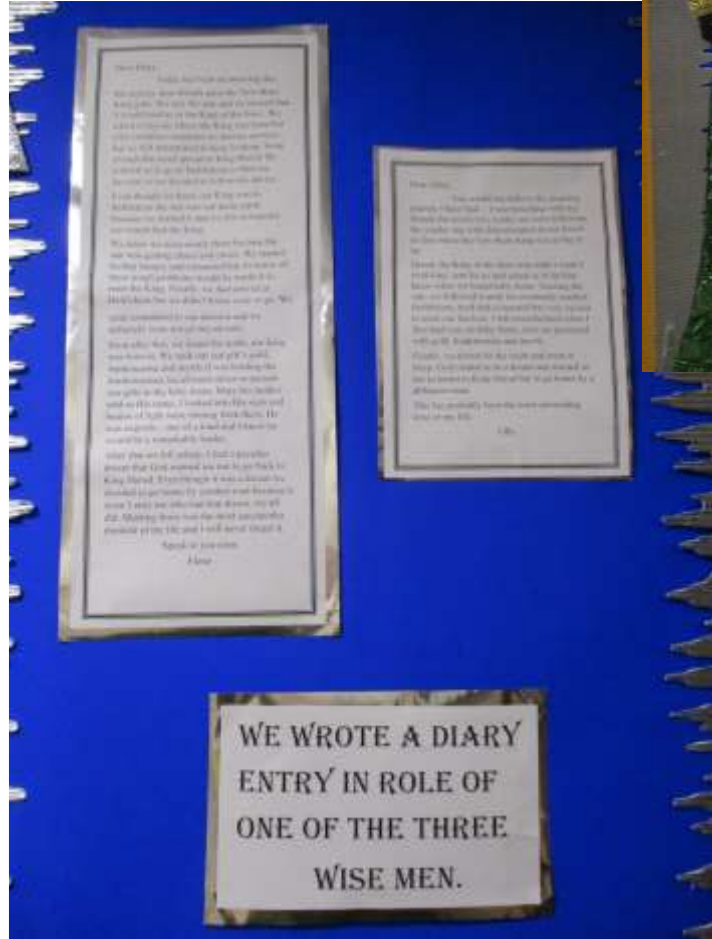




# Christmas Displays









# The Feast of the Epiphany



Our Catholic Life Committee visited each classroom with an Epiphany gift, they retold the story of the 3 Wise Men and shared the following prayer:

***May Christ bless this classroom and all those who teach and learn in it this year. May it be a place of joy and peace. Amen.***

The children from Year 2 to Year 6 celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany by joining with the Parish Community for Mass over Zoom. Year 1 and Reception Class attended the special assembly.





# The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple

The children in Reception and Nursery Class listened to the telling of the story of how Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem as was the custom for them at that time. Whilst they were there they met Simeon and Anna, the first people who recognised what a special child this was.







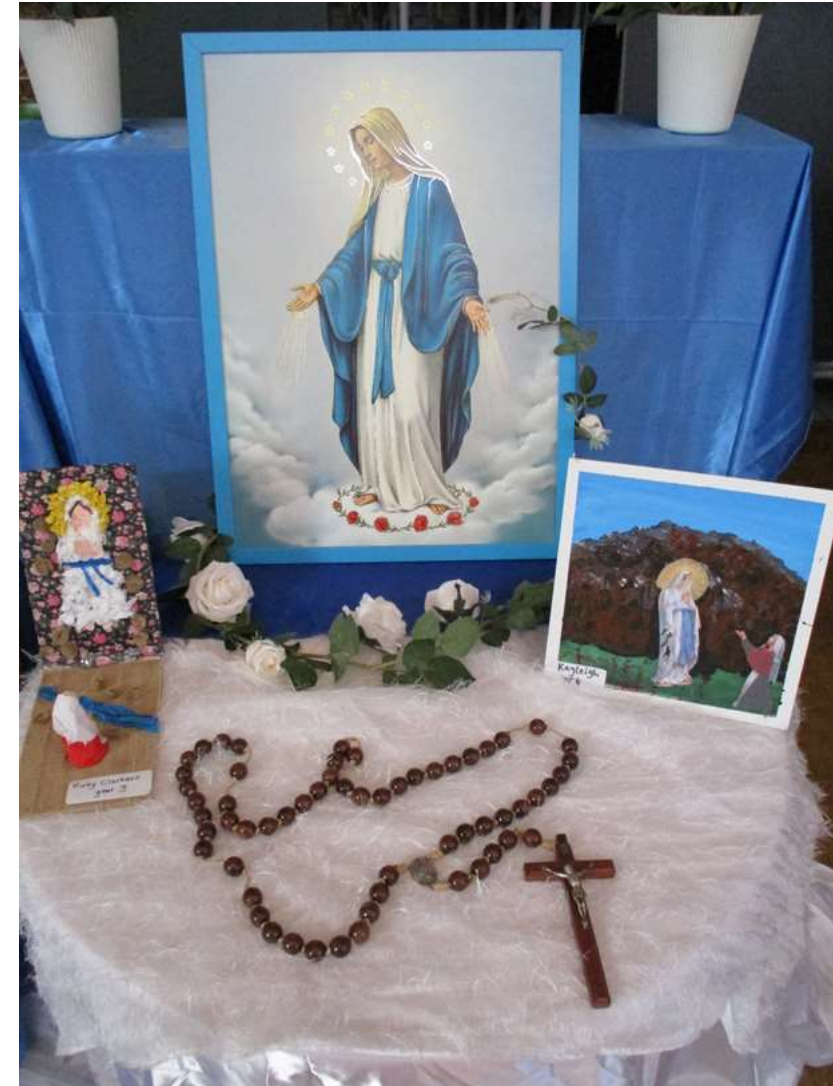


# The Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes

11th February

As part of the school's Our Lady of Lourdes celebration, children in KS2 were invited to participate in a special R.E. Homework Project, which shows the first appearance of Our Lady to the French girl, Bernadette Soubirous.

We were absolutely delighted with the wonderful art work which was completed. All children that returned their work by the deadline were able to share their masterpieces in assembly, if they wished to.













# Lent – Preparing for Easter



Wednesday 2nd March was Ash Wednesday. Year 5 and 6 attended Mass, whilst the rest of Key stage 2 joined via Zoom.

Ms Pienkowska led a special assembly for KS1 and Reception class. The children were encouraged to follow Pope Francis requested to pray for Ukraine.

Fr Azad then visited the school to administer Ashes to our children.



**Wonderful God your light shines into our world and brings happiness and peace to our hearts. As we begin our journey of Lent today give us your blessing and strength so that we may show care for one another. Encourage us, creator God, to be close to you.**

**AMEN**











# Fundraising for Ukraine

On Friday 11th March we had a 'Day of Peace' and fundraising for Save the Children's Ukraine Appeal.

On this day, children were invited to come to school dressed in their National Costume or in colours from their countries flag.

Ukraines national flower, is the sunflower. It is becoming a symbol of hope and resistance as the conflict continues.

Children took home a mini planting kit to grow a sunflower at home.

We collected cash donations during morning drop off and at the end of the day.

All the children took part in a 'shake up to wake up' dance session in the playground.

We have raised £923, which is amazing!!



# The Feast of Saint Patrick



# The Easter Story By Reception Class



Reception Class enjoyed re-enacting the Easter Story in the woodlands.





# Stations of the Cross in Our Church

During the last week of term, the children were able to attend Church and participated in the Stations of the Cross which were led confidently by the Catholic Life Committee. It was wonderful to be back in the Church as a school again.







# The Easter Story Assembly

Just before we broke for Easter, we came together as a school to tell the Easter Story and recount the last journey of Jesus. Each class contributed, through dance, drama or narration. It was the first time in over two years the children had all been together and it was a wonderful occasion. The story finished with a hymn sung so beautifully by the children.

# The Easter Story Assembly







# The Easter Prayer

The children of St John's enjoyed their Easter gift of chocolate and a prayer card.



God made you and God made me,  
He made the world for us to see.  
God loves you and long ago,  
He sent his Son to tell us so.  
Jesus showed us many things.  
To love and share and dance and sing,  
To learn and pray, to help and care,  
He promised he'd always be there.  
He died but then came back to life;  
Let's celebrate for he's alive!  
Amen.



# Palm Trees of Peace

Well done to all the children that completed the RE homework; the palm trees looked fantastic. The children had put much thought into the theme of 'Peace in the World' and decorated their leaves imaginatively and creatively.





# May is the Month of Mary



In preparation for our May Celebration at the end of the month, the children from across the school have been making flowers at home to present to Mary our Mother.

Before the presentation, the flowers are being used to create focal areas in KS1 and KS2. The stunning array of flowers are a reminder that May is the Month in which we devote our prayers to the Mother of Jesus and think about Mary's importance in the life of the Church and in our own lives too.





# Rosary Week

May 2022



We invited the children and their families to pray a decade of the Rosary together before school each morning. The prayer sessions took place outside of the school's main entrance.



# The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ

For 40 days after His Resurrection on Easter Sunday, Jesus travelled and preached with his disciples, preparing them for his departure from Earth.

Ascension Day marks the moment Jesus ascended into heaven before his disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem.

To celebrate Ascension Day the KS2 children attended Mass at our Parish Church and the KS1 children took part in a special assembly.





# May Celebration

The children led a beautiful litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary and prayed a decade of the rosary.

Two children from each year group presented flowers to the statue of Mary as traditional Marian hymns were sung.











# Pentecost

Pentecost Sunday is known as the birthday of the church. This was the day when Jesus' disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, when the mission of the church really began over 2000 years ago. The children from Reception Class helped to retell the story of Pentecost by waving streamers of flames that they had made to represent the Holy Spirit.



# First Holy Communion

The school gathered for a special assembly to congratulate all those in our school family who made their First Holy Communion this year. Each child was presented with a small token of Rosary beads and a Prayer Card for them to keep as a reminder of this special time.





**Communion Prayer**  
My Lord Jesus Christ,  
I firmly believe that  
I am about to receive,  
in Communion,  
Your Body,  
Your Blood, Your Soul  
and Your Divinity.















## Prayer for my Family

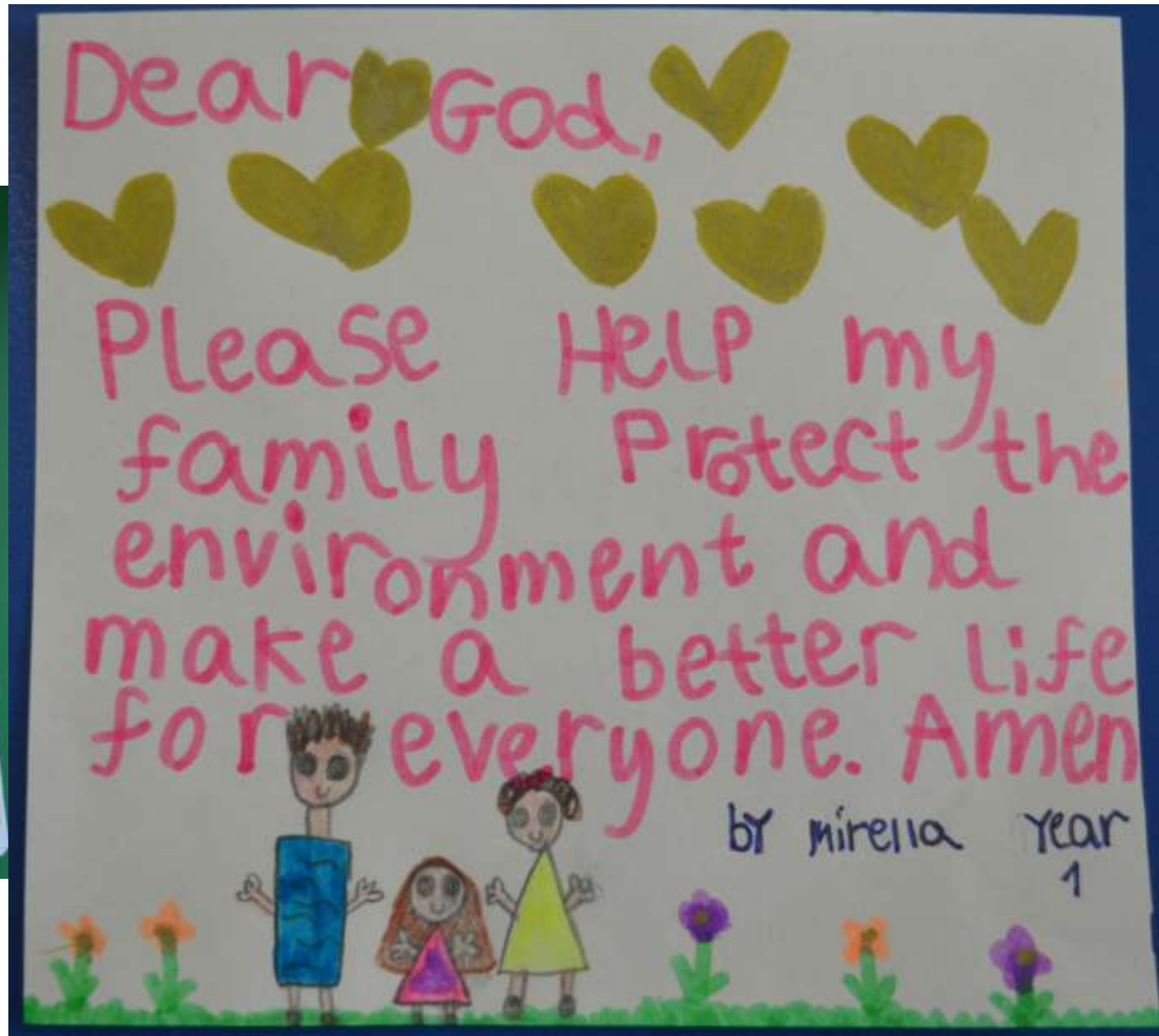
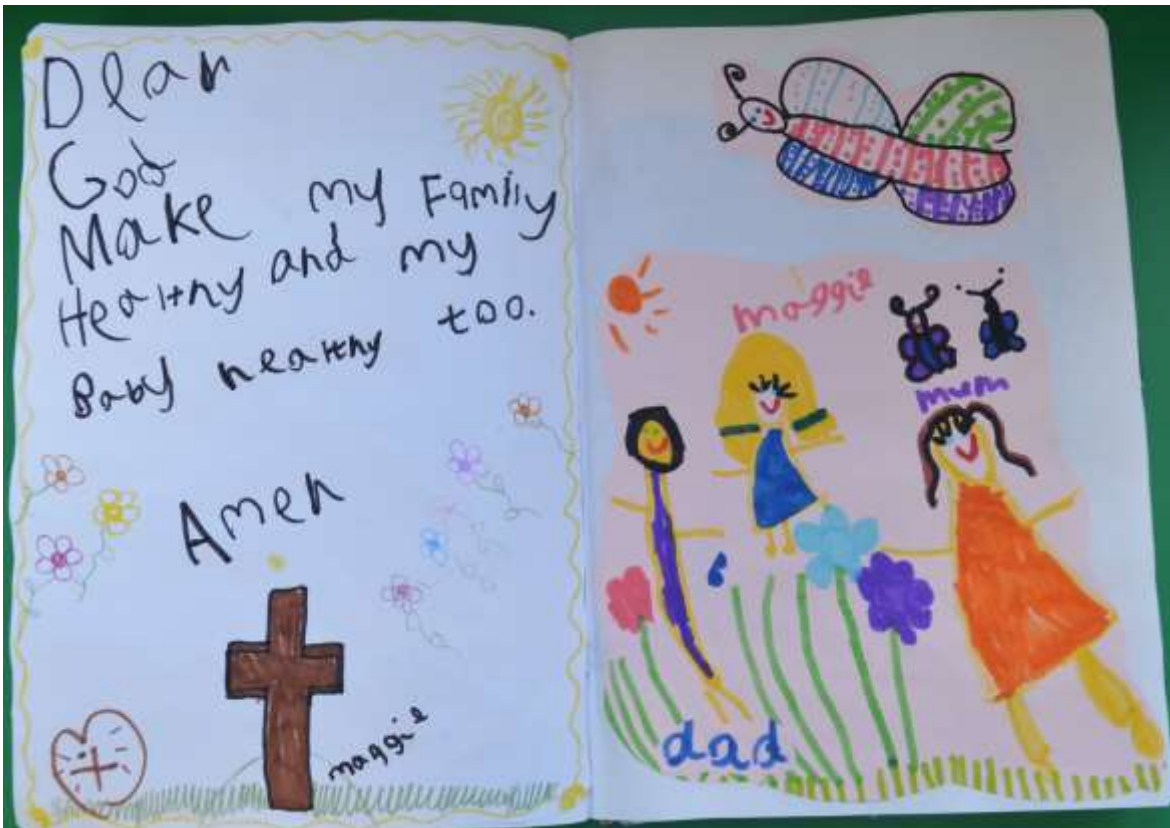


**The tenth World Meeting of Families was celebrated in Rome with Pope Francis on 26th June 2022. To help strengthen faith and live God's joy more fruitfully in family life, the Holy Father prayed with families from all over the world. The prayer was at the centre of this special celebration.**

**Children were asked to write a prayer for their family.**

**Each class made a special book of the children's prayers and the books were put on display for everyone to read and pray.**





PRAYER  
Dear Lord  
please bless my ~~family~~ family  
I believe in you  
please keep the safe thank you for  
the peace still the with still joy

H Amen M  
J Love Johnny's D

dad  
this is my dad  
and he is the one  
I love the most



Holly  
this is my sister  
she is cute and  
she is my  
a ditor

Mum  
this is my mum  
she has long  
hair and  
she is  
Johnny  
this is my  
brother  
he is  
the same

Prayer  
For  
My  
Family  
By  
Victory

Dear God,  
Bless my family, give them the  
knowledge, understanding and prosperity  
so they can do every-thing they  
want and need to do.

Amen

Prayer for my family

Dear God,  
Please bless my family and friends,  
give my family love, forgiveness,  
prosperity, health and happiness

Amen

Emily

03/07/2022



Dear Lord,

I am thankful for my family and my friends. I know that they will love and care for me always. They love me to the moon and back. I am thankful for my mum, my dad, my aunties, my uncles and all of my friends,

In the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit,

Amen

Kitty O'Kane.

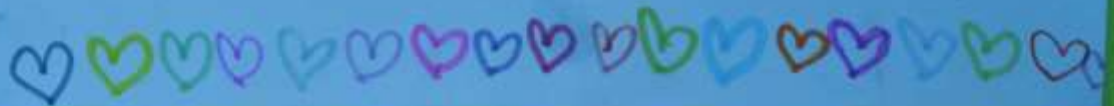


Dear God,  
May my family be  
protected from harm and sadness.  
May they enjoy the privilege of  
spending time together to spread  
happiness, celebrate special  
occasions and to be there for  
each other when there is need  
for comfort. May good health  
over take them and may there  
forever be faith in their hearts.

Amen

Susan

Year 5



# Dear God,

Please protect my family that I love so much. Protect my sister, mother, father, aunts and uncles - basically all of my family - throughout their lives.

Deliver them from anyone who says they are not special when they are special in every way. Let them have faith in themselves and love each and every one of them until the end of their days. **Amen.**



# A Prayer For My Family

## Dear Lord,

Please bless my family, and guide them to be hugely successful in their lives. Help them to show their true potential.

O God, please help my family to continue being loving and kind, and to also take refuge on those who need help. Let them thrive in their fields and to protect each other during the darkest of times.

Please just keep my family safe.

Amen.

Erin 7/6

# Family



# The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul



The Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul; two very important saints in the history of the Catholic Church. Fr Azad celebrated a special mass for the school community. All the children from Year 2 to Year 6 came together and took up every chair to be had in the church. It was a very special occasion. Many thanks again to Fr Azad and for leading our school community in Mass. Reception Class and Year 1 had a special assembly.













# Prayer and Reflection in the Woodlands Week



**In July all the classes took part in the thanksgiving prayer sessions in the Woodlands. The children had the opportunity to admire nature and thanked God for the beauty of his creation.**

**It was an amazing experience for all the children. They could feel the presence of God in everything around them.**

