

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday 3 July

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

Matthew 10:37-40

Jesus’s instructions to the twelve apostles are very direct about how they are to go and spread the Good News of the kingdom of God to others. In the last verse we heard, he reminds them (and us) that whenever we interact with another person, it is as if we are interacting with Jesus himself. If each of us were to treat everyone as if they were Jesus, with respect and honour, our community and our world would be very different.

God our Father,
you call each of us by name,
and you treasure each of us individually
as though no-one else exists. Inspire us to respect and value
each person who comes into our lives this day.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Saint Thomas
Tuesday 4 July

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Yesterday was the feast of St Thomas the Apostle. He is remembered as 'doubting Thomas', as he was not there when Jesus first appeared to the disciples, and refused to believe until he had seen Jesus with his own eyes.

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

John 20:27-29

We have not seen Jesus face to face, but we are the ones that Jesus spoke about in the last line we heard of that reading:- 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Father,
we thank you for the gift of faith;
that you have made yourself known to us
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
May the faith that we have in you
sustain us in our lives,
and enable us to reach out to others.
May we help others in their search for truth
and bring them to the reality of your love.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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Wednesday 5 July

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:
Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not
worthy of me.

Matthew 10:38

Today we give thanks that we belong to a Catholic community here in
our school, where we can grow together in faith, as well as in
learning and in love.

Lord, you give us others,
who watch, when we sleep,
who believe, when we doubt,
and keep praying, when we are reduced to silence.

You give us others, who walk with us,
who hope and fear with us,
who are tired and do not fail us,
to whom we can turn with our cares and our needs.

You give us others,
who stand with us before you, and ask you, and question,
and thank you, and are always ready to serve you.
You give us others, and entrust them to us.

We do not love you without them,
nor are we loved by you without them.
Let us be a blessing to one another, on our way to you.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Transition Day
Thursday 6 July

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:
Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not
worthy of me.

Matthew 10:38

Today we welcome to our school all those Year 6 students who will
be joining us in Year 7 in September, as they come for their transfer
day. The prayer is in the form of an ancient Celtic blessing for
entering a new place. We say this blessing as a welcome for all of
these young people who in September will become valued members
of our school community.

May this place shelter your life. When you come here,
may all the weight of the world fall from your shoulders.
May your heart be tranquil here,
blessed by peace the world cannot give.

May this place be a lucky place,
where the graces your life desires
always find the pathway to your door.
May nothing destructive ever cross your path.

May this be a safe place
full of understanding and acceptance,
where you can be as you are,
without the need of any mask of pretence or image.

May this be a place of discovery,
where the possibilities that sleep in the clay of your soul
can emerge to deepen and refine your vision.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Saint Benedict

Friday 7 July

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Our scripture for this week: Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:
Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not
worthy of me.

Matthew 10:38

Next Tuesday is the feast of St Benedict. Over 1500 years ago a simple monk wrote out his ideas for a way of living life in community. Benedict was that monk - his monastic rule guides monks and lay people today to work, pray and read scripture as a way of living a life closer to the essence of Jesus' teaching. St Benedict has been made a patron of Europe - reflecting the Christian heritage of the continent and his teachings on life and work.

We pray for Europe, especially for those faced with difficult decisions as a result of the economic crisis. We remember especially those countries where people are struggling to find work and provide food for their families.

We bring our prayers to Mary, asking her to intercede for us:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now, and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.