



The Friday Message

Volume 36 – Friday 26th June 2026

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)



Reception	Year 1
This week, we have been learning about Saint Paul. We talked about how he travelled to many different places by foot and by boat, helping people to learn about Jesus and encouraging them to be kind and caring. We also discovered that Paul wrote letters to help and support people, and that these letters are still read in churches today. We enjoyed writing our own letters as Saint Paul, teaching people about Jesus and sharing messages of kindness, love and friendship.	This week in RE we have discussed what the word community means. We thought about how churches help people and who helps at the church. In particular, we thought about how Christians in our local parish community could work together to help others. In our second lesson we focused on the cross. We recognised that the cross is a symbol of Christianity, and the sign of the cross is a prayer expressing Christian belief. We spoke about how we make the sign of the cross as well as where and when we make the sign of the cross. We drew a picture of ourselves praying, while thinking about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Year 2	Year 3
This week in Year 2, the children have continued learning about Judaism. In the first session the children learnt more about the Torah, the Jewish Holy book. They watched a video clip showing how it is handled and ‘dressed’ and looked closely at some photographs of some very special Torah ‘crowns’ on the Jewish Museum website. The children learnt about the work of a ‘Sofer’, someone who is trained to handwrite the Torah. They were amazed to learn that it takes a Sofer years to train and about 2 years to complete one handwritten Torah. In our second session the children explored more about the language of the Torah, Hebrew. They learnt how to say ‘hello’, ‘how are you?’, ‘thank you’ and ‘please’ in Hebrew. The children then pretended they were a Sofer and wrote some phrases, extremely carefully, in Hebrew. They enjoyed using google translate to find out how to write their own names in Hebrew!	In RE this week, Year 3 began learning about Islam. The children explored the origins of Islam, learned about some of the prophets recognised by Muslims, and discovered the key beliefs of the Islamic faith, including the belief in one God, Allah. We also learned about the Five Pillars of Islam and discussed how these guide Muslims in their daily lives. We reflected on the similarities between Islam and Christianity, including belief in one God, the importance of prayer, charity, and respect for prophets such as Abraham and Jesus. The children enjoyed making connections between different faiths and developing their understanding of the diverse world around them.
Year 4	Year 5
This week in RE, Year 4 learned about Islam and the Five Pillars, considering both their importance to Muslims today and the similarities they share with our own Catholic faith. The children explored each of the Five Pillars and reflected on how they shape the daily lives of British Muslims, before creating their own symbolic pillars to represent the values and practices that underpin their Catholic faith. We also discussed why the Five Pillars remain so relevant today and considered which of them demonstrate the strongest expression of faith in God. The lessons prompted thoughtful conversations about respect, shared beliefs, and the importance of understanding people from different faith traditions.	This week in RE, Year 5 have been exploring the big question Who is God? in two creative and thoughtful lessons. In the first lesson, they made colourful posters to help younger children learn about some of the different names for God in the Bible, like Yahweh (“I AM WHO I AM”), El Shaddai (“God Almighty”), and Yahweh-Raah (“The Lord is my Shepherd”). Then, in the second lesson, they wrote friendly and reflective conversations between themselves and a Jewish friend all about the Shema – an important Jewish prayer from Deuteronomy. They found out when it’s said, why Jewish people cover their eyes during it and how it links to Christian beliefs too. It was brilliant to see so much interest, care and understanding in both lessons. Well done, Year 5!
Year 6	Monthly Gospel Value Our Gospel Value we are exploring is ... JUSTICE How can you seek JUSTICE for others?
Following on from our focus of <i>Common Good</i> , we have begun our own projects to bring <i>Common Good</i> to St John Henry Newman. We choose our groups and planned a way of showing common good within our school community. We discussed what sorts of things would benefit others and be inclusive for all. Some suggestions were an assembly about kindness, working with younger children one afternoon, reading Bible passages and discussing with others etc. We narrowed down our choices and planned an event that is manageable and will have an impact for the common good of others within our school. We then prayed together to ask Jesus to bless our work ahead in delivering our projects.	