



The Friday Message

Volume 5 – Friday 2nd October 2026

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)



Reception	Year 1
This week in RE, we spent time reflecting on Day 6 of the Creation Story, when God created people. We thought about how God made each of us with care and love, giving us the special role of looking after the wonderful world He created, especially all the things we were thankful for last week. We thanked God for making our Year 6 buddies too, who look after us during our Welcome Ceremony last week. To help us remember this special moment, our teachers introduced us to our new Godly Play area, where we can re-enact the Welcome Ceremony and continue reflecting on what it means to be part of the world God created and the St John Henry Newman School family. 	This week in Year 1, we have focused on the Our Father prayer. We said this prayer together and listened to a video which explained what each line in the prayer means. We enjoyed matching pictures to key words within the Our Father. We ended our first lesson by completing the sentence: God is our Father because..... The children came up with lovely, thoughtful sentences. In our second lesson we continued to reflect on the words within the Our Father. We drew a picture for each line of the prayer using pictures for inspiration and explained which line of the prayer is our favourite and why.
Year 2	Year 3
In our first session of RE this week, we started to look at the symbols of Baptism. The children learnt that the Holy water is poured over the head of the person being baptised three times and represents their sins being washed away. We then looked at how the oil is used and that this represents strength in God's love. In the second session, the children looked at two more symbols of Baptism; the white garment worn by the person being baptised and the candle. The children learnt that the white garment represents new life and is the colour of Jesus and the candle represents the love of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit. We are looking forward to next week's visit from Father Jeffery who will be conducting a mock baptism for us.	This week, the children explored Pope Francis' teaching in <i>Laudato Si'</i> that our relationships with God, other people and the world are all connected. They thought carefully about how caring for Creation can also show love for God and care for others. The children applied this learning by explaining how practical actions, such as recycling and looking after our environment, can have a positive effect on all three relationships. This develops our understanding of stewardship and our responsibility to care for God's world. We then explored St Francis of Assisi's <i>Canticle of the Creatures</i> and the beautiful way he praises God for Creation. The children investigated why St Francis uses family names such as "Brother Sun", "Sister Water" and "Mother Earth", recognising that these words show how closely connected Creation is and encourage us to treat it with love and care. The children considered what each of these gifts does for us and used their ideas to give thanks to God for Creation.
Year 4	Year 5
In RE this week, Year 4 continued learning about the final part of Joseph's life story. The children wrote letters in role as Joseph to his father, Jacob, explaining what had happened to him and inviting the family to come and live with him in Egypt. This helped us reflect on how Joseph understood God's presence throughout the difficult events of his life. In our second lesson, we read a poem about the moment Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers. The children explored the different emotions Joseph and his brothers may have experienced and identified parts of the poem that showed Joseph's special relationship with God. We also reflected on Joseph's decision to recognise the change in his brothers and forgive them for what they had done.	As we continued our journey on RE lessons this week, the children reflected on the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. They engaged in group discussion of "big questions" like "Can faith change over time?" and "Is love more about what you feel, or what you do?", and found ways to compare faith, hope and love to other triads such as past, present and future or sun, moon and stars. This produced some very insightful reflections – keep up the wonderful work, Year 5!

Year 6

Our focus this week has been solely on The Nicene Creed that we say in Mass each week. We discussed the word 'creed' and how this is related directly to our recent work on the Covenant. Using Mass cards, we read it through and discussed why this is said in churches every Mass all around the world for centuries. We then went on to analyse and discuss the 4 main parts of this important aspect of Mass. Discovering that this spoken part of Mass reaffirms our faith each week and our belief in God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and our Church. It was incredible what we were able to gain from our thoughts and responses to the Nicene Creed and how we can use it as building block to our overall faith each week.

Monthly Gospel Value

Our Gospel Value we are exploring is

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Trust

How can you build up TRUST with someone?