

SENIOR SCHOOL

St Mary's Fortnightly Sunday School Newsletter



WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS

All Souls' Day on Tuesday 2nd November is when we pray for all those faithful Christians who have died. United to Jesus in their baptism we pray they will share in His Resurrection.

A SAINT TO KNOW

On Monday 18th, the Church asks for the prayers of St Luke, who wrote the Gospel named after Him in the New Testament. He tells us the most about Mary, the Mother of God, and painted a picture of her, which you can see in a basilica in Rome. May Luke pray for us as we try to tell others about Jesus.

DID YOU KNOW?

The fourth commandment is "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." It's not all about work! God commands us to rest, to take a break!

WHY DOES GOD MAKE US WORK?

We spend all our lives working. Working at school, working for money, working for free, working for a ourselves and others. **Why has God set up our lives in such a way that work takes up so much of our time, energy and thoughts?**

Let's be clear, work is not a punishment. God teaches us that the work we do and the way we spend our time is a way of honouring him. Our work shapes us, God has given us talents and by using and developing gifts for Him and those around us we share His love and care for one another. Aren't you grateful for the bus driver who turns up to work, for the songwriter that made your favourite song and for your mum who spent a whole evening 'working' on a delicious dinner.

Work is about community, dignity and purpose. Can you imagine a world where we click our fingers and everything just appeared, sounds fun at the start but I'm pretty that would be the most boring and selfish world and you'd stop finding joy in so many things, because it's too easy!

There is nothing like stepping back after working on something and that warm feeling you get when you're pleased at what you've done.

God Himself in creating the world, knows a lot about building something out of nothing.

And God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind; and God saw that it was good

I believe that's how God felt when He saw us. A feeling of love that says 'Wow look at what I made, it's Good!'



FAIR PAY

by Father Morris

The Church has long supported the work of Trades Unions, especially in arguing that those who work should be employed properly. This is a matter of justice. We define justice as meaning giving what is due to people. We owe certain things to God and should give those to Him. We owe certain things to others and justice demands we are diligent in doing that. We have to love people in different ways (consider how you love your parents in a different way to how you love your friends, for example).

One of the challenges about how God works concerning what is fair comes when we read the parable Jesus tells in St Matthew 20:1-16, the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. The landowner pays the labourers the same amount even though some have worked all day and others only an hour. It's grossly unfair and the workers grumble about it. However, the parable is there to teach us the huge generosity of God who despite the pathetic nature of our discipleship still chooses to give us all the benefits of His love.

In our day-to-day life we should make sure people are given a fair wage. Justice demands that work is rewarded properly. But we also have to realise that when it comes to our relationship with God we can never merit our salvation or keep Him happy by giving Him scraps of our time or our money or our lives. It is only God's generosity that means we'll get to Heaven but our lives have to live radiating that immense love.

Keep in touch with us at St Marys

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KNOW YOUR SCRIPTURE

The Bible is full of great advice about work.

Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Not everything we do we enjoy, but if we think of it as that thing we're doing is for God, it means we are in the rare position to give God something.

Galatians 6:9

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Sometimes we have no idea if all the work we're doing is going to pay off or even be for anything. But the Bible tells us to keep going, all good works comes to something even if we can't see how. Have faith.

Psalms 90:17

"Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"

Not all work is equal, we have to ensure that our efforts are in line with God's teachings. Working hard on something that goes against His desires will never be fruitful. Go to God in prayer first.