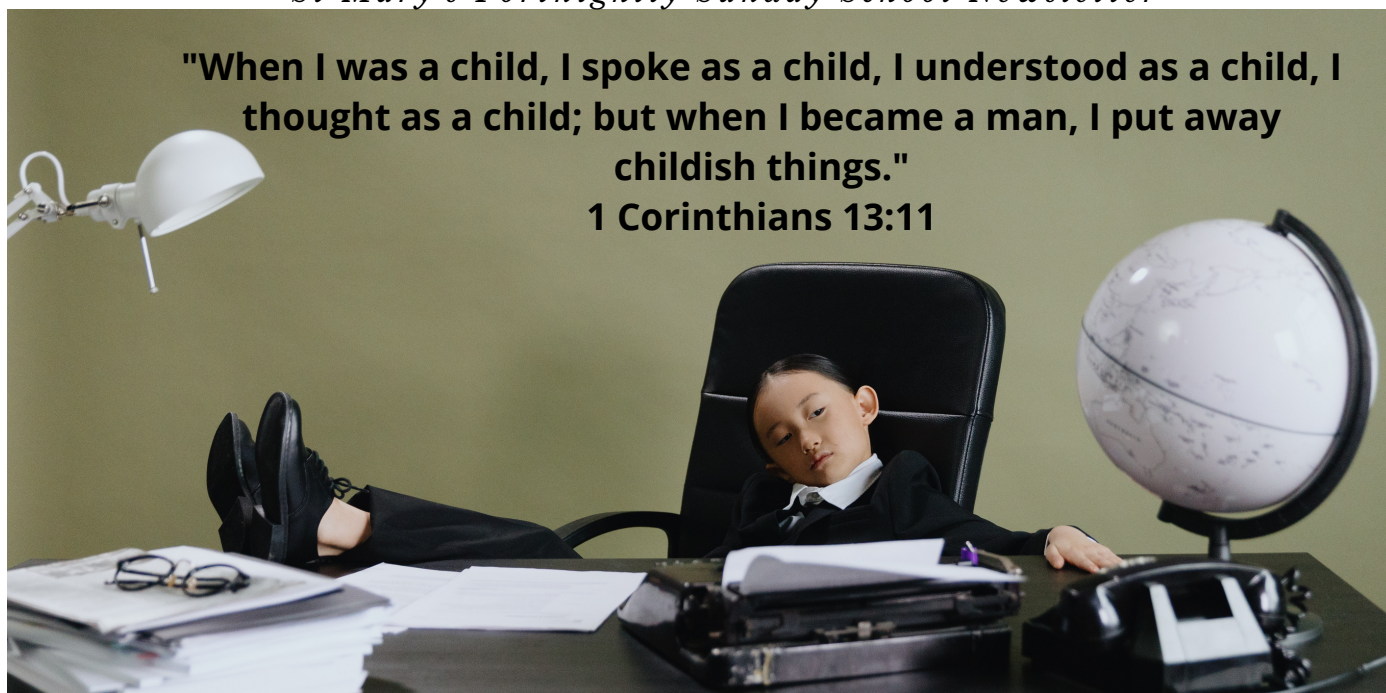


SENIOR SCHOOL

St Mary's Fortnightly Sunday School Newsletter



"When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

1 Corinthians 13:11

WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS

Mary's purity is to inspire us and we celebrate her Immaculate Conception on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th. She was conceived without sin so she could have the Son of God in her womb.

A SAINT TO KNOW

St Nicholas (Feast Day: 6th December) lived in Turkey and gave gifts to an elderly man who was worried he could find no one to provide for his daughters, as was expected at the culture at the time. The gift giving of St Nicholas becomes the present leaving Santa Claus.

DID YOU KNOW?

Do you know the Holy Spirit is our helper. With a specific responsibility to strengthen, guide and comfort us. Jesus does not ask us to go through this journey alone. 'But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father,..'.

GROW UP!

Have you ever been told or ever told someone to grow up? Stop acting like a child? How old are you? These are all comments made when behaviour is a bit lacking and when 'more' is expected from us.

But what is this more and why can't we behave like young children, to easily answer that question imagine the chaos of a world where we all did what we wanted, when we wanted and had no understanding of the consequences of our actions.

"Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" Hebrews 5:13-14

But as we grow into adults we begin to understand more and more of our impact and how to relate to the world and others around us. Growing in spiritual maturity means truly seeing how our actions rooted in love and faith bring us closer to God.

Whilst a baby wouldn't understand that putting your hand into a fire is dangerous a young adult would. We cannot fast track our learning, there is no 'end point' in our spiritual journey and we can never know everything. God teaches us to approach Him with a humble heart as if children and to understand that we still have so much to learn.

"And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3



TEARS AND SMILES

by *Father Morris*

At Christmas we'll sing the Hymn, Once in Royal David's city. There's the verse which tells us about Jesus: "For He is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us He grew; He was little weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew."

Jesus was 33 years old when He died on the Cross and so God has been on earth as old as we are until we reach that age. Jesus was a teenager. In emptying Himself and become a human for us, God experiences all that we go through now. His body changed, His emotions changed, He had to cut the apron strings from His parents, He experienced the death of loved ones, He learnt how to work.

Next time you're at Mass and in the presence of Jesus, ask Him what it was like. What was it like for Him to be 13 years old, 14 years old, or however old you are. In the words of the hymn, Jesus gives us a "pattern" of how to live. This is within the fellowship of the Apostles, fulfilling the will of God our Father, spending time alone in prayer and reading the Scriptures with others.

We hear sometime of what Jesus got up to when He was 12 years old in St Luke 2:41-52. His parents lost Him and He was found in the Temple in Jerusalem. From then on we hear nothing of what Jesus does until St John the Baptist baptises Him, aged 30. These 18 years are hidden from public gaze and away from the crowds who would later follow Him. But we know Jesus would have been spending time with His Mother Mary and looking after his earthly father, Joseph, who died during this period.

When I look upon my teenage years I remember falling in love for the first time and it not really working out; I remember being frustrated with my parents that they didn't seem to trust me; I remember wanting to be loved by friends and sometimes never feeling like I really fitted in; I remember saying for the first time that I wasn't going to dress smartly when I went to Church. God was with me and He knew what all that felt like. And through all that I also kept taking all that was going on in life to Jesus who made Himself available to me at the altar. I thank Him for it.

TAKING ACTION

How to grow in faith

Even making that decision and putting that intention in your heart to want to grow in Gods ways is an incredibly powerful desire.

Here are some more tips

Pray for God's Help

Ask the Lord to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

Make reading the Word a daily commitment.

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Christian Community

Have you noticed how much easier it is to get something done when you're surrounded by people who feel the same way. Whether it's Mass, Bible classes or having a debate with another Christian find ways to deepen your conversations about your faith.

Keep in touch with us at St Marys

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysLansdowneRoad/>

Email: s.marysoffice@btinternet.com

Website:

<https://www.smarystottenham.org/>

Phone: +4420 8808 6644