

## SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

At the end of this week, we will mark Holocaust Memorial Day. When we think about the atrocities of Holocaust, we remind ourselves of the importance of living out our school values and motto every day so that events like this can never happen again. Our light must shine in all dark corners of the world. To clarify what Holocaust is we will watch a short video.

### WE LISTEN



### RESPONSE

Loving Father, forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us.

In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious and can know the courage to face the darkness as we **let our light shine.**

Amen

### MISSION

Discuss: What are our six school values?

What is our motto?

How do you think, by living these values, we prevent Holocaust ever happening again?

### SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

St Francis de Sales is a 17<sup>th</sup> century saint. He became noted for his deep **faith** and his gentle approach to the religious divisions in his land.

#### WE LISTEN

'Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me but in me and I in Him.'

*St Francis de Sales*

#### RESPONSE

In a moment of silence, spend some time thinking about God our loving Father being with you. Your **faith** dwells deep in you, and God is always there.

For just a few seconds, have a silent conversation like he's your best friend.



#### MISSION

What are your worries? What stresses you out when you think about the future? Remember that nothing can happen today, or tomorrow, that you and God can't handle together. Have **faith**.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

St Paul used to be known as Saul before he encountered Christ. He used to be a tyrant, going round killing Christians and persecuting them. After his encounter with Christ, he changed his ways and became such a powerful witness to the world. Towards the end of the Bible are his letters for all the world.

### WE LISTEN

#### Mark 16:15-18

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.'



### RESPONSE

Loving Father, you showed St Paul what it meant to be a true follower of you, making him a person of **excellence** and living his **vocation**. May we experience your love and your power in our lives this day and be **faithful** in following you like St Paul.  
Amen.

### MISSION

St Paul made many mistakes in his life, but the good thing about being a Christian is that we can always say sorry, have a new start and try not to make the wrong choice again.  
When faced with difficult situations, try and make the right decisions for you and everyone.



### SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

The gift that St Paul talks about in his letter to his friend Timothy today is the gift of **faith**. He goes on to say that we should never be ashamed of witnessing to our own **faith**. That flame of **faith** which we have, even if it is only small, can do so much good in our world.

### WE LISTEN

#### The letter of St Paul to Timothy

That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity but of power, and love, and self-control.'



### RESPONSE

Lord, it's not easy to be a witness to you sometimes, and to speak of our faith. Give us the courage to ignite the flame of faith within us so that we **let our light shine**.  
Amen.

### MISSION

**Discuss:** Can you think of anyone who proudly professes their **faith**?  
This could be someone you know or someone famous.  
How can you be like them?



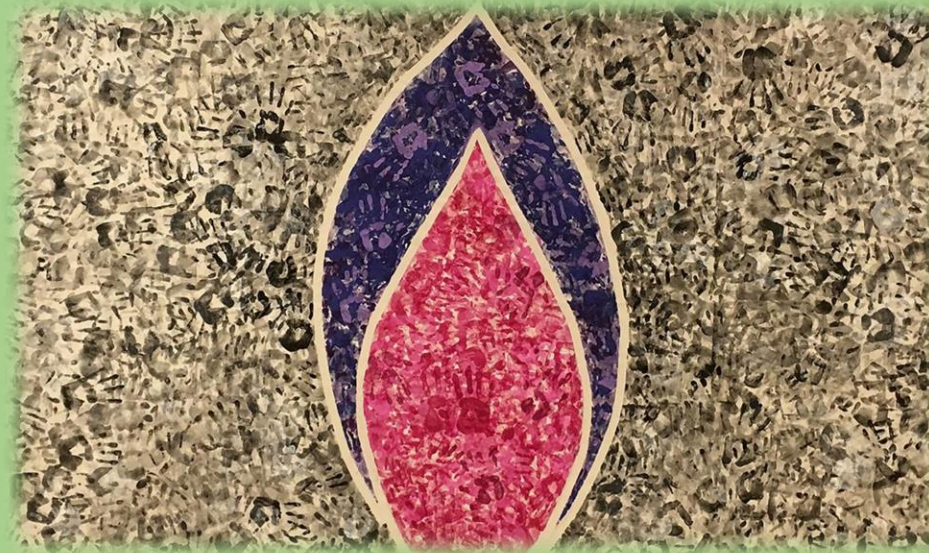
## SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Holocaust Memorial Day encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. We promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January to remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution of other groups and during more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The 27<sup>th</sup> January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

### WE LISTEN

Lily Ebert – Holocaust Survivor



### RESPONSE

Loving Father, through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

### MISSION

So many innocent people have died at the hands of others because of power and a lack of tolerance.

Can you think of any places in the world where innocent people are still being persecuted?

How can we show **respect** to people who are different to us?

What can we do to never allow genocide to happen ever again?