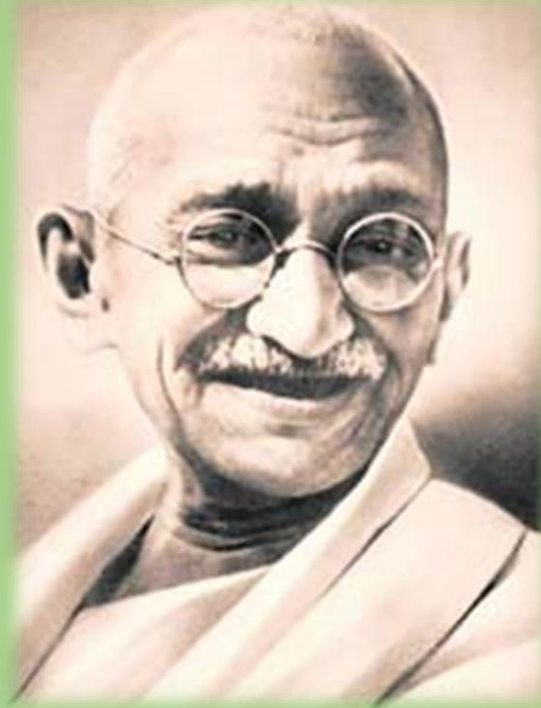


SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

On this day in 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was shot by a fellow Hindu on his way to a prayer meeting. He is recognised as one of the twentieth century's greatest political leaders. One of his greatest achievements was his life-long struggle for India's freedom – which happened in 1947. Let us hear a little bit more.

WE LISTEN



RESPONSE

Lord, this day and forever, may I have the courage never to be afraid of anyone. May I have the generosity to bear ill-feeling towards no-one. Lead me to live in such a way as to treat others in the same way I would like to be treated. Inspire me never to be violent in thought, word or action, and lead me to conquer evil with goodness.
Amen.

MISSION

Gandhi was a person who lived out our school values of **respect** and **integrity** and his motto which he advised people to say every morning was.

'I shall not fear anyone. I shall not bear ill feelings towards anyone.'

Make this your motto today.

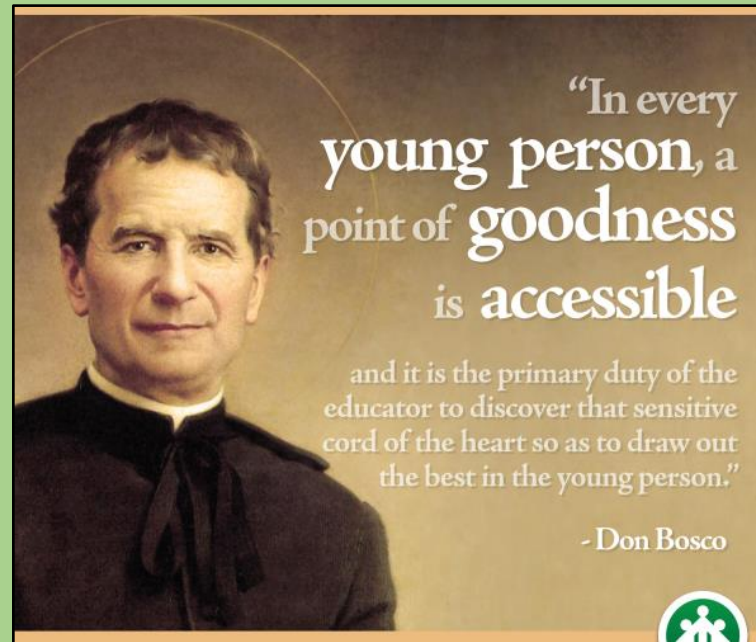
SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

St John Bosco had a great love for young people. He believed in educating the whole person, mind, body and soul. He spent his life empowering the young to believe in themselves, giving them **aspiration** and making them know that they are special and capable of greatness. He is a great advocate for young people and showed **excellence** in the work he did for young people.

WE LISTEN

Philippians 4:4-9

Finally, brothers and sisters, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all these things then the God of peace will be with you.



RESPONSE

Lord, show me how to live today with genuine concern for others.

In expressing my care, may I show people that they are valued, loved and appreciated for who they are.

Show us how to live those values of **excellence** and **aspiration** that St John Bosco did in his life so we can let our light shine like his.

Amen

MISSION

We are called to be responsible for each other; to show love, care and appreciation to everyone we meet.
How can you do this today?

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

We hear today about people not being welcome in the place where they live, and that included Jesus. In our own country, we tell people that they are not welcome because of where they come from or the colour of their skin. This is not what our **faith** teaches us. We live in one world, one human family and there is room for all of us.

WE LISTEN

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus said to the people who wouldn't accept him, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house.'



MISSION

Where might you have seen or heard of any propaganda whereby refugees and asylum seekers are not welcome in our country? How can you show our values of **integrity** and **respect** when faced with such things?

RESPONSE

Loving God,

Your own Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;

and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

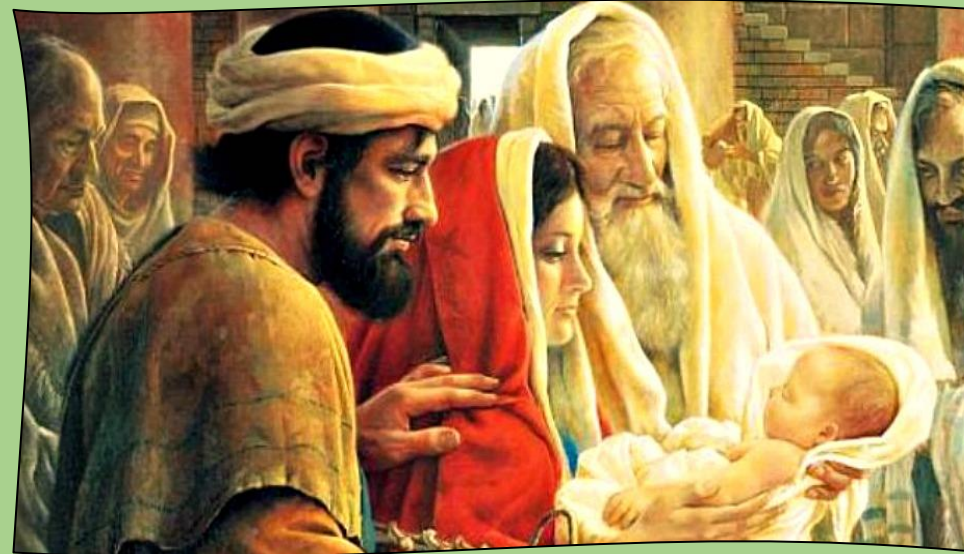
It has been 40 days since we have celebrated Christmas and today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Being presented at temple was a customary tradition, however unbeknown to Jesus, he was fulfilling the prophecy that a messenger would come and prepare the way of the Lord. Because Simeon referred to Jesus as the one who brings light to all nations, candles are lit this day to signify the light of Christ and the light his love will bring.

WE LISTEN

Luke 2:14-18

The Prayer of Simeon

Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you have promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people, Israel.



RESPONSE

We thank you Jesus for coming to earth to show us how to live a good life. When we feel sad or lonely, may the light of your love burst through our darkness and bring us into a deeper **faith** in you. Amen.

MISSION

Jesus brought light to the world. Let your light shine today but help others to do the same.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

In today's Gospel Jesus sends out the disciples on their first mission. He gives them clear instructions not to take anything with them. Imagine being sent on a long journey and taking nothing with you. The reason Jesus did this was to appeal to the good nature of those that they met along the way to provide any help that they may need. The simple message is that God always provides and this was a great act of **faith** and trust for the disciples.

WE LISTEN

Mark 6:7-13

Jesus instructed the disciples to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses.



RESPONSE

Lord, help us to see everything you provide for us as a gift. We thank you for our families, our friends, our food and all the good things in life. May we always depend on you for the things we truly need. Amen.

MISSION

If we asked you today what it is that you can't live without, how many would say your phones? Have a deeper think about what it is that you really couldn't survive without. Think of the people you live with. What about the food you eat? Where does that all come from to be able to get to you. When you eat today, show **respect** for the gift of food and all those who have been part of its journey and preparation. Gratitude and **respect** are so important.