

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

St Paul Miki and his 25 companions were martyred in Nagasaki in Japan in 1597. When their executioners were killing them, they were astounded upon seeing their joy as they were dying for Christ. They were the first martyrs of the Far East to be made saints. Their **faith** made them people of **integrity**.

WE LISTEN

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus said to the eleven disciples, 'Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



RESPONSE

Loving Father, when people mock our **faith** in you, and undermine what we believe, let us remember that people like St Paul Miki had unfailing trust in you and never lost **faith**. May we always believe that you are always with us. Amen.

MISSION

Even in their suffering, St Paul Miki and his companions found joy through their **faith** in Christ. Whatever you may be struggling with in your life, where might you find joy and where might you find joy in Christ, like the saints?

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Today's reading is from Genesis, the first book of the Bible. We hear that God had given us dominion over the earth and we were the pinnacle of his creation. God loves the people he has made so much, and that includes each and every one of us. On all the other days of the creation story that preceded this one, he said everything was good. When he made us, he said this:

WE LISTEN Genesis 1-2

God saw all that he had made,
and indeed it was very good.
Evening came and morning
came: this sixth day.



RESPONSE

Lord, because we are the greatest
thing you ever created, may we
always know of the **excellence** that
each of us holds. You love us all
equally and so may we also
recognise in others the **excellence**
that you have given them too
Amen

MISSION

Recognise the different kinds of excellence that you see from people today.
Tell someone when they do something good or make something really great in a lesson, even if you don't
know them that well.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Today is the day of prayer for victims of human trafficking and St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of such victims and all forms of modern day slavery. She was born in the Darfur region of South Sudan and spent most of her life being exploited as a slave herself. She died in 1947 and is a model of **aspiration**.

WE LISTEN:
to a story of modern day slavery.



RESPONSE

Father God, may you give us the aspiration to be like St Josephine. May we never become blind to the exploitation of others. Give us the courage to speak up for victims and to bring about change in the world. Amen.

MISSION

Discuss: What extent do you think modern day slavery is present in the UK?

Where might you find victims of this and human trafficking?

Always strive to stamp out all forms of exploitation, remembering God loves ALL of us equally.

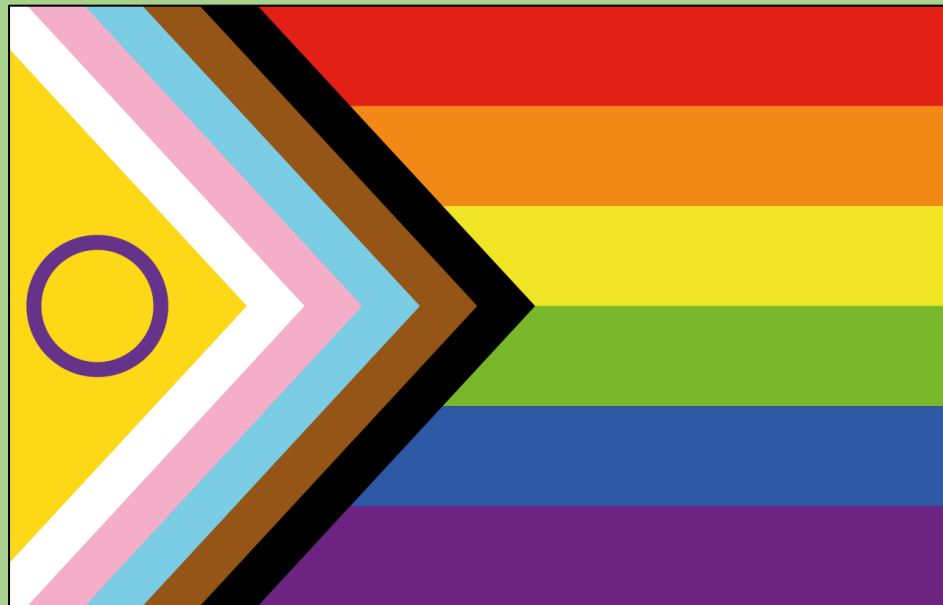
SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

February is LGBTQ History Month. Let us learn to embrace our LGBTQ friends as valued, included and visible, simply part of the rich diversity of our school community, giving them the freedom to explore who they are, and the language to describe their experiences. In turn, we might find ourselves moving once again towards the right side of history.

WE LISTEN

John 13:34

Jesus said, 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.'



RESPONSE

Merciful Father, we give thanks for the pioneers who stuck their heads above the parapets regardless of the cost. We grieve for those damaged by fear, silencing and violence, past and present.
Help us speak up when we can and help us to look after each other.
Amen.

MISSION

Everyone has the right to let their light shine.
Let yours do so today and try to never dim the shining light of another person.

A reminder that our LGBTQ group runs on Friday P5 for Y10+, but if anyone would like to come and chat about anything LGBTQ related, please do pop and see Anne Marie.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

St Scholastica is the sister of another well known saint, St Benedict. They were both very holy and were the founders of the Benedictine monastic life around the year 534AD. People still live a Benedictine life today and our nearest monks and nuns are in North Yorkshire so not too far away from here.

WE LISTEN

John 14:23

Jesus said, 'If anyone loves me they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.'



RESPONSE

Lord, St Scholastica was a great woman of **faith** and **excellence**. She **aspired** to be like you in every aspect of her life. May we take her example of **faith** to believe in you. May you show us our **vocation** as you led her to hers. Amen.

MISSION

Looking back on your week, where has God been present? Where have you shown or experienced the 4 school values mentioned in the prayer?

Enter today knowing that you are excellent and that there is a plan for your life.