

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

It has been one week since the tragic earthquake brought devastation Turkey and Syria leaving at least 20,000 people dead. Sometimes things like this challenge our **faith** and we ask how God can allow such atrocities to happen. We do not know the answer, but what we do know is that he is present in the **excellence** of those who are part of the rescue mission and he is with his suffering people.

WE LISTEN

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace,
who called you to his
eternal glory in Christ,
after you have
suffered a little while,
will himself restore you
and make you strong,
firm and steadfast.



MISSION

If you are able to, please make a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) who are working on the ground in Turkey and Syria helping the rescue and survival efforts. Every penny helps!

dec.org.uk

RESPONSE

Almighty God, in our distress and grief
help us to remember that you love us.

We do not understand why
this great disaster has happened
but help us to trust you.

Loving Lord,

for those who have died,
give them eternal rest
for those who are bereaved,
comfort and console them
for those who are hurt,
heal and strengthen them.

Lord God, enable us to help our suffering
brothers and sisters in whatever
way we can.

Heavenly Father be with us now and
always.
Amen.

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Let us be mindful that today, Valentines Day, is a hard day for some people. Not everyone feels loved or has someone to love them. Jesus' greatest commandment was that we should love each other and love God as we love ourselves. **YOU ARE LOVED.**

WE LISTEN to a song by Josh Groban telling us we are loved and not to give up.



RESPONSE

Lord Jesus, teach us to love. Help us to love others as you love us. Help us to love ourselves too, especially when we want to hide from who we are. May we always be mindful that we are precious in your eyes and that you want our **light to shine**.
Increase our ability to love.
Amen.

MISSION

Make sure that nobody is excluded from anything you do. If you know someone who is lonely or left out, invite them into your group today. Be there for each other. Love one another! Show **respect**.

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Last week was Children's Mental Health Week, however, our mental health is something that we should be mindful of every day, not just one week in the year. YOU are important, YOU are significant, YOU and all that you carry and bring with you matters.

WE LISTEN

Luke 12:6-7

Jesus said, 'Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.'



RESPONSE

Loving Jesus, when we don't see our value and worth, walk alongside us so that we know that we are loved more than we know.
Amen.

MISSION

Open your planner to a random day next week.

Write these words: ***I am important. I am significant. I matter.***

Let them be a reminder to you next week, and always, of how amazing you are.

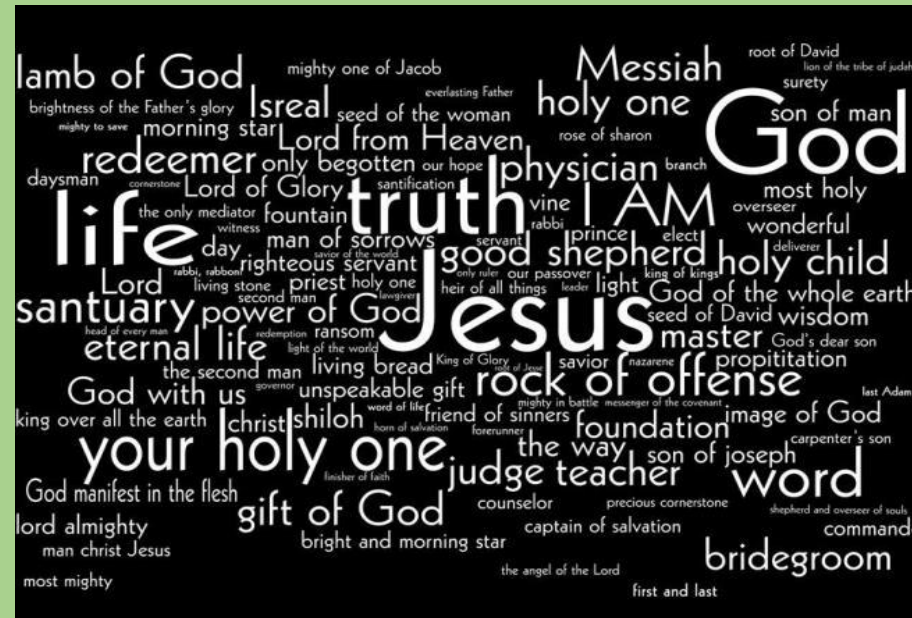
Let us also remember our school values of **respect** and **integrity** – therefore, we need to remember that others are important, significant and matter too. Be kind.

All through life, we are told about God and Jesus and how our Christian **faith** works and what we believe. However, in today's gospel, Jesus challenged his disciples. He threw a question out to them, "Who do you say I am?" Let us ponder that question today. Ask yourself who Jesus really is to you.

WE LISTEN

Mark 8:27-33

Jesus said to his disciples, 'But you, who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.'



RESPONSE

Father God, you sent your Son Jesus to be one of us, a human person, to show just how much you love us. Increase our faith in you so that we can love you with **integrity**.
Amen.

MISSION

Peter recognised that Jesus was in fact the Son of God, when others said that he was a prophet. Do you have the faith of Peter today to declare Jesus as the rock of your **faith**? Someone who you can depend on, who will never leave you, and will always be with you?

Ponder that question today – who is Jesus to you?

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It doesn't seem like five minutes ago since we were celebrating Christmas, however, when we return after half-term, we will be in the season of **Lent**. You may already be thinking about what you will give up for 6 weeks. Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday are next week! During Lent, as a school we will try and raise £4000 for CAFOD to build a health clinic to serve the remote communities of El Salvador.

WE LISTEN Matthew 5:16

Jesus said, 'In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'



RESPONSE

Father, open our hearts to the needs of others. Our theme this week has been those who suffer. Give us hearts of generosity and compassion and the **aspiration** to always want to help others before ourselves.
We make this prayer in your holy name.
Amen.

MISSION

Discuss as a class what you might do to help reach our target.
What will our liturgical colour change to during Lent?