

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

This year, the Christian season of Lent and Easter coincides with the Muslim month of Ramadan. This is the 9th month of the Islamic calendar where Muslims won't eat or drink during the hours of daylight.

WE LISTEN

"Social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other's point of view"

Pope Francis, in his letter Fratelli Tutti, shows the importance of **respect** to all people irrespective of their faith.



RESPONSE

Dear God,
We thank you for the many and diverse peoples and traditions within our school and community. Open our eyes to see that our common humanity is more important than our differences. We pray for all those celebrating Lent and Ramadan at this time. Amen

MISSION

There are clear similarities between the month of Ramadan and Lent. In both faiths, followers are asked to give up bad habits and instead focus on prayer and good deeds. As we enter our final week of the term, what will your good deed be? Who will benefit from this? How will it make you feel?

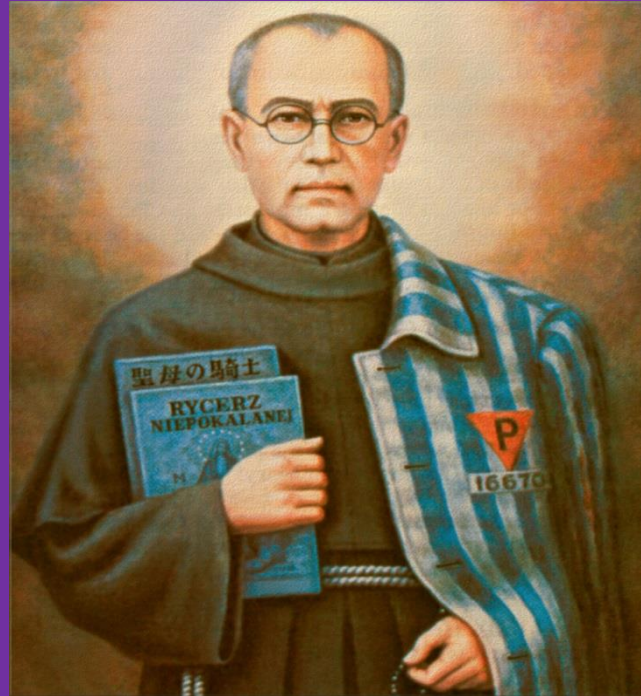
SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Our theme this week, as we approach the festival of Easter, is 'God is near'. Our prayers today and the remainder of this week will focus on examples of God acting, through his people, in the world.

WE LISTEN

"A single act of love makes the soul return to life"

St Maximilian Kolbe sacrificed his life for another man whilst imprisoned in Auschwitz. Kolbe's act of love and sacrifice was an example of God's love in the world, even amongst the horror of war.



RESPONSE

Dear God, may the example of Max Kolbe be present in our actions this week. As we approach the end of a term, we can feel tired and forget to show love. In times when we face difficulty, help us remember the sacrifice Max Kolbe made and recognise God's love for the world. Amen

MISSION

Be a person of **integrity** like Max Kolbe. Make all your actions loving today. Loving when we speak, loving when we listen, loving when we think and loving when we act.

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Our prayers today focus on the work of the Catholic charity, CAFOD. CAFOD was set up in the 1960's and over the last 60 years has served some of the most disadvantaged people on our planet. Your fundraising in Lent will support the tremendous work that they do, showing God is near.

WE LISTEN

CAFOD's work is based on the belief that we are all global neighbours.

Jesus taught us to "love our neighbour". When asked "who is our neighbour", Jesus taught the parable of the Good Samaritan to show that all people of all cultures, races and religion are our neighbours.



RESPONSE

God our refuge,
Be with all those who are fleeing
from danger.
May they find a warm welcome.
As we make our home in your
world,
fill us with an active love,
for all your children.
Amen

MISSION

Can you donate any of your time or even make a small donation to help raise funds for CAFOD this Lent? Thank you to all those who have done just this and helped our school community to act with **faith** and **integrity**.

SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GATHER

Today we focus on the staff leaving us this term. We take this opportunity to give thanks for all the people in this school that make a difference to our lives and show that God is near.

WE LISTEN

“Let us thank all those who work in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love and opens up life chances for all our young people”

Pope Francis



RESPONSE

We give thanks for the work of all those who contribute to the running of our schools. We thank them for their hard work and dedication and we pray that they may continue to work in support of our schools.

Amen

MISSION

Before you finish for your Easter holidays, thank an adult in school that has made a difference to you. It may be something such as making you smile, helping you to overcome a problem or simply being someone that you **respect**.

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Today we look forward to the next weekend at the start of Easter. The events of Easter, namely the death and resurrection of Jesus remind us that God is near.

WE LISTEN

“Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in **heaven**”

Matthew 5:16



RESPONSE

Dear God,
When things seem dark and difficult, help us
to remember that your love shone through.
As we celebrate the festival of Easter, we
give thanks for your sacrifice and for those
who sacrifice for us each and every day.
May the hope of the resurrection inspire us
to always '**let our light shine**'.

Amen

MISSION

Have a safe and happy Easter holiday. For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, we pray that your revision helps prepare you for the exam period and brings you success. Enjoy your break and come back refreshed and recharged.