

# Taylor High

Cluster Newsletter 2019

## *The Relics of St. Therese of Lisieux*

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August, in one of the most significant moments in the history of Carfin Grotto, the relics of St. Therese of Lisieux were taken in procession from St. Teresa's Church in Newarthill to St. Francis Xavier Church, Carfin accompanied by North Lanarkshire Council Pipe Band.

Senior students from Taylor High School had the extraordinary privilege of carrying the reliquary of St. Therese from St. Teresa's Church to the vehicle for transportation to Carfin and then from the vehicle into St. Francis Xavier Church to the specially prepared catafalque.

Accompanying senior students also carried flags and a banner of St. Therese and a Fourth Year class walked in the procession accompanied by school staff. In St. Francis Xavier Church, Mass was celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Toal for staff and students from all schools in Motherwell Diocese. Monsignor Taylor, the architect of Carfin Grotto was the first person to publicise the writings of St. Therese in English and was also associated with her canonisation as a saint of the Catholic Church. The school's motto is 'Que tout soit pour Dieu' which translates as 'May All Things Be For God'. This was a prayer closely associated with St. Therese which was also publicised by Monsignor Taylor.

The involvement of staff and pupils from the school in this event, arguably the most important the Catholic Church has seen since the visit of Pope Benedict to Scotland in 2010, has been a huge privilege for which the school is very grateful. This will resonate down the years as a major landmark in the history of Taylor High School and one which, it is anticipated, will be a catalyst for young people associated with the school for a long time to come. Photos can be found on our Twitter account

**@TaylorHS1982**





## **Catholic Education Week**

**Saturday 16th to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

**THEME: "Promoting Gospel Values"**



# ROME

A group of 23 pupils and three members of staff took part in a pilgrimage to Rome at the end of September this year.

A highlight of the trip was the group's visit to Rome's four major basilicas, the four highest-ranking Roman Catholic churches, all of which are also "Papal basilicas". These are the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, St. Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore.



The trip also included celebrating Mass at the tomb of St Peter, and attending the weekly papal audience. Rome has many historic sites and the Taylor party also visited a number of these including the Colosseum and the forum. There was some time to relax and sample Italy's famous gelato as well visiting the seaside to see the medieval town of Nettuno, where a visit to the American war cemetery gave the group the chance to learn about the Allied landings which took place in the town in WWII.

A great time was had by all!

## ST. ANDREW'S HOSPICE 6K FUN RUN

Staff and pupils once again represented the school with distinction at the annual St. Andrew's Hospice Lanarkshire Schools 6K Challenge held at Strathclyde Park on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Cara Baldwin finished first in the female pupils' category! Very well done to everyone who took part and showed off our brand new school t-shirts! The Hospice also made a point to commend our well-mannered pupils and how environmentally responsible they were when they helped with picking up the rubbish. All funds raised by those who took part went to the Hospice

Photographs can be found on our Twitter account @TaylorHS1982.



## Season of Advent

During Advent we will be collecting a wide range of non-perishable foods for distribution in food parcels to those in need shortly before Christmas. This includes all kinds of tinned foods, packets, sugar, tea bags, sweets, cakes etc. Please give generously!



## Caritas

A significant number of students, once again, are undertaking the Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award which includes a range of activities including writing, reflecting and a commitment to both school and parish activities.



## Christ The King Primary School Promoting Gospel Values



In Christ The King Primary School we believe Social, Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development are of great importance and we foster this is by promoting our 'Gospel Values' in all that we do, think and say.

Our policies, procedures and daily teaching are underpinned by these values as is rooted in the teaching of Christ, these Gospel Values constitute the vision and aims of the educational experience that all children receive when they attend Christ The King Catholic Primary School.



Prayer and Worship in our school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God. It is our loving response, in word and action, to God's invitation to enter into relationship with Him, made possible through the work of Jesus Christ and the witness of the Holy Spirit. It is an integral part of the life of our school, putting Christ at the centre of education, helping to create and sustain our strong Catholic ethos and identity.

We Promote Gospel Values in our school through our weekly assembly, whole school prayer, class worship are based around the Gospel Values, which forms an important focus in the daily life of our school.

### Missio Champions

This year our newly appointed Missio Champions have been leading us spiritually through prayer and setting an example in the way they encourage us to be more Christ like - helping those who are most vulnerable.



### Pope Francis Faith Award



Our pupils who are part of this award are working hard to deepen their faith through prayer and service.

### Lenten Charities

During Lent we time to have fun and raise money for charity. Our charitable donations help us to reach the wider world, helping those in need.

During Catholic Education Week we focused on the lessons taught by the Beatitudes we explore what it means to be blessed and show us the attitudes that followers of Jesus should have. We strive to show Courage, creativity, thankfulness, responsibility, compassion, peace, service, justice, trust, hope, love, forgiveness, friendship, humility, generosity and reverence and respect in all that we do daily.





## Our Lady and St Francis Primary School



In Our Lady and St Francis we promote the Gospel Values every day and inspire others to do the same. Our pupils and staff develop their faith and reflect the Gospel Values through our actions and God's call to love one another. We work together with the community and our church as we learn about our faith and strive to live like Jesus.

Throughout the year the children generously give to charities such as MISSIO, SCIAF, Mary's Meals, The Beatson and the Royal Hospital for Children. The children have also decided to ensure they support the less fortunate in our local area by giving to the food bank and donating items such as warm clothing.

Our children and staff show their faith through attendance at Sunday Mass, Lenten masses, visits to the church and grotto and, during this season of advent, we will come together as a faith community every week to light our advent wreath. This shows a true love of God and a commitment to our faith.

We continue to go to First Friday Mass and afterwards we host a coffee morning for friends, family and parishioners. We are a welcoming and inclusive school and believe we have fostered wonderful relationships with our parents and community by sharing our faith journey. We will also open our doors to the community for other opportunities this year, such as the school nativity, sing-a-longs, curriculum nights, the day of dance, sports days and our end of the year show, Beauty and the Beast.

Our candidates for the Pope Francis Faith Award have worked hard over the last year and we are delighted to enrol our Primary 6 classes this year. Four of our Primary 4 children have been selected this year to become MISSIO Champions and we support the work of MISSIO throughout the whole year.



We were excited to welcome the Relics of St Therese of Lisieux into our Parish. Our whole school celebrated this by lining the road to the church and waving flags. It was a blessed and special occasion that our staff and children will never forget.

As a school we will continue to promote the Gospel Values in our words and actions and we are committed to the celebration of our Catholic Faith.





## St Mary's Primary School Catholic Education Week 2019 Promoting Gospel Values



During Catholic Education Week in St Mary's Primary School, we have been focused on the theme of 'Promoting Gospel Values.' Every class in the school has reflected on The Beatitudes and used the resources supplied by the Scottish Catholic Education Service to support the delivery of their lessons. As a school, we strive to develop the whole child which emphasizes the importance of spiritual development where we will put Jesus at the centre of everything we do. Although this is a focus for this year's Catholic Education week we regularly reflect on how Jesus shows us how to live the values we learn from his teaching and how we can do that in our school and local community. On a daily basis we try to live out Jesus' teaching as we explore what it means to be blessed and show how, as followers of Jesus, we should treat each other and interact with each other. Through daily prayer, weekly assemblies and specific religious events, we focus on how we can live as Jesus asks us to.

### Links with Parish Community



At both Sunday Masses on 24<sup>th</sup> November at St Mary's parish, pupils from St Mary's Primary played an active part in the liturgy by presenting the gifts of bread and wine at the offertory procession. A former pupil from St Mary's from Taylor High School delivered information to the congregation on the importance of attending Catholic Schools in his educational journey. Members from the Senior Leadership Team from both Taylor High and St Mary's attended the services to reinforce the faith triangle of School, Parish and Home. During Lent every class visits the church to reflect on the Stations of the Cross which is led by Fr. O'Connor. Fr. O'Connor supports our community by working with the school to allow the children to receive the sacraments. Last year the children in the school received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. The sacrament of Confirmation was administered by Bishop Toal. We attend First Friday Masses with a class leading these Masses. This involves children doing the readings, Gospel Acclamation, prayers of the faithful and taking the gifts in the offertory.

### Pope Francis Faith Award

We now have a group of Primary 7 and Primary 6 children working their way through the Pope Francis Faith Award. We hope the children completing this award will inspire our school community by showing how they are using the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the school, at home and in their parish.

## Catholic Education Week - Cluster Mass

The Primary 6 and Primary 7 children had the privilege of joining all the other associated primaries to celebrate Mass as the community of Taylor High cluster. The children from every associated primary and the high school read a prayer of intercession and took part in the offertory. We were very grateful to Fr Delaney who is a former pupil of St Mary's Primary for leading us in this celebration.



## Relics of St Therese of Lisieux

As part of the diocesan celebrations of welcoming the Relics of St Therese of Lisieux, we attended the Mass which welcomed the relics to Scotland. As well as the 2 children who attended the Mass, the pupils in the school studied the life of St Therese and learned the hymn dedicated to this momentous event. A number of children also attended services and prayed at the relics over the period of time they were in St Francis Xavier's Church.



## Charities



Over the course of the year we support a variety of charitable organisations. Our charitable donations this session have focused on supporting local and national charities. Locally we have supported a nearby food bank. This was a great success and David Shaw was delighted to receive our donations. We also had a collection to help the homeless in our local area. During Lent we raised money for SCIAF to reach out to people throughout the world in need of help.

## St. Andrew's Hospice Ambassadors

Pupils from St Mary's have worked closely with staff from St Andrew's Hospice to raise funds and awareness of the work the charity does for people in our local area. Scott from the hospice led an assembly to let the whole school understand the work the hospice does. The Ambassadors give of their time to sell tickets for the tombola and have recently manned a staff at the Christmas Fayre to sell St Andrew's Hospice goods. Children also participated in the Teddy Bear Picnic and Wear Yellow Walk to raise money to assist St. Andrew's Hospice.



Our daily interactions are underpinned by the Gospel values. Not only through delivering This Is Our Faith in formal Religious Education lessons where we reflect on the teaching of Christ, but Gospel Values permeate everything we do in school. Thus allowing the children to experience the living example of Jesus' teaching as they attend St. Mary's Primary School so we grow as a community of Faith and Learning.







## St Patrick's Primary School 'Promoting Gospel Values'



During Catholic Education Week as a school community we promote gospel values by living, praying, celebrating and professing our faith in a variety of ways e.g. by sharing, helping and being kind to others - and in so doing we share our faith with others.

The parents who have entrusted their children to us, can be confident in the knowledge that we aim to help our children to develop and grow to become happy, well-adjusted members of society in a caring Catholic environment.

This caring environment is the result of the Gospel being lived, prayed, celebrated and professed in our school, and is achieved by instilling in our children the legacy of the values demonstrated in the teachings of Jesus and His Church. We teach by example and work towards creating a community of faith and love that is nurtured by the values of Jesus, which He so beautifully described in the Beatitudes.

It is central to children's educational development that all the experiences that we provide for our children on a daily basis, contribute to their personal search for the meaning, value and purpose in life. The loving actions and values that are encouraged in our children are the direct effect of our faith in Jesus Christ and our desire to love others as He asked us to do.

This year we will be encouraging our children to continue to proclaim the gospel. Last session they proclaimed the gospel by helping and raising funds for St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society and Mary's Meals. Nearer home the children participated in the Teddy Bear Picnic and Yellow Walk to raise money, awareness and to assist St. Andrew's Hospice.

We regularly gather as a school community to pray in school and to celebrate Mass in our parish of St John Bosco.

Our children learn to respect and cherish diversity while working towards helping the needy and less fortunate in our own community and beyond. The school regularly contributes to SCIAF, Missio and to the needy in our local community with the help of the SVDP society who distribute our Advent hampers each year.

Primary 6 & 7 pupils will continue to participate in the Pope Francis Faith Award.





## St. Teresa's Primary School

In St. Teresa's Primary School, Gospel Values permeate the ethos of our school. The school vision underpins our belief in this inclusive, caring, nurturing and respectful environment. We use our mascots, Rosie and Professor Hound, to encourage the children to relate and respond to this vision.



Our children work hard in many ways, to live out Gospel Values in their daily routines. We have a very well established Missio Committee, initiated by the children, and now supported by the recent addition of our Missio Champions. These children were commissioned by Bishop Toal, to promote the work of this pontifical body and raise funds to support children in missionary lands. They meet regularly, to discuss ways of promoting this important cause. One such recent fundraising initiative involved the children running a successful Missio stall, selling handmade gifts, religious colouring books and medals. In addition to the Missio Champions, we are also proud to have our very own Mini Vinnie's Society. This children's arm of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, have been working hard this term, to gather items for the needy and less fortunate in our community, as part of the Secret Santa Appeal.

We continue to show our faith commitment, through attendance at Sunday Mass, Lenten Masses, pastoral retreat days and Advent services. Our children enjoy participating in the Sunday Mass, especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent. Many of them read, altar serve and represent our school community in various ways, for which we are truly grateful. The active participation in parish life is something which we are keen to encourage and promote in St. Teresa's Primary School. Our current primary 7 children are working towards achieving the Pope Francis Faith Award. We wish to encourage them in this great act of service to the community.



Earlier this school session we were delighted to be able to welcome the Relics of St. Therese to our parish. There was a real feeling of euphoria within the school community, and all children enjoyed lining the street and waving their flags, as the cortege carrying our patron saint went past. Many of our children were also present at the Mass in St. Francis Xavier's Church, in honour of St. Therese of Lisieux. This was indeed a great honour for the children of Newarthill, who enjoyed learning about the "Little Way" of this great saint! As a school community, we will continue to promote the Gospel Values in our words and actions. We hope that the visit of the Relics of St. Therese will inspire the hearts and minds of all our young people.

