

FIRST TEACHERS

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS IN YOUR CHILDRENS LIVES!
OCTOBER 2023

Dear parents and guardians, welcome to our first edition of the school year, we hope all your children are settling in well to their new classes! This newsletter aims to support and encourage the real community of faith that our Catholic schools commit to, by outlining the faith focus for this time in the church's year. We will look at some of the ways we, at home (and in our parishes), can celebrate and practise our faith as families. Our schools aim to be not merely places of practical learning, but a space where the integral personal development of our children is nurtured and sustained. Praying and practising our faith with our children at home is one of the very best gifts we can give them, reinforcing and bolstering the faith that our children are learning in school.

The Rosary



We are entering October, a month in the liturgical year dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Holy Rosary is a simple, yet deep and meaningful prayer which can lead us, as children, adults and families, to the heart of our faith. It can help us to contemplate and explore those events which form the core of our belief and is therefore a wonderful prayer to include in faith life within our home, together as a family. For those just beginning to pray together or wanting to try it out, it provides an instant structure to start with. Learning to pray in front of others can be a vulnerable experience and having a clear focus in the Rosary can really help everyone feel more comfortable. For others it can add a new dimension to prayer life together as there are many ways to pray the rosary, a decade a day, one of the mysteries per week, whatever is manageable with the ages and stages of our children! October the 7th is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and Aid to the Church in Need's '1 million children pray the rosary' is on Wednesday the 18th October and they have a website explaining the purpose of their prayer mission and how to get involved [Million Children Praying \(acninternational.org\)](http://Million Children Praying (acninternational.org)). These two dates provide perfect opportunities to introduce the rosary into our home lives. The charity Missio also have a lovely resource describing how to pray The Mission Rosary, with a focus on praying for the whole world, especially for those who are poor and vulnerable which could also be tied in with World Mission Sunday How-to-pray-the-Rosary.pdf . Please take a look at the further resources below for ideas for the rosary at home and remember no start is too small!

[Month of the Rosary Schedule by week.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[Meditations-for-the-Mysteries-of-the-Rosary-for-Young-People.pdf \(holymfamilyparish.org\)](#)

[How to Pray the Rosary for Kids - TheCatholicKid.com](#)

The Missions

October World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on 22 October this year. Pope Francis has been inspired by the story of Jesus and his disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-15) to form the theme of the day, **'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'**. In his message, Pope Francis said that coming to know Jesus through the scriptures and the Eucharist should fill Catholics with enthusiasm to joyfully share the Gospel with others. We are



all called by Jesus, to mission, in this way, and not to simply leave sharing our faith to those who we deem worthy or qualified. We live in a world where it can feel difficult to make an impact or a difference to the lives of others, yet World Mission Sunday offers a great chance to explore ways in which we can do this. How can we nurture a love of Scripture and the Eucharist in order that the joy that we find may shine out to others? Luke describes the journey of the Disciples on the road to Emmaus, **"as they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them" (v. 15)** We can talk and discuss the bible together in our homes and experience Jesus drawing nearer to us. We can give our children the opportunity to experience the Eucharist through Holy Communion and Adoration. With Jesus walking beside us we can hope to share that joy, peace and fulfilment with whomever we encounter. Pope Francis says, **'So let us always be willing to let ourselves be accompanied by the Risen Lord as he explains to us the meaning of the Scriptures. May he make our hearts burn within us; may he enlighten and transform us, so that we can proclaim his mystery of salvation to the world with the power and wisdom that come from his Spirit.'** You can read the Pope's message on World Mission Sunday, in full, here www.vatican.va/missions . There is also more information and resources on Missio's website for primary and secondary age children, linked below.

[PRIMARY SCHOOLS | Missio Scotland](#)

[HIGH SCHOOLS | Missio Scotland](#)

Finally, the Marriage and Family Life Commission would like to invite you to a Family Day with Mary on Sunday the 29th October at St. John's in Barrhead, 2pm-4pm. There will be activities and refreshments with a focus on the Rosary and Our Lady finishing with Mass celebrated by Bishop John Keenan. All ages are most welcome! We hope all your families grow together in the love and peace of the Lord this season.

[Diocese of Paisley | Marriage & Family | Paisley, UK \(rcdop.org.uk\)](http://rcdop.org.uk)