

Chaplaincy Newsletter

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Saintly Inspirations

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus - Feast Day October

Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin was born on 2nd January 1873 in Lisieux, France. Thérèse felt an early call to religious life, and overcoming various obstacles, in 1888 at the early age of 15, she became a nun and joined two of her older sisters in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux, Normandy. After nine years as a Carmelite nun, having fulfilled various offices such as sacristan and assistant to the novice mistress, Thérèse died at the age of 24, from tuberculosis. Thérèse has been a highly influential model of sanctity for Catholics and for others because of the simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life. Together with Francis of Assisi, she is one of the most popular saints in the history of the church. Pope Pius X called her "the greatest saint of modern times".

Also known as Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, she is widely known as "The Little Flower of Jesus", or simply "The Little Flower." She is the patron saint of Missionaries; France; Russia; florists and gardeners; loss of parents and tuberculosis.



St Faustina Kowalska - Feast Day October 5th



Helena Kowalska was born in Kowalska, Poland on 25th August 1905. She was the third of ten children of Stanisław Kowalski and Marianna Kowalska. Her father was a carpenter and a peasant, and the family was poor and religious. She later stated that she first felt a calling to the religious life while she attended the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the age of seven. She wanted to enter the convent after she had completed her time at school, but her parents would not give her permission. When she was 16, she went to work as a housekeeper. Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with him, which she noted in her diary, later published as *The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

Her apparitions of Jesus Christ inspired the Roman Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy and earned her the title of "Secretary of Divine Mercy". At the age of 20 years, she joined a convent in Warsaw. She was later transferred to Płock and then to Vilnius, where she met Father Michał Sopoćko, who was to be her confessor and who supported her devotion to the Divine Mercy.

With this priest's help, Sister Faustina commissioned an artist to paint the first Divine Mercy image, based on her vision of Jesus. Saint Faustina died on the 5th October 1938 at just 33 years old.

Chaplaincy News.....

A huge thank you to Ms Haughey who organised a collection for Macmillan on Friday morning. Unfortunately, we were unable to sell cakes but we did have a staff collection and our Memory Tree. If any student would like to add a name of a friend or loved one who has gone through, or is going through treatment for cancer, or who had cancer and is no longer with us, please come to the Chapel and fill out a label.



All Things for Christ

Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

"I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

"Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

This Gospel is very familiar to us. It is the parable of the man who had two sons. The father told his first son to do the work that was needed in the vineyard. The first son absolutely refused to do as his father requested. I can easily imagine the father's reaction. I am sure he was not pleased with this son's refusal. Later, however, the son changed his mind and did go to work in the fields. What was it that caused him to change his mind? We simply don't know.

The father then went to his younger son and asked him to work in the vineyard. The younger son told his father that he would go and work in the fields. However, the younger son did not follow through. After his father left him, he changed his mind and decided not to work in the vineyard. Who knows what he did instead! I wonder if he felt guilty for not doing what he said he would do?

I assume that we, too, have been in the position of both sons. At times we may feel that God is asking us to enter into a task or situation that we truly do not want to deal with. Initially we also may refuse or at least hesitate to say yes. Hopefully with time and grace we also may come to a place of acceptance and say yes to what God seems to be asking of us. It may take us some time to get to that place of acceptance, but God promises to strengthen and grace us. Let us pray for the grace to trust God in these moments.

Harvest Collection

Next week we will be, as a school, looking at our obligation to acknowledge and help meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in the local community. Our assemblies will focus on what Jesus has taught us about looking after each other and how we can do this in a very practical way.

We will be having a special collection for both the local foodbank and the Acton Homeless Shelter. Please see the list of items needed listed below, and if you can, buy something extra for our collection this weekend. Items will be collected from Monday 5th to Friday 9th October.

- BISCUITS - SWEET AND SAVOURY
- LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE AND SQUASH
- TINNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES
- TINNED SOUP
- VEGETARIAN CHILL, CURRY, PIES (FRAY BENTOS)
- KETCHUP & MAYO
- TINNED FISH
- INSTANT DRINKING CHOCOLATE
- SHOWER GEL/HAIR SHAMPOO
- NAPPIES – Size 4, 5 & 6

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

Throughout October we look forward to welcoming students into the Chapel to say the Rosary together



Our Lady of the Rosary
Pray for Us