

# Chaplaincy Newsletter

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## *Saintly Inspirations*

### *St Catherine of Siena - Feast Day April 29th*



St Catherine was born in Siena, Italy on March 25th 1347 during the outbreak of the plague. She was one of 25 children although half of her siblings did not survive childhood. Catherine visited hospitals and the homes of the poor and sick. She became involved with politics and was instrumental in restoring the Papacy to Rome. Catherine is credited with composing over 400 letters, her dialogue and prayers. These works were so influential that Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church.

### *St Joseph the Worker - Feast Day May 1st*

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture. We know he was a carpenter and a working man. We know he wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb. Despite his humble work and means we know that Joseph came from a royal lineage, the house of David. We also know from scripture that Joseph was a compassionate, caring man and that he loved Jesus greatly. Since Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or resurrection, many historians believe Joseph probably had died before Jesus entered public ministry. The feast of Joseph the Worker is also May Day (International Workers' Day) and believed to reflect Joseph's status as the patron of workers.



Joseph is also the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.

## **Chaplaincy News.....**



Congratulations to the schools Justice and Peace group. The group had organised an Easter Raffle for the British Heart Foundation. Despite their plans to advertise and sell tickets being disrupted due to the early school closure they still raised an amazing £116.50 for the charity.

A big thank you to the Maths Department for organising a tea/coffee morning for staff to celebrate National Pi Day. The department raised £81.97 for the charity SAMI (Supporting African Maths Initiatives).

The Faith in Art group, with the help of Miss Simms, have created the Journey of Matthew (Matthews Gospel) in pictures. The work has been done in recognition of the 'Year of the God who speaks'. We are all looking forward to the work being displayed in the Chapel on our return to school.

### **Prayer for Eastertide**

Dear Lord,  
May we realize afresh what  
Your death and resurrection  
mean for us. Forgiveness,  
freedom and the ability to  
walk with You.

May we always find  
satisfaction in You and Your  
willingness to offer Yourself  
to us

We ask this in Jesus name  
Amen

**All Things for Christ**

**John 10 1:10** *Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.*

*Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus identifies himself as a shepherd. A shepherd was an individual who spent most of his life with his sheep. It was his responsibility to protect and lead his sheep. The shepherd also made sure the sheep had sufficient water to drink and grass to eat. He protected them from wolves and other predators. A shepherd's life was a lonely life. For weeks, the shepherd's only companions were his sheep. Since his sheep were his closest companions he loved them and came to know them well. He knew which sheep were docile and which were unruly and stubborn. He knew the ones that would follow him and the ones who would try to go their own way. Yet, the shepherd loved them all equally and was committed to caring for each of them, even the aggravating ones.

Jesus is our shepherd, Jesus sticks with us no matter what. He is committed to caring for us and leading us. Jesus comes and finds us when we are lost and afraid. Jesus will keep looking for us until he finds us. However, do we have the same strong bond with Jesus as the sheep have with their shepherd? Do we recognise Jesus' voice when he calls us? Do we listen for his voice? Do we trust that Jesus will protect us at all costs?

Today may we take time to thank Jesus for loving us so deeply. May we also thank Jesus for his tender care and protection. Jesus is our shepherd, we can depend on him always.

## Mary's Month of May



**Why is the month of May dedicated to Mary?**

*"The month of May is ... a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne."*

Above is an extract from an encyclical written by Pope Paul VI and published in 1965, titled *Mense Maio* ("The Month of May") which details the Church's special devotion to Mary during May. It is common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during this time, and many parishes erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of her special month.

**REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.**

**All Things for Christ**