

Hi my name is Emilia and I am a P7 Chaplain.

Our Faith in Action group chose to focus on quote 10 “Along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to create larger strategies to stop environmental poverty and to encourage a culture of care which permeates all of society.

I am going to talk about what we have been learning. In November our Rights Respecting Ambassadors led the school in an assembly about equity and equality. We discussed how important this was and with the help of the ambassadors were able to given examples of how this is achieved in our school. Some of these are

- disabled toilet and carpark spacing
- yellow lines on stairs for our visual impaired,
- resources in school for dyslexia pupils to (Nessy, colour over lays, dyslexia friendly novels tinted pages and spaced out lettering.)
- P.E. equipment (Different sized rackets)
- Sports Day some pupils with mobility difficulties start a little further ahead from the start line.
- The Nook for children who have difficulty in the classroom.

P7 also studied the novel ‘Boy at Back of the Class’ where we learned about Asylum seekers and some of the prejudices that society hold against them. We also studied ‘A kind of Spark’ where we learned more about autism which gave us knowledge and enabled us to understand and have more patience and kindness towards others with differences. The study of novels really links well with our Lauadto Si quote as it incorporates ‘social love’

Every year we celebrate St Joseph’s Day on the 19th March. However this year as well this celebration we also celebrated St Joseph the worker. Everyone thought about what career they would like to have and dressed like this for the day! Some teachers even dressed as what

they would have been if they had not been a teacher. We had great fun and all met in the hall. Mrs Dennis then played music and if that suited your profession you danced in the middle. Frank Sinatra's Come Fly with me for the flight attendants and pilots, Rocket man for the astronauts were to name a few of the songs! Some parents also delivered talks to the some classes about their careers. Some teachers also shared their journey into teaching.

Most recently Mrs Dennis and two P5 children attended the Laudato Si annual Conference for Scotland in Winchburgh. They listened to talks about Loss and Damage from Ben from SCIAF who raised issues of the richest countries causing the most climate change damage yet it is the poorest countries who cause the least amount of damage but suffer the most severe consequences. They also listened to Jane from Justice and Peace who spoke about the environmental impact our clothes have on the planet. We hope to invite her in our school soon as it was very interesting.

They learned how important it was to campaign and heard from a young woman who has campaigned for 18months successfully about the abolishment of sales of disposable vapes. They learned that not all components can be recycled and the battery in them can be. They learned that 500million are dumped in the UK a day!

Two weeks ago we linked Laudato Si to the 17 Global Goals. We mixed all of the classes and each mixed class leaned 3 goals. They then made a poster about the goal and presented these at the afternoon assembly. Now all the children know about the 17 Global Goals that are linked to Laudato Si.

My name is Jack and I am a P7 Chaplain. I am going to talk about Pray. Every class in the school is responsible for leading Mass at St Joseph's Parish Church. Parents and Parishioners are invited to this Mass. We do all of the readings, offertory, serving and greet parishioners by handing them our personalised Mass order of service. The class then join the parishioners after Mass down stairs for teas, coffees and cake. Once we even had a man come and play the guitar the parishioners then taught us how to do the slosh!

Every feast day our St Joseph Shrine (which is the original shrine from the original school, so it is almost 100 years old!) Is opened at the front entrance and all children have to walk that way and bless ourselves. A card is placed next to the shrine with the Saint of whose feast day it is. Often we go back to class and research this saint as sometimes they are unfamiliar to us! We also remember that saint for the day in our prayers.

Our faith in Action Group also led us in prayer during Advent and Lent by leading the assemblies. They also had us make a peace chain, each child had to write an act of kindness on the paper chain. Again linking to our quote of 'little everyday gestures'

In February P7 attended the Church hall for a very special Retreat. The focus of this was 'Letting God's Light Shine Through us.' We spoke empathy for others. P7 pupils participated in activities where they highlighted their, God Given Talents, strengths and how these shine through them and how they use them. They had guest speaker who spoke about his faith journey. Our teachers shared their faith journey and spoken openly about some of their struggles they have overcome in their lives. We were then given an envelope and told to sit in a quiet place away from each other. Inside the envelope were messages from home from our parents, expressing their love and hope for us in the future. It was a really special

rememberable day. We have all kept our letters in a safe place at home and will treasure these forever.

Primary four children also went on a retreat, they all visited Schoenstatt as part of their sacramental preparation for their First Holy Communion. The theme was meeting Jesus in the Eucharist discussing why Jesus is so important to us. They heard a story from the Bible, went on a treasure hunt and visited the shrine. They learned that this shrine for Schoenstatt is the same all over the world. They left prayers there.

My name is Jessica, I am in Primary 6 and a Faith in action ambassador. I am going to talk about Act. At St Joseph's we collect food for our local foodbank. This year we split items across our houses so each house was responsible for bringing in certain items. This was greatly appreciated. This linked to our quote to stop environmental poverty.

Our Friends of St Joseph continue to support our recycling of clothes by managing our Pupil uniform swap shop. Our Reading Ambassadors also organised a book swap during World Book Week. P7 organised and hosted their own toy sale where the money raised was split between their residential trip and charity.

During Easter Faith in Action raffled off an Easter egg every week during the last week we raffled off 2 eggs and a chocolate hamper. To save paper on raffle tickets we instead had children choose a number and we used a digital randomiser to pick the winning number. All the money raised went to SCIAF

Additionally, during lent P7 made Easter cards and left them for parishioners at Church. They also wrote letters about themselves, after Easter we discovered how much they had been appreciated. We had numerous responses. Everyone was really touched at the children's thoughtfulness and kindness of sending hand written letters. This again links to our quote encouraging of culture of care in society.

Our senior pupils have been rehearsing since January for a school production of Bugsy. Every child in the senior school has had a role to play in this! We have invited our local community along to the 3 performances too, showing again from the quote that everyday little gestures help our community.

Most recently our Faith in Action group worked with Antonine Primary helping our community. We did litter picking at the local park where local councillors also attended and helped clean the equipment there too. We worked together on a dog poo campaign as on our litter walk we counted 49 just on the path that both our schools use to walk to and from school and the park. We then wrote to Falkirk Council Waste Management officer Caitlin. She then came to our school where we invited Antonine and we created dog poo dispensers. Together we have attached these around our local area. Falkirk Herald also came and helped us advertise this issue. This act again links to our quote “culture of care for our society”

Next year our Faith in Action group hope to continue this good work and focus on quote 8 “Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act.” This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of the consumer.

Thank you for listening.