

A message from Fr. Etienne

The Parish of St John Vianney & St Monica are taking part in the prayer initiative of the charity 'life' for October. By tradition the Catholic Church dedicates the months of May and October to Our Blessed Mother, Mary the Mother of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As such, we venerate in Mary a Mother and because Mary is a Mother, and Our Mother also, we seek her guidance and intercession. This October 'Life' have asked for Chapels Our Lady to be designated as Memorial Chapels to those lives lost before birth and those lost in infancy. St John Vianney's Church remains open throughout the day so please take the opportunity to pray at the Lady Chapel for this intention, especially if such tragic loss affects you and your families. Please find a few minutes to pray there and feel free to take any literature that may help you.

Also on Friday 27th October at 6:30pm we will hold a Holy Hour at St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham Road for this intention. This time will be spent before Our Lord Jesus Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, His presence which remains to bring healing and consolation. This will be accompanied by a service organised by the 'Life' charity in Blackpool. Also Sunday Rosary and Benediction on 22nd and 29th October will be kept for this intention. This will take place at 3:30pm, all are most welcome to quietly come, no questions asked.

Best wishes

Fr. Etienne



Harvest

It is once again the time of year for our school harvest celebration. A celebration which enables us to be actively involved in helping members of our parish community. This year as part of our Harvest celebrations we would like to donate gift boxes to members of our parish who are in need. In order to create a variety of boxes, we have organised the year groups to collect different items.

Has Amanda sent this to you for the main newsletter? Would it be better going here?

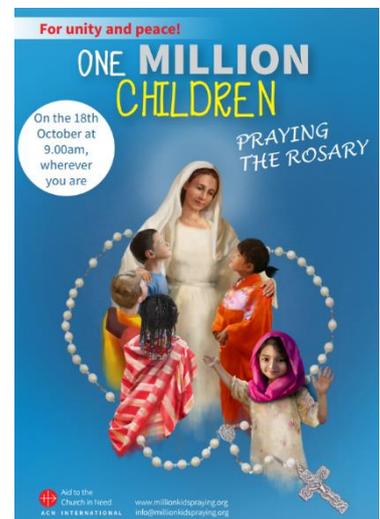
Please ensure any donations are brought into school by Monday 23rd October at the latest to allow time to prepare the gift boxes. We thank you in anticipation of your kind support.



The Rosary

October is the month of the rosary, which we dedicate to our Mother, Mary. Every year on the 18th October, one million children around the world pray the Holy Rosary. This is an initiative supported and promoted by Aid to the Church in Need. The idea began in Caracas, Venezuela and grew to be a national project of the Venezuelan Church – ‘One Million Children Praying the Rosary.’ The idea was to introduce children to praying the Rosary and to ask them to pray particularly for personal peace and family peace, as well as unity and peace throughout the world. Aid to the Church in Need has supported this project since 2008 by printing and distributing materials, which has helped it to grow from a Venezuelan idea into a worldwide prayer campaign.

This year at St. John Vianney, we will be dedicating Wednesday the 18th to the Rosary by engaging in a variety of fun activities and learning to make it a meaningful experience for the children. If you child or family has any rosary beads that you can donate, we would be very grateful. Please send your rosary beads to school in a named sandwich bag/small box. We will ensure these are returned to you after the Rosary celebrations.



Sacramental Programmes

A huge thank you to all those of you who have returned your sacramental programme reply slips. We will be sending further details about the programme shortly. If you are in Year 5 and didn't receive any of the sacraments last year, you are more than welcome to join the programme this year. This also stands for children in Year 6 who have older siblings that would like to take the sacrament of confirmation. Please see Mrs Acton or let your child's class teacher know. If you would like further information about what the sacraments are, then please do not hesitate to speak with Fr. Etienne who will gladly advise you.



Reception Welcome Meeting

Father Etienne will be coming into school on Thursday 19th October at 2:30pm to welcome parents to the parish of St John Vianney and give a general talk about Catholic life. It would be wonderful to see you all there.



Class Masses and Gospel Readings

We are currently beginning our class masses for KS2 children, which take place during the school day. These experiences enable the children to become familiar with 'the mass' as they take part in the preparations with their class teacher. For children in Key Stage 1, Father Etienne visits school and engages in a shared reading of the Gospel of the Day and discusses its meaning with the children. In the Foundation Stage, children have the opportunity to explore articles of religious significance such as the cross and rosary beads. From the Spring Term, we will extend these experiences to parents. Watch this space!

