

The Virtue of Faith

MORNING PRAYERS

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Over the school year we will devote a week of Morning Prayers to reflect on each of the Virtues which help you grow towards God, and properly form your character so that you can freely, easily and joyfully accomplish what is good.

This week, we begin with the Virtue of Faith.

Saint John Henry Newman, our Founder in England, defined each of the Virtues very well, and we have his definitions to accompany each of the pictures which illustrate the Virtues in the windows above St Philip's Library.

Newman defined Faith as *'The mind's perception of heavenly things, arising from trust in the truth of the word'*.

In other words, Faith enables you to *accept* God, to accept his Word as the truth, and to commit yourself to him.

It is a gift, a present, offered to you by God.

All you need to do is accept that gift into your heart when it is offered, and trust in God's promise that he will bring true happiness.

PRAYERS

Jesus said: *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life"*

Let us ask him to give us an increase in the gift of faith, so that we can follow in his way.

Lord, hear us...

We ask God to be with us in the week ahead;

May our studies bear good fruit.

Lord, hear us...

St. Philip: Pray for us.

House Saint: Pray for us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Virtue of Faith

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

The gift of Faith is often associated with sight and vision: We talk about people '*seeing with the light of faith*'. In St Philip's library, look at the picture of Faith painted by Giotto. He imagines Faith as a figure looking into the distance, looking over our heads, while holding the Cross and the Scriptures in his hands.

Our Faith is founded upon what we hear of God in the Scriptures and Gods love for us symbolised in the Cross. Then in faith, we can 'see beyond' all earthly concerns which drag us downwards.

The Pope compares the 'Light of Faith' to a stained glass window in an ancient church: Stained glass windows tell a story. The light comes into the church through those coloured pictures in the glass, pictures which tell the story of our salvation. In the same way, God's light comes to you through the story of his saving love for you.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis and for the Bishops of the world;
May they be inspired to open our eyes to the beauty of the faith we profess together.
Lord, hear us...

We pray for those who represent us in Parliament and lead us in Government.
May they lead us towards what is truly good.
Lord, hear us...

St. Philip: Pray for us. House Saint: Pray for us.
In the name of the Father...

The Virtue of Faith

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

The Scriptures, as well as giving examples to us of faith, also describe what it is like to have no faith in God.

They say that those without faith substitute faith in God for faith in something which is not God.

In other words, they risk becoming idol worshippers.

It has been said that those who choose not to put their trust in God, must instead hear the noise of countless idols whispering: "put your trust in me."

For all of us, man-made idols compete for our attention, but we discover that none provide true happiness, because we end up realizing that idols are man-made.

We think of life as a journey.

With faith, you journey away from yourself, towards a particular destination which God provides for us.

Without faith, your journeys can end up being return journeys; they end up leading nowhere but back inside of yourself.

PRAYERS

Let us ask God for the gift of faith, for ourselves and for those most in need of direction in their lives.

Lord hear us...

We pray for those who have lost their faith; may the light of the Holy Spirit guide them along the right path.

Lord hear us...

St. Philip: Pray for us.

House Saint: Pray for us.

In the name...

The Virtue of Faith

Thursday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ROSARY REFLECTION

Let us pray the Rosary today, asking Jesus to reveal himself to us as 'the Way the Truth and the Life'.

FOURTH MYSTERY OF LIGHT: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

'Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before their eyes.'

1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. **Give us this day....**

10x *Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...*

1x *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was....In the name..*

Friday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FRIDAY PRAYER

Remember that you can go to the chapel for Confession this lunchtime.

If Faith is a gift from God, we need to ask him to give it to us.

Here is a **Prayer of St Benedict for the gift of Faith.**

We say together:

O Gracious and Holy Father,
give me wisdom to know you,
intelligence to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.