

Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues at CTK



What are Gospel Values?

Jesus taught us how we should live: *"Just as I have loved you, you should love one another"* (Jn13:34).

When we read the Gospels we can identify values to focus our attention on this commandment and how we should obey Jesus in our everyday lives.

We have decided to focus on the gospel values of love, compassion, forgiveness, gratitude, hope, service and justice on our CTK Journey. The values are inter-related and our children will identify the ways in which they are linked as they develop through the school.

Each Year Group will focus on a different gospel value and explore the significance of that value through study, prayer and reflection. The scriptures and lives of the Saints offer a rich store of inspiration and explanation for our children in order to illuminate these values.

Our children will be encouraged to learn about these values and how they can become outward signs of their Faith.

What are Virtues?

Virtues are positive patterns of behaviour that improve our lives and the lives of others. They can be understood by children as “good habits”. The opposite of virtues are vices – negative patterns of behaviour.

When we practise the Gospel Values they become virtues – ‘good habits’. The positive habits shape our character and who we are. This forms the culture in our school. Our culture refers to what we do and how do it: “ how things are done around here” Our culture is Catholic when we all lead virtuous lives.

Theological Virtues

The Church teaches that there are 3 Theological Virtues – these are virtues given to us by the Grace of God. The Theological Virtues are Faith, Hope and Charity.

Faith – CCC 1814 – “the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us”. The Church teaches that the Lord will grant us Faith when we truly love Him and desire to obey and know Him. Faith is not, therefore, equated with a person’s subjective religious beliefs.

Faith is believing in God and trusting in what He tells us. (Belief in God)

Hope – CCC 1817 – “the theological virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength”. Even confronted with death, sickness, sin and other tragedies we will trust in the promises of Christ.

Hope is that we trust God will fulfil his promises and look forward to eternal life with God (Trust in God)

Charity – CCC 1822 – “the theological virtue by which we love God above all things.. and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God”. We want the best for other people and that love is based on our love for God.

Charity is we love God and love our neighbour as our self. (Love of God and Love of neighbour)

Cardinal Virtues

The Church also teaches that there are many human virtues but that the 4 most important human virtues are the Cardinal Virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance. Cardinal comes from the Latin word for “hinge” and so the Church teaches that these are “pivotal” for our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Prudence - CCC 1806 – “the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it”. We make the right decisions for the right reasons. Prudence is the virtue that orders our intellect towards God.

Prudence is making the right decisions for the right reasons (Wisdom)

Justice – CCC 1807 – “... the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and to their neighbour”. We give to God and our neighbour that which we owe them. Justice is the virtue that orders our free will towards God.

Justice is being fair to everyone (Fairness)

Fortitude – CCC 1808 – “... the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good”. We are strong and resilient even when we face adversity in our lives. Fortitude is the virtue that gives us moral and physical courage.

Fortitude having the courage and the strength to do the right thing even when you are afraid. (Courage)

Temperance – CCC 1809 – “the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods”. We control our desires and keep them under control. Temperance is the virtue that ensures we are not distracted and led by our human desires at the expense of our soul and others.

Temperance is self-control - resisting the temptation to do something wrong. (Self-control)

The cardinal virtues will allow each of us to lead ordered and positive lives where we respect ourselves and others. When we have controlled our passions and desires and have focused our free will and intellect on the Lord we can be given the supernatural gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Year Group	Gospel Value and Explanation	Virtues	Biblical Reference	Exemplars for Gospel Values	Links – Come and See, hymns, prayers and quotes
Reception	Love Choosing every day to love God and to be kind and caring to our brothers and sisters	Charity	New Commandment Jn 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”	St Teresa of Calcutta St Teresa was originally from Albania. She received inspiration from Jesus to help poor people in India when she arrived there for missionary work. When she began her ministry in India she founded the Missionaries of Charity family of Sisters, Brothers, Fathers and Co-Workers. She worked tirelessly for the poorest children and orphans and helped 1000s of people. St Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and made a saint in 2016.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Come and See: EYFS Myself • Magic Penny Song • Our School Prayer <i>Quotes</i> “God loves each of us as if there was only one of us” <i>St Augustine</i> “Spread love wherever you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving you happier” <i>St Theresa of Calcutta</i>

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Year 1	Compassion - Looking after all our brothers and sisters when they are in need	Charity Prudence Hope Faith	The Good Samaritan Lk 10:25-37 Which of these three, do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? –The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:36)	St Veronica St Veronica was a disciple of Jesus. She was moved with compassion as Jesus carried his cross towards his crucifixion. She could not stop the pain but she wiped the face of Jesus with her handkerchief and an imprint of the image of his face was left on her handkerchief. The cloth exists today in the Vatican and her imprinted handkerchief is known as the 'Veil of Veronica'. She is honoured at the 6 th Station of the Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Come and See: YR1 Neighbours, YR4 God's People • Kindness is an explicit expectation of the behaviour of adults and children in our school. • Charity work - Braunstone Foodshare – provide food to some of the poorest families in Leicester. Mary's Meals – provides life-changing meals to some of the worlds' poorest children everyday they attend school; 1,101,206 children are now being fed every day. http://www.marysmeals.org.uk <p><i>Quotes</i> "Kind words are short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless" <i>St Theresa of Calcutta</i></p> <p>"We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love." <i>St Theresa of Calcutta</i></p>
Year 2	Forgiveness - accepting that we all make mistakes and even when someone has done something to hurt us we remain brothers and sisters	Charity Faith Hope Fortitude Prudence	How many times should we Forgive? Mt 18:21-22 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.	St Patrick was a young boy in Wales who was kidnapped by Irish pirates and made into a slave. The Irish people were pagans at this time and did not believe in Jesus. He eventually escaped and became a priest. He then returned to Ireland and converted the Irish people to the Catholic Faith. St Stephen – (martyred c.AD34) Stephen was the first Christian martyr and died the way Jesus died. He was filled with the Spirit, spoke out bravely in front of people, did not resist his captors and forgave them as they stoned him to death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Come and See: YR2 Topic 8: Rules LF3 • Prayers - Our Father, Act of Contrition • Sacrament of Reconciliation • The Mass – Penitential Rite (sorry prayers) <p><i>Quotes</i> "If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive." <i>St Mother Theresa of Calcutta</i></p>

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Year 3	Gratitude - being thankful for the gifts we receive either directly from God or through other people.	Charity Justice -	<p>Jesus Heals 10 Lepers: Who says thanks? LK 17:11-19</p> <p>Focus: Everything in our lives comes from God. We often forget to offer Him thanks and praise, but we should remember to always lift our eyes to the Lord and be grateful. It's also important to say thank you to important people in our lives who help us along the way.</p>	<p>St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) –</p> <p>St Francis was born into a wealthy merchant family in France and enjoyed the high life until his slow conversion led him into a life of complete poverty and simplicity. Francis was known for his love of nature as well as the poor and he was especially conscious of the fact that everything came from God. St. Francis of Assisi famously wrote, "Canticle of Creatures" a song of Praise to God for all the creatures. He founded the Franciscan order.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to Come and See: Year 2 Topic 5 Thanksgiving Gratitude is an explicit expectation of the behaviour of adults and children in our school. Hymns: I Give Thanks! Link to Harvest season <p><i>Quotes</i></p> <p>"Jesus does not demand great action from us but simply surrender and gratitude." – St. <i>Therese of Lisieux</i></p> <p>"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness." – St. <i>Gianna Beretta Molla</i></p> <p>"Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence." – St. <i>John Paul II</i></p>
Year 4	Hope - Knowing that we will go to heaven if we love Jesus and keep his commandments. (NB: This is the theological definition of "hope" and is not hoping for nice weather.)	Hope Faith Fortitude	<p>The Ascension Lk 24: 36-51</p> <p>Other biblical quotes that demonstrate hope:</p> <p>Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy Ch 4 V 7</p> <p>I have fought a good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.</p> <p>Jn 3:16 ¹⁶ For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.</p>	<p>St Paul (martyred c. AD 65)</p> <p>St Paul was a great saint in the early Church after his conversion on the road to Damascus. He was on his way to punish Christians for their faith when he had a vision of Jesus. He became a fearless witness for Jesus and travelled the known world despite being shipwrecked, persecuted and arrested. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminds his listeners of what he suffered for the sake of the Gospel. He did not lose hope and died for Jesus.</p> <p>St Mary Magdalene converted from a sinful life to become a great saint and close friend to Jesus. She remained loyal to Jesus even when his friends were in hiding after his crucifixion. She was rewarded by being the first witness to his resurrection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to Come and See YR4 Topic 7: New Life LF4, YR5 Topic 3 Hope Link to the Season of Advent Hymns: Hope of Heaven (Christingle) <p><i>Quotes</i></p> <p>"Pray, Hope and do not worry" <i>Padre Pio</i></p> <p>"Even when alone. Be cheerful, remembering always that you are in the sight of angels" <i>St Therese of Lisieux</i></p>

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Year 5	Service – putting our brothers and sisters before ourselves	Charity Prudence Justice	<p>Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet Jn 13:1-17</p> <p><i>Other biblical quotes that demonstrate service:</i></p> <p>‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!’ Mt 25:35-40</p>	<p>St John Bosco</p> <p>St John Bosco, also known as Don Bosco, was born into a very poor Italian family in 1815. He learnt circus tricks to entertain his friends and then, when he had their attention, he taught them about Jesus. He became a priest and focused on helping poor children in Italy working tirelessly for them and teaching them the faith. He helped to protect young apprentice boys from being abused and is the patron saint of apprentices, school children, magicians and juvenile delinquents.</p> <p>St Martin de Porres</p> <p>Born in 1579, St Martin was the son of a freed slave and a conquistador from Spain. He experienced racism and discrimination but he was determined to be a priest. He became a priest and founded an orphanage and school for poor children and then cared for victims of the bubonic plague. He is an example of selfless service and love.</p> <p>St Tarcisius was a young Christian in Rome at a time when Christians were persecuted by the Roman leaders. He was given a mission to take the Holy Eucharist to Christians in prison who had been sentenced to death. On the way to the prison he was stopped by a group of youths who demanded that he hand over the Eucharist. He refused and they beat him to death. He was 12 years old. He became the first patron saint of First Communion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Come and See: Yr6 topic 2 Vocation and Commitment, Yr5 Topic 2 Life Choices • Link to the Season of Lent and the theme of Almsgiving • Work of CAFOD – The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. • Hymns: Servant King, Lend a Hand <p><i>Quotes</i></p> <p>“Christ has no body on earth…….” <i>St Theresa Avila</i></p> <p>‘God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission.’ <i>Blessed John Henry Newman</i></p> <p>“The Fruit of love is service which is compassion in action.” <i>St Teresa of Calcutta</i></p>

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Year 6	<p>Justice – giving to our brothers and sisters what belongs to them.</p> <p>Some examples of Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying workers a fair wage • Giving people the respect that they deserve • Recognising that our brothers and sisters are made in the image and likeness of God • Telling the truth • Rewarding the hard work of pupils 	Charity Prudence Justice Fortitude	<p>The parable of the Wheat and the Weeds Mt 13: 24-30</p> <p>Lesson focus: The farming parable here teaches us that there will be a day of judgment for those who are enemies of God's kingdom, and that some people will be punished for rejecting Christ. However, we are not the ones to do the judging. This lesson should focus on seeing others as loved by God, and on loving and praying for all people to know and accept Him. We do not and cannot know what is inside the hearts of others, but God does, so we leave it to Him. Meanwhile, we give thanks that we can be adopted into God's family through Jesus Christ.</p> <p><i>Other biblical quotes that demonstrate justice:</i></p> <p>"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12</p>	<p>St Francis Xavier is the patron saint of India. He was born in Spain in 1506 into a rich family and became a Jesuit missionary. He led a very adventurous life and made many 1000s of converts to the Church in India, the Far East and Japan. He fought against slavery and taught children about Jesus. He died in China teaching Christianity to our Chinese brothers and sisters</p> <p>The English Martyrs</p> <p>100s of Catholics were executed for their faith in Britain in the 16th and 17th centuries. They refused to deny Jesus and were killed for remaining faithful Catholics after Henry VIII turned England into a protestant country. They included bishops, priests, nuns and ordinary Catholics. They became an inspiration to many future generations of Catholics. Many of the martyrs have been declared saints including St John Campion and St Margaret Clitherow.</p> <p>St Thomas More was a very clever lawyer and loyal servant of King Henry VIII. He worked hard to defend the faith but Henry VIII was very angry when he would not support Henry VIII's plans to divorce and re-marry. He was found guilty of treason and was ordered to be beheaded. Before he died he said that he was "The King's good servant but God's first". He refused to deny the truth of the faith and is remembered as an example of tremendous integrity and justice towards God.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to Come and See: Yr 5 Topic 9 Cafod Topic: Stewardship, YR5 Topic 2 Life Choices (Maximillian Kolbe) • Anti-Bullying Week – looking after the weak or oppressed (Story of David and Goliath) • Fair Trade and CAFOD • Link to Catholic Social Teaching – caring for the poor and oppressed <p>Quotes</p> <p>"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice for they shall be filled." Mt5:6</p> <p>"The Ultimate Test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being" <i>Pope John Paul II</i></p> <p>"I die the king's faithful servant, but God's first." <i>St Thomas More</i></p>

