

## FAITH JOURNEY

O God Our Father, we ask Your blessing on our School.

May we live here as one family,

Each serving You in our own way, but all united in love.

Teach us to be patient with one another and quick to forgive.

Show us how to rejoice at the success of others,

And how to work diligently, to the best of our ability.

Amen.

## Y6 THANKSGIVING MASS

Download the order of service and hymns for the Mass of thanksgiving at Salford Cathedral (12/06/2007) [here](#)

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

The fourth Sunday of Lent is Mothering Sunday. It is a day when children give presents, flowers and cards to their mothers - but the history of Mothering Sunday has a much deeper origin. Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or "daughter" church. Centuries ago, it was considered important for people to return to their home or "mother" church once a year. So, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their "mother" church, or the main church or Cathedral of the area. This became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home and those working as domestic servants or apprentices were given the day off to visit their mother or family. They would often pick wild flowers - often violets - to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

## VOCATIONS

On 7th February 2007 we held a Vocations themed Faith Day in school as part of the Salford Diocese Prayer Calendar.

For every one of the 365 days in 2007, a school or parish will dedicate prayers for Vocations in the Diocese of Salford.

Our Parish day of prayer for Vocations will be on Sunday 29th April 2007.

Find out more at [www.salforddiocese.org.uk/vocations](http://www.salforddiocese.org.uk/vocations) and [www.ukpriest.org/](http://www.ukpriest.org/)

## TEAMWORK: LESSONS FROM GEESE

During 2006, we were reminded to work as a team like Canada Geese.

Observers of geese say that lessons learned from watching them in flight are useful for people who work in teams and rely on others.

For example:

Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an 'uplift' for the birds that follow. By flying in 'V' formation, the whole flock flies 71% farther than any single bird could fly on its own.

Lesson 1: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of each other.

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson 2: If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3: When the lead bird tires, it rotates back into the formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson 3: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on

each others' skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, or resources.

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson 4: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and to encourage the heart and core values of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5: If a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese will drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson 5: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we're strong.

Watch the slide show here.

Download our 2007 Team-work Card & School Calendar - [Click here](#)

## ASSEMBLY THEMES

Do you remember the themes of our whole school assemblies in 2006?

We started the year by thinking about our new Golden Rules – 'Standards' to fly – showing others what we are about.

We also met our Golden Assembly Candle – a reminder that we have standards so that we can be like Jesus – the light of the world. We try to keep our light burning brightly.

The Geese, in their 'V' formation, taught us an important lesson about being a member of a team.

We learnt, through the example of the Dragonfly, that we always have a chance to start afresh. The Dragonfly larva was a 'real beast' – who would have thought that it could have been transformed into the beautiful Dragonfly?

We all are able to shine – because we are made from 'stardust'. Every cell in our body contains carbon – and we collected carbon - created by the candle, burning brightly in our assembly. We are part of God's plan.

The wasp &ndash; liked or disliked? If the wasp became extinct, other creatures would also die out. A type of wasp that lives in the Jungle means that the monkey survives. We should protect Creation.

The Pearl of Great Price was a &lsquo;game-show&rsquo; themed assembly where we thought about what is really important in our lives &ndash; the pearl representing God who lives in each of us. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price is a parable told by Jesus in explaining the value of the Kingdom of Heaven. You can read it in the Gospel of Matthew 13:45-46.

The &lsquo;Mexican Wave&rsquo; or &lsquo;La Ola&rsquo; gained international notice at a FIFA Football World Cup game in Mexico in 1986. We noticed that it takes team work to do the wave and used it to reinforce our understanding of team work at Sacred Heart School.

The Menorah Candle was the stimulus for the story of the First Hanukkah - the Jewish Festival of Lights commemorating the Miracle of the Oil. Following the victory of the Jewish people over the Greek invaders of Jerusalem, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days - which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate new oil.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

View our 'Outcasts' presentation (Class 10, December 2005)

Lord Jesus

Our friend and brother

Walk beside us as we journey through life.

Give us the courage to stand up for what is right.

We want to live as your followers, and bring your love, your peace and your justice to everyone we meet.

Give us the power to make a difference in your world.

Stay with us Lord, be our light and our guide throughout our lives.

Amen.