



The water that I will give them will become a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life.
JOHN 4:14

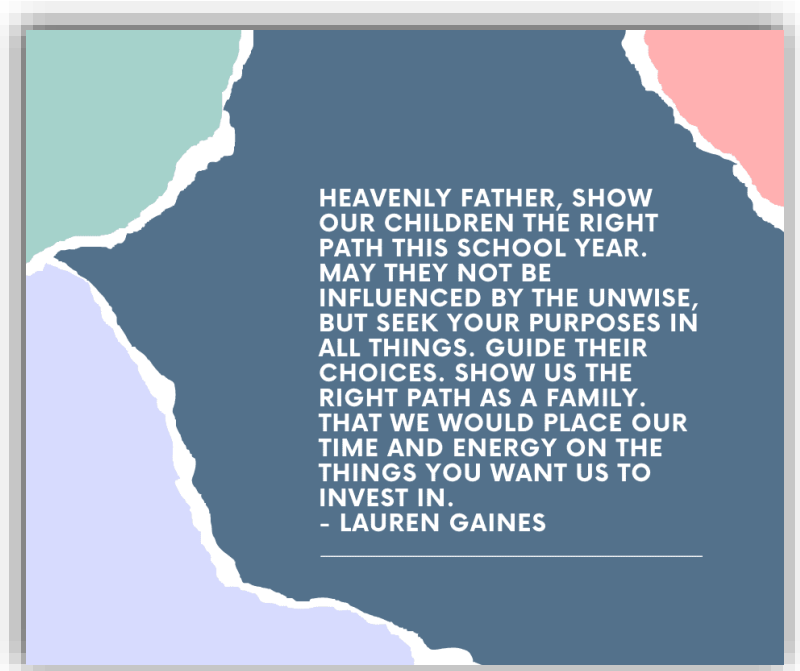
23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time 8th September 2024

Welcome to the new school year. We celebrated St Teresa's feast day on Thursday with St Teresa House and the children enjoyed learning about the wonderful things she did.

Dear Lord,

As we begin this new school year, we gather once again as your community of believers.
We thank you for the energy and the spirit that you renewed in us through the summer months.
Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the inspiration of Your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith.
Help us to fulfil Your hope for us with honest intentions and works of faith.
Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to others.
We ask this in your name.

Amen



Gospel Reading: Mark 7:31-37

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."



Gracious God, send your Spirit among us this day as we celebrate the precious gift that is the Earth.

May our hearts sing out with joy as we behold the wonder and beauty of Your creation.

Help us to be responsible stewards of these your gifts, now and in the future. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.