



23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

10th September 2023



"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

The final verse of this Sunday's Gospel is particularly relevant this week as we have gathered together as a school community for the first time since July and it is comforting to be reminded that Jesus remains at the heart of Springhill.

As a new school year begins, after such a long summer break, we are reminded of the strength of our community where people love each other, accept one another, serve one another, encourage one another, live in harmony with one another and submit to one another. In other words, a community which works together to do its best for Jesus.

It's important to remember this year that, as the Holy Father said, "Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life." Time spent at school should not only equip us for life in the world but instil in us a love for knowledge and a desire to seek truth and wisdom. Education is a lifelong pursuit and it is the job of parents and teachers alike to plant and nurture seeds which will continue to grow and flourish over a lifetime. True education should also recognise the different gifts and talents of each pupil. Catholic education has, at its heart, the mission to help students uncover the essence of who they are and what it means to be in fellowship with others, seeking vocation and celebrating differences whilst keeping Jesus firmly at its core.

Loving Lord, we think of the children and young people close to our hearts, know that they are precious in your sight and so we place them into your hands today. Strengthen and nurture them. Be with them in their coming in and going out, at home and at school. In their sports, activities and clubs, their friendships and their quiet times. Mould them in your image, forming and reforming through the positive influence of those whose lives cross theirs, through the love and example of those who care for them and through the constant love of your Son, Jesus, who walks alongside them each step of their lives. Amen

God of goodness and mercy,

Support us and guide us. Look after our loved ones and all members of society who are finding times difficult and upsetting.

Let us work together with support, friendship and love. Amen.

"Love follows knowledge."

Saint Catherine of Siena

In addition, this week let us pray for

- ◆ those children, families and staff who are joining Springhill as they start the next chapter of their lives;
- ◆ all those around the world whose lives are being affected by poverty;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Romans 13:8-10