

Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families

Monthly newsletter for parents: **July 2019**



Written in Heaven

"Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 10: 20

These are the words that Jesus spoke to the seventy-two after they returned, rejoicing because their mission had been successful. They were overjoyed that, through Jesus' name, even demons were under their power! But Jesus told them to rejoice not because of what they could do, but because their identity was secured in heaven.

Sharing in the mission of Jesus can be difficult, but everyone is called to do it - not just adults and priests but children too. Some actions might seem insignificant, but God can take what we offer Him and make it extra ordinary. In the w/c 8th July, children learnt about some people throughout history who have taken on Jesus' mission. Their stories are described briefly below, but you might like to explore them further:

- **Andrew van der Bijl** – Brother Andrew was given the nickname

'God's Smuggler' because he repeatedly risked his life to smuggle bibles into communist countries during the Cold War. He is known for praying "Lord, make seeing eyes blind," before stopping at the border of a communist country for his car to be inspected.

- **Rosa Parks** – In 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat in the 'coloured section' to a white passenger, after the whites-only section was filled. She was arrested for civil disobedience and her simple action led to her being called the 'mother of the civil rights movement'. She said, "God has always given me the strength to say what is right."

- **Saint Genevieve** – Born in France around 400 years after the time of Jesus, Genevieve was so determined to 'live her life only for God' that she became a nun at the age of just 15. In 451 when Paris was under threat from Attila the Hun, Genevieve persuaded

the panicking people not to flee but to stay and pray. Attila the Hun didn't attack Paris and people gave thanks for Genevieve's 'prayer marathon'! Years later the city was under siege and Genevieve risked her own safety by smuggling food and supplies into the city. She was named Patron Saint of Paris for her unswerving devotion to the city and to God.

At Ten Ten we hope that these stories of faith and sacrifice will inspire children to know that with Jesus, they too can do incredible things, and whilst they may find reward on earth, their real reward waits for them in heaven.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Help us to do good not for the glory it might bring us,
but because you call us to.
Thank you for helping us
each day to make good and loving choices.
Thank you that our names
are written in heaven.
Amen

Around the World

In celebrating these wonderful peacemakers and activists throughout history, we must also remember the people who made it possible for them to hear the Gospel. On 29th June the church celebrated the feast of St Peter and St Paul, who were instrumental in the spread of the church around the

world. In their prayers, children learned about church practices across the world, from meditative worship styles in Asia to singing and dancing in Africa and art and drama in the Americas. What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our faith and God's love for all!

Suggested Activity: Pick an item of food and ask your child to guess where it comes from. (Packaged food usually has a country of origin printed on it!) Pray for that country and the followers of Jesus there.