

## Laudato si' meeting, 20 October 2023

Present: Anthony Brown, Katrina Harkin, Kay Curphey, Betty Collinson, Zoe Mabbott

Apologies: Mark Wiggin, Liz Cullen, Phil Ryan, Anne Peplow, Malcolm Peplow, Keeley Ireland

*The Laudato si' group (parish and schools) may be a small group but small can be mighty.*

We are currently planning three events to aid community working, fostering parish/schools links, and to be part of a Church of all baptised people, working together to promote the Gospel message of evangelisation through living the life of Jesus, Faith in Action.

### **SSMJ Large Scale Nativity**

As Christmas approaches it is easy for everyone, and particularly children to forget the real purpose of Christmas. To emphasise the Christmas message during the Advent period of preparation, the school plans to install a crib, ideally on the grass next to the church porch, but alternatively, if less effectively, by the school garage.

We already have a largish donkey and sheep and we have asked for a shed shape to be made. The children will create the nativity scene with papier-mâché, using anything suitable as a base to give the underlying form of a figure

If anyone can help with gathering resources or helping the children make Joseph and Mary, please let Katrina know. Her vision may be small for 2024 but she is hoping it will be something to develop year on year, gathering more objects. The crib needs to be ready for 1<sup>st</sup> December so help from anyone will be greatly appreciated.

### **Christmas Singing at SSMJ, 18 December (Monday), 2023, 10.30 am – 12.00 pm**

Faith and Kevin have organised a choir event service event in school on 18 December and we aim to supplement this at 10.30, after Mass, with readings and prayers and lots of singing for everyone to enjoy. There will be cake and coffee afterwards and SM&SJ children will mingle with the adults. A number of them are very good at this and will approach you, so no need to be shy!

Anthony Brown will organise publicity in the Parish ensuring that all churches are invited. Katrina and Olga will organise the children. Katrina will organise PTA/volunteers for the event for tea/coffee serving.

### **Nearly New Sale to buy Catholic Bibles for school, 27 January (Saturday), 2024, 3.30 pm – 5.00**

The event is timed to allow people going to Mass on Saturday to fit it into their timetable easily. The venue is SM&SJ and tea/coffee will be available.

We need donations of clothing (preloved!) from parish and school. We also need volunteers for sorting, set up and during the event itself. We will collect clothing into the school on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th.

Bag2School will buy unused clothing. Bag2School is a free eco-friendly fundraising scheme that helps schools, businesses, community groups, local councils, and charities raise funds through textile recycling as well as spreading textile recycling awareness. The clothes collected are baled into big

'botany bales' and then loaded onto trucks for export. Once they arrive at Bag2Scool's factory, they are sorted into 150 different types of clothing depending upon the end market. The clothing will make journeys all over the world starting their new life. This can be a purpose built second hand store in Eastern Europe or South America, or a market stall in East or West Africa, providing valuable employment for importers, warehouse staff, transport companies and stall holders as well as affordable clothes for local people.

Anyone who can provide anything, or help in any way for any of the above please, be in touch with Katrina Harkin [kharkin@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:kharkin@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk)

Thank you for your help. We may be a small group but small can be mighty.