



Language week and Day of kindness

20th – 24th September.

This week we focus on languages. Languages help us to broaden our horizons. Practically they facilitate communication but also teach us about other cultures.

21st September we celebrate Marie Madeleine's birthday. She is the foundress of the FCJ sisters and this school, AND she was a **French** woman.

FCJ sisters now are a very international group of women spread out across the world.

All the sisters have to learn **English** as soon as they join, but a sister whose mother tongue is English has to learn **another language** that is spoken in a country where FCJs are present.

To live companionship they have to be able to communicate and to respect each other.

FCJ sisters declare that they are willing to be sent anywhere for the Mission so languages are important!

We pray for greater tolerance among each other and in the world and we commit to doing acts of kindness.



Painting by a pupil of Gumley school FCJ

Monday 20th September



From the Sunday Gospel Mark 9: 33-37

They came to Capernaum, and when he got into the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing, because on the road they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child whom he set among them and embraced, and he said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes a little child such as this in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

For reflection:

- The apostles were just as people still are: competitive, making comparisons, wanting to be right. Do you notice these patterns in yourself?
- Jesus is calling us to humility and service. Do you feel challenged? Is there something appealing about this too?

Monday 20th September



Watch this clip: Taizé: music of unity and peace (2 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sskKJJYzuJ4>

Taizé is a place and a community of Christian brothers in France. They are from all over the world and from different Christian backgrounds (catholic, protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, ...)

They welcome mostly young people to share in their life. Most of them stay a week, but some much longer. Their message and life is about peace and unity.

On Friday there will be a concert in the chapel, followed by Taizé prayer at 12.45. All are welcome.

Dear God,

We give you thanks for the diversity of cultures and languages in the world. Each brings something unique that enriches the world.

May we learn with an open heart and mind, as we try to look beyond and broaden our horizons. Help us to accept each other and look for what connects us, rather than what separates us. Let us strive for excellence as we learn other languages, enabling us to communicate with more people in this world.

Amen.

Tuesday 21st September: Day of kindness



The 21st of September each year is a lovely day for us and for all those who know us well. It is the day we celebrate the birthday of Marie Madeleine, who was born in 1781. It is a day to give thanks for the life of Marie Madeleine.

What Marie Madeleine would have liked for her birthday?

I am sure it would make her very happy to know that there are still FCJs giving their lives in faithful service of Jesus and of God's people. Marie Madeleine started in France, but now there are FCJ sisters on each continent: Australia, Asia, Europe, North and South America and 1 sister in Africa.

I am sure she would be happy to know that young people take on the FCJ values seeking to strive for excellence, dignity, justice gentleness and hope.

I am sure that she has a dream that we will continue to mark her birthday for many, many years to come by being of service to others.

FCJ Magnificat sung by the FCJ virtual choir (2:40 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPd6J-07zY4>

Happy birthday Marie Madeleine, pray for us and for our world!





Tuesday 21st September

To officially become a saint, the Catholic Church has to attribute two miracles to Marie Madeleine through the power of prayer. This is a prayer for healing through the intercession of Marie Madeleine.



Prayer for healing

God, our Creator
Jesus, our Companion
Holy Spirit, Source of Wisdom,

Marie Madeleine
believed in your power,
hoped in your promises
and lived for your
glory and service.

We ask her to pray with us for ...

Through her prayer
may your healing presence
be shown and your name glorified.

We make our prayer

In the name of

Jesus the Christ.

Prière pour obtenir la guérison

Dieu, notre Père,
Jésus, notre compagnon,
Esprit-Saint, source de sagesse,

Marie Madeleine
a cru en votre puissance,
a espéré en vos promesses
et a vécu pour votre gloire
et votre service.

Nous lui demandons de prier
avec nous pour ...

Que par sa prière,
vous manifestiez votre pouvoir de guérison,
et que votre nom soit glorifié.

Nous vous prions
au nom de

Jésus le Christ.

Oración pidiendo sanación

Dios, nuestro Creador
Jesús, nuestro Compañero
Espíritu Santo, Fuente de Sabiduría,

Marie Madeleine
tuvo fe en tu poder,
tuvo esperanza en tus promesas
y vivió para tu
gloria y servicio.

Le pedimos que ore con nosotras por...

Que mediante su oración
se revele tu presencia sanadora
y tu nombre sea glorificado.

Lo pedimos

en el nombre de

Jesucristo.

Tuesday 21st September



En Honor a Marie Madeleine

Madre Marie Madeleine, madre viuda, madre, abuela, escudriñando en su alma lo que Dios quería de ella.

Orando frente a una cruz le ofreció su vida entera y es allí donde Jesús 'Tengo Sed', le repitiera.

*DULCE MARIE MADELEINE, COMPAÑERA DE JESÚS
COMO MARÍA MAGDALENA YO QUIERO SER COMO TU (BIS)*

Ella fue la nueva fuente cual otra Samaritana, que nos diera de beber a los sedientos del alma.

Nuestra hermana fundadora hizo el Señor que ella fuera compañera de Jesús fiel reflejo de Su entrega.

*DULCE MARIE MADELEINE, COMPAÑERA DE JESÚS
COMO MARÍA MAGDALENA YO QUIERO SER COMO TU (BIS)*

This song was written by an Argentinian musician who was friends with the sisters in Salta (Argentina). Click to play <https://www.fcjsisters.org/news/praying-in-spanish-at-the-general-chapter/> (2:50 mins)

In Honor of Marie Madeleine

Mother Marie Madeleine, widowed mother, grandmother, mother, searching in her soul what God wanted from her.

Praying in front of a cross he offered him his whole life and it is there that Jesus 'I am Thirsty', he repeated.

SWEET MARIE MADELEINE, JESUS'S COMPANION
LIKE MARÍA MAGDALENA, I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU (BIS)

She was the new source like another Samaritan, to give us drink to the thirsty of the soul.

Our founding sister made the Lord that she was companion of Jesus, a faithful reflection of His dedication.



Wednesday 22nd September peace



Each year the **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

In 2021, as we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

Let us pray especially for Afghanistan.

Ubi Caritas et Amor Deus ibi est.

Where there is compassion and love, there is God.

(Latin Taizé chant: 3:45 mins)



Breaking barriers to peace

God of all,
as we walk together,
Open our hearts
To your tenderness.
Open our minds
To your understanding.
Open our lives
To your challenge.
We are one people, many nations,
Building hope through steps for
peace.
One world with many barriers,
Breaking chains so we dance free.
One voice that shouts for justice
Shatters hatred, calls for change.
One God, one world, one people,
Turning tables, share the feast.
Amen

(Linda Jones/CAFOD)

Wednesday 22nd September

主祷文: Our Father



我们在天上的父：

wo men zai tian shang de fu

Our Father, who art in heaven,

愿人都尊你的名为圣。

yuan ren dou zun ni de ming wei sheng

hallowed be thy name;

愿你的国降临；

yuan ni de guo jiang lin

thy kingdom come;

愿你的旨意行在地上；

yuan ni de zhi yi xing zai di shang

thy will be done, on earth

如同行在天上。

ru tong xing zai tian shang

as it is in heaven.

我们口用的饮食，今日赐给我们。

Wo men kou yong de yin shi, jin ri ci gei wo men

Give us this day our daily bread;

免我们的债，

mian wo men de zhai

and forgive us our trespasses

如同我们免了人的债。

ru tong wo men mian le ren de zhai

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

不叫我们遇见试探；

bu jiao wo men yu jian shi tan

and lead us not into temptation

救我们脱离凶恶。

jiu wo men tuo li xiong er

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

In England there is freedom of religion, but this is not the case everywhere. Worldwide Christians are persecuted and discriminated in many countries. Let's pray for them and for greater tolerance among religions and cultures.

Our Father sung in Mandarin.
(Taizé version, 2.30 mins)



Thursday 24th September



*Bóg jest Miłością, miejcie odwagę żyć dla Miłości,
Bóg jest Miłością, nie lękajcie się.*
(Polish Taizé chant, 3 mins)



God is love, have the courage to live for love.
God is love, do not be afraid



Pope Francis "We need a revolution of kindness".

"In order to do good, we need memory, we need courage and we need creativity... Remember that the other is not a statistic or a number. The other has a face. The 'you' is always a real presence, a person to take care of."

"We must rediscover the concreteness of little things, small gestures of attention we can offer those close to us, our family, our friends. We must understand that in small things lies our treasure," he said.

There are small acts of kindness, affection and compassion that often go unnoticed in daily life, "but they are nonetheless important," he said.

God shows his love, not with great speeches, but with simple, tender acts of charity, Pope Francis said.

"When Jesus wants to teach us how a Christian should be, he tells us very little," the pope said, but he shows people by feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger.

Works of mercy continues that love, which is made small so it can "reach us and we carry it forward," Pope Francis said.

Pause for thought: which act of kindness can you do?

Thursday 23rd September

El Senyor (Catalan Taizé chant, 3 mins)



*El Senyor és la meva força
El Senyor, el meu cant
Ell ha estat la salvació
En ell confio i no tinc por
En ell confio i no tinc por*

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord I'll rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

Pause to pray for everyone's intentions...

**Dios te salve, Maria.
Llena eres de gracia:
El Señor es contigo.
Bendita tú eres entre todas las mujeres.
Y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre: Jesús.**

**Santa María, Madre de Dios,
ruega por nosotros pecadores,
ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte.
Amén.**



Friday 24th September



Pause for thought:

When saying the Lord's prayer we declare that we are all brothers and sisters. What does that mean to you? How can you live more out of that?

Mon âme se repose (French Taizé chant, 3 mins)

*Mon âme se repose en paix sur Dieu seul:
de lui vient mon salut.
Oui, sur Dieu seul mon âme se repose, se repose en paix.*



*In God alone my soul can find rest and peace.
In God my peace and joy.
Only on God my soul can find its rest.
Find its rest and peace*

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,
que ton nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre
comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain
de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,
comme nous pardonnons aussi à
ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous soumets pas à la
tentation mais délivre-nous du Mal.
Amen.

Friday 24th September

Iedere nacht verlang ik naar U, O God.

Ik hunker naar U met heel mijn ziel

(Dutch Taizé chant, 3:20 mins)

(language of sr Els)



*My soul yearns for you in the night O God;
My spirit within me longs for you*



Examen

Be silent and place yourself in God's loving presence. Think about the good things that have happened and give thanks.

Look back over your week. Where have you experienced kindness? As there something that challenged you?

In the quiet of your heart, tell God about your experiences. Give thanks for who you are.

As you look ahead, with what spirit will you enter next week? Ask God to help you.