

Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families



Monthly newsletter for parents: **February 2017**

Generosity

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

What qualities come to mind when you hear Mother Teresa's name? Compassionate? Generous? Mischievous?

St Teresa of Calcutta was generous, and then some. Sometimes that extra generosity made others uncomfortable.

A story goes that she was invited to a grand dinner in thanks for her work amongst India's poor. Many important people were there and she was to be awarded an honour during the meal. She and her nuns made their way to the reception from their home amongst the poor. Perhaps

others had been driven there in tinted-window limousines and hadn't seen the beggars in the streets.

Instead of sitting down to dinner and waiting to be served, Teresa told the kitchen staff in the grand hotel to take the food to those beggars outside. Out went the platters of food meant for the important guests. What must the waiters have thought? How embarrassed must the organisers have been?

The organisers wanted to recognise and thank Teresa for the work she was doing. Teresa, however, felt the need to be over

generous and her actions made others think about their own position towards those in need.

Jesus too could unsettle people. We can all do good to those who are good to us, but that wasn't His message:

**Go further.
Love your enemies.
Pray for those who hurt you.**

This article is inspired by our assembly for the w/c 13 and 20 February 2017.

Shine

'You are the light of the world.'
Matthew 5:13



I must have woken early that morning because the moon was still out; shining brilliantly white in a blue, winter sky. I had to check my watch to make sure it really was morning.

The strength of the moonlight astonished me.

It made me think about what I was seeing; because it's not, of course, the moon that's shining, but sunlight reflected onto the moon's surface. Without the sun, there wouldn't be any moonlight.

And so with us. We can shine in the world because God made each of us beautifully and uniquely. His creativity gives us the ability to help others; to offer hope; to be generous with what we have been given.

The morning moonlight didn't last very long. It had vanished by the

Giving Myself

Jesus,

What can I use to be generous this week?

My voice: I can encourage.

My hands: I can mend and create.

My face: I can smile.

My time: I can give.

My effort: I can do more than I am asked.

Amen.

time I was bustling the children out to school. The sun had already taken over and was, as ever, lighting the day with unfailing power.

This article is inspired by our assembly for the w/c 6 February 2017.