



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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25th June 2018

Luke 1:57-66, 80

The Birth of John the Baptist

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

⁶¹ They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit^[a]; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

The fact that God had named John was representative of the fact that God had also chosen John for His special purposes. It was God, and not the natural strength of elderly Zacharias and Elizabeth, that enabled Elizabeth to conceive John. It was God who made John kick in his mother's womb. And it was God who named John.

John was who he was because God had made him so. God makes us what we are, and not we ourselves. God has given you a name too a very special name: "Christian." You are called by the name of His own beloved Son, Jesus Christ: you are named as a disciple of Jesus Christ. God has therefore claimed *you* for His own and desires to bless you as His child. For if God has given you His name, then He has made you a member of His holy family.

International Weeks

This year our annual International Weeks celebration will be from the 18th June to 29th June. Over these two weeks the children will be looking at the culture of various countries including the history, food, music, etc. **This will culminate in our International Celebration on Friday, 29th June 2018 from 6:00 p.m.** We are asking parents to support us by ensuring that the child(ren) return to school at 5:30 in order to change into their costumes and get into their appropriate groups.

The Nursery and Reception children will have their International Celebration on Friday, 29th June 2018 from 2:30 pm.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



International Day Mass

We will be celebrating International Day with a special Mass on Friday, 29th June at 9:30 in St Francis Church; parents are warmly invited to attend.

Data Checking Sheets

The data checking sheets with the information that the school holds for you and your child was sent home last week. It is important that we have the most up to date information; please complete and return the sheets by Friday, 29th June 2018, even if there are no changes just sign and return the sheet to indicate that the information is correct.

Parent's Conference Meetings

The parent's conference meetings for **years 1-5** are scheduled for Wednesday, 4th July 2018 and Thursday, 5th July 2018. The parent's conference meeting for **year 6** will be on Tuesday, 10th July and Wednesday 11th July once this year's SATs results have returned.

Parental Contribution to the Governor's Fund

As you are aware voluntary aided schools such as St Francis' have a duty to pay 10% towards the costs of any building works that the school undertakes; the governing body has overall responsibility to ensure that the school is able to make this contribution. This summer we will be undertaking more improvements on the external grounds of the school. Your contribution to these projects is vital in order to guarantee that they go ahead. If you have not already done so please go to your Parent Pay account, the parental contribution will be an item in the drop down menu for you to add to your basket and pay.

St John Bosco Children's Camp

St Francis parish and the SVP group are offering to send several children to the St John Bosco children's camp. It provides an opportunity for children to have an exciting activity-packed camping holiday in the Essex countryside setting. Details can be found on the website <http://www.svpboscocamp.org.uk> Any family interested in this offer, please contact the parish office on 0208 534 1964 to leave their details so that a member of the parish community can make arrangements to meet with you before filling in an application form.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

