



Tutor COWO Week beginning 9th June

For this last half-term, we will be exploring the value of compassion.

We start as always now by looking at biblical quotes to help us understand (get wise) to what compassion means for those abiding in God.

“Abide in me”

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As a community we support one another to flourish, and live life in all its fullness.



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Biblical quotes to help us understand what compassion means:

Zechariah 7:9

This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

Corinthians 1: 3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

How do these help us to find wisdom in the value compassion?

Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone.

The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not patronising. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'.

Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others. Notice the qualities that Paul links together. He says '***clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.***' (Colossians 3:12)



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What story do we know from the parables that shows compassion?

Why was this difficult for his older brother?

Do you think as humans we might find clothing ourselves compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? (Colossian 3:12) difficult?

Is it something we are good at?

Do we see great examples of this in our world today?



I wanted to talk to you about comments that we heard last week...

They came from students who were challenging a lesson, a challenge, debate is good.

They began with all “illegal immigrants are bad and should be stopped and or chunked out.” But as they argued the argument became fuelled with racism and inaccuracy.

This unsettled us as a staff, and we thought deeply about why. The first is obvious when we move to colour of skin and or faith being the determiner for whether a person is worthy or not, this is racism and unacceptable in the 21st century. But this went further...



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It lacked any kind of compassion?

- Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others.
- Notice the qualities that Paul links together. He says, 'clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Colossians 3:12)



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An aerial photograph of a small, crowded boat in the middle of a vast, dark blue ocean. The boat is packed with many people, their colorful clothing visible against the dark water. The water around the boat is choppy with white foam from the wake. The overall tone is somber and urgent.

The statements we were hearing...

Held no compassion, no understanding we were talking about humans.



Simple answers always worry me.... What is their purpose?

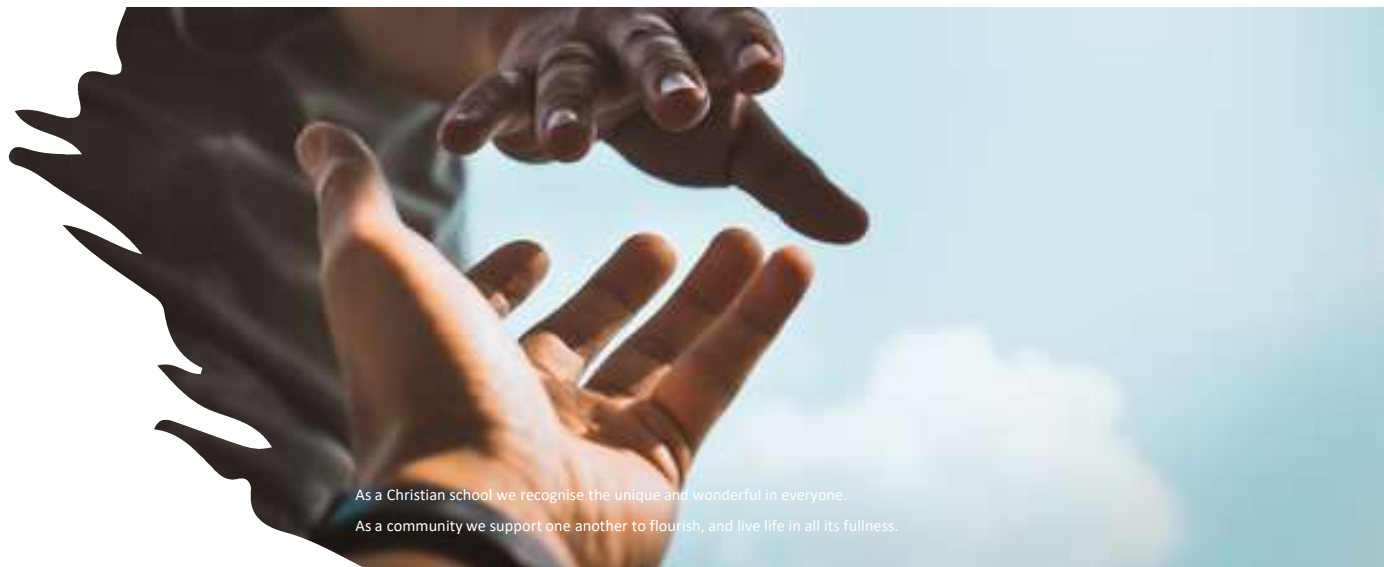
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And so to prayer...

A Prayer to Jesus, the Immigrant.

You were a vulnerable family in a foreign land, looking for shelter and sustenance. Help us to welcome those like you who cross our borders today. Give us hearts of compassion, humane response, and laws that respect the dignity of all immigrants.

Amen.



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