

Prayer & Reflection

The True Light

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world... JOHN 1:6-9



Week beginning: **Monday 5th January**

Theme - Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Catholic Social Teaching :

Rights/Responsibilities & Option for the poor/vulnerable

Gospel = Second Sunday after Christmas, The True Light

The Wednesday Word

The logo for 'Hallow' is centered on a purple square. The word 'Hallow' is written in white, with a blue circle above the letter 'o' and a horizontal line above the 'o' and 'w'.

You are invited to 10 minutes of prayer and reflection every Wednesday.
Join Jonathan Roumie (Jesus- The Chosen), Jeff Cavins, Mark Wahlberg, Chris Pratt and Gwen Stefani as we reflect on the Gospel on the day.

8am

12:40pm (First lunch)

1:30pm (Second lunch)

Venue- School Chapel.

CONFIRMATION



2026

The Parish of St John The Evangelist, Gravesend.

The preparation programme for young people in Years 8-13 at school or 13 years of age by 1 September 2026, who are interested in being confirmed in 2026 **begins at the end of January 2026.**

Please see [Susanne](#) for more details.





The 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany, when the three wise men (kings) gave Jesus the valuable gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

When the three wise kings had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” the angel said “take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for King Herod is going to search for the child to kill Him.”

So Joseph got up, took the child and His mother and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod, when it was safe to go home.

Jesus was a refugee in the first months of His life, along with Mary and Joseph.

Did you know?

According to the United Nations latest figures there are at least **122.6 million** people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly **43.7 million*** refugees.

* = this would be equivalent of about 34,000 St John's Catholic Comprehensive Schools.



Internally displaced people have fled their homes, but remain somewhere in their own country.

Refugees have fled their homes and live in exile in another country, often in camps.

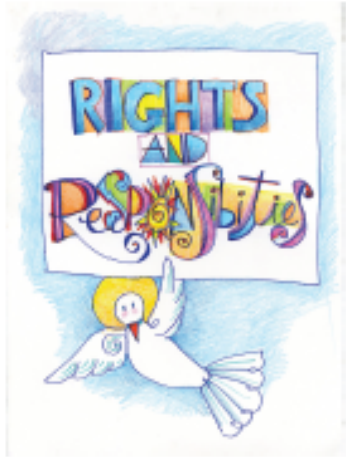
Following the Jubilee Year, as Pilgrims of Hope let us consider the work of CAFOD, and how as a school we can support this charity.

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

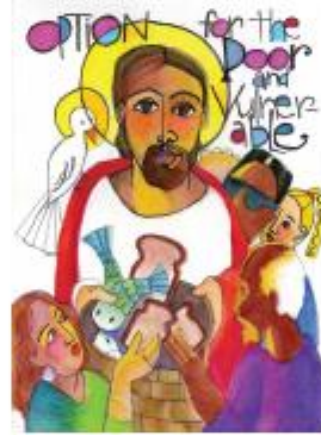


These two photos show the work of CAFOD. Children come to a special CAFOD partner Centre to help them with difficulties they might be living through such as memories about war. They are given the chance to do fun activities such as puppet making or playing with a clown. Some of the older children learn French and adults can get medical help.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.



OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The work of CAFOD teaches, and shows us the themes of Catholic Social Teaching being put into action, especially Rights and Responsibilities, and Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

REFLECTION TASK

Think about how you could support the work of CAFOD.

You could donate money, organise a fund-raising activity or simply PRAY.



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

COMING SOON
TO OUR SCHOOL

More details will follow in a
few weeks time.

RAISING MONEY FOR CAFOD =

Join other students in our school at St John's for Cultural Day and the Colour Run.

By taking on the challenge of raising money during the 40 days of Lent, you will be part of a massive team supporting people as they overcome poverty.

Culture Day 2025!



A Prayer of mercy for Refugees

God Our Father,
look down with mercy on us and all refugees.
Remember your son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
had to leave his homeland and flee to Egypt,
when he was a baby,
with his mother, Mary,
and foster father, Joseph.

Help us to be aware
of the fears, anxiety, pain, sorrow,
difficulties and uncertainty all refugees suffer,
and to remember that we all belong
to the same human family.

Holy Spirit,
please give us compassion and courage
to help them in any way we can.
Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen.



**St John the Apostle & Evangelist,
pray for us, Amen.**



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Go Forth Today and
Be Inspired by Christ**

Sunday Gospel = Second Sunday after Christmas, the True Light

Jesus is the light.



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Gospel according to John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God.

The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.



Reader = the Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSE = Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Explanation of this week's Gospel reading



This gospel reading for is a reminder that God himself, is the source of all creation, life, and light. The passage introduces John the Baptist as a witness to the light of Christ, who was not recognised by the world and not accepted by his own people.

This reading also emphasises that those who believe in Jesus' name are given the power to become children of God through a spiritual birth from God. We are told by John the Baptist, that Jesus “the true light which enlightens everyone was coming into the world.”

REFLECTION TASK

Light in the Darkness: Jesus is presented as "the light of all people" that "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (v. 4-5).

Reflection Point: Reflect on moments in your life where the "light" of Jesus' presence has influenced you, especially during challenging or dark times.

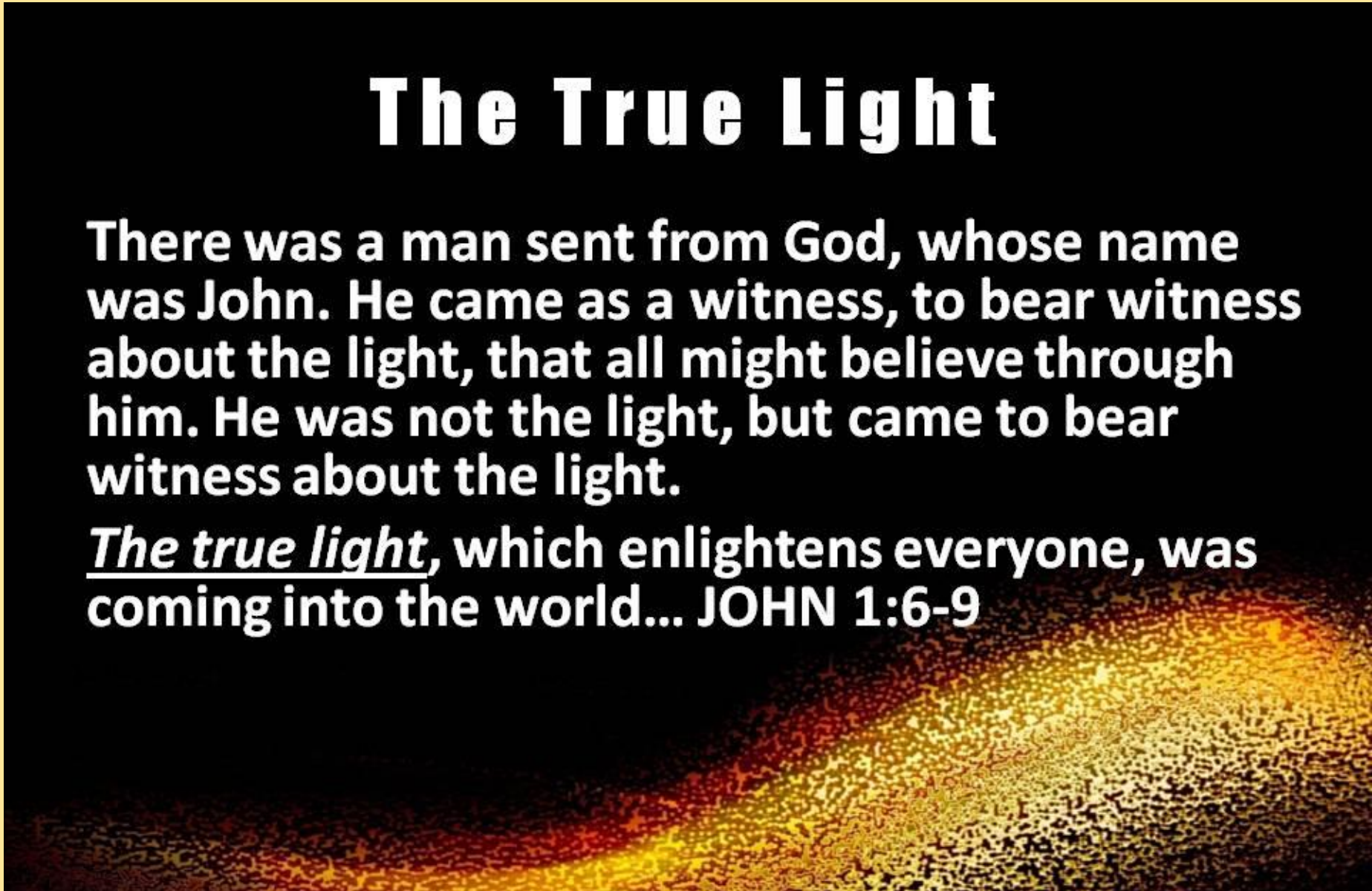
In what ways can you be a light to others in your own life?

WORD OF THE WEEK

The True Light

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A Prayer to God

Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Jesus, the Word and the Light, into our world.

Help us to be like John the Baptist, not seeking to be the light ourselves, but to be witnesses who point others to You. Guide us to live in Your truth and grace, so that through our actions and words, others may see Your glory and believe.

**St John the Apostle & Evangelist,
pray for us. Amen.**



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Go Forth Today and
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