**ETHOS MOMENT: THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2020**

Good morning boys and girls I hope you are all keeping well and that you are smiling and being good for Mam and Dad. Let’s begin by blessing ourselves: ***In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*** Today it is the second day of April. This is lovely time of the year when all the spring flowers are blooming and the birds are building nests and new lambs are frolicking in the fields – did you see the pictures of the lambs on the McGrath farm on our sharing gallery? Now, if you have a little prayer space, perhaps an adult could light a little candle. Let’s say our morning prayer with joy: ***Father in heaven you love me, you are with me night and day. I want to love you always, in all I do and say. I’ll try to please you Father, bless me through the day, Amen.***

So we have been talking all about Holy week which is next week. So what happened on the Wednesday of Holy Week? Yes, it was spy Wednesday and on that day Judas decided that he would betray Jesus. So how did he do it? Well the next day – Holy Thursday, Jesus had his last supper with the Apostles. Did you know that the LAST supper, was the very FIRST mass? At the supper, Jesus broke the bread and offered it as his body. He poured the wine and offered it as his blood. The Apostles didn’t know what it all meant. At the meal, Jesus turned to Judas and told him to do what he had to do and Judas went off to find the chief priests. Jesus knew that his friend would betray him but because it was the will of God, he did not stop it from happening. During the meal, he tells Peter that he will deny him three times before the morning. Peter thinks Jesus is being silly. After the meal, Jesus went with the rest of the Apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane, which is on the Mount of Olives. This is a beautiful garden with olive trees. In fact, if you ever get a chance to go to Jerusalem, you can go to this garden and touch some olive trees which are around since the time of Jesus – imagine if they could talk? So what happened in the garden? Let’s listen and find out:

***LUKE 22: 41 – 51***

***Then He withdrew from them, about a stone’s throw away and knelt down and prayed. Father, He said, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless let your will be done, not mine. Then an angel appeared to him, coming from heaven to give him strength. In his anguish, he prayed even more earnestly and his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood. When he rose from prayer he went to the disciples and found them sleeping for sheer grief. And he said to them, “Why are you asleep? Get up and pray not to be put to the test”.***

***Suddenly, while he was still speaking, a number of men appeared and at the head of them the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, who went up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said: “Judas, are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss?” His followers seeing what was about to happen said, “Lord shall we use our swords?” And one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. But at this Jesus said. “That is enough”. And touching the man’s ear, he healed him.***

***The Word of the Lord : Thanks be to God***

So we see that Jesus is captured and led away for a secret trial. Peter, pretends that he does not know him and three times he denies that he is one of his followers. The cock then crows and Peter weeps because he knows that he has let down his friend, just as Jesus had foretold.

It is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. Sometimes people can mock you or make fun of you because of your belief in God. It is then that you should pray to your guardian angel for strength and help.

Lord help us to believe

Lord help us to have courage

Lord help us to share our faith

Lord help us to do your will, not ours.

Perhaps today, you could see if you can make some olive trees out of play dough – perhaps use an old biscuit tin lid as the base to make a little garden like the one at Gethsemane.

Have a wonderful day.

God bless.

Mrs Cleary