

St Bede's Catholic School

Weekly Theme

The Holocaust

23rd January - 27th January 2023



The liturgical
colour is **Green**.

We are in
ORDINARY time.

Morning Prayer

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart.

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us. In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

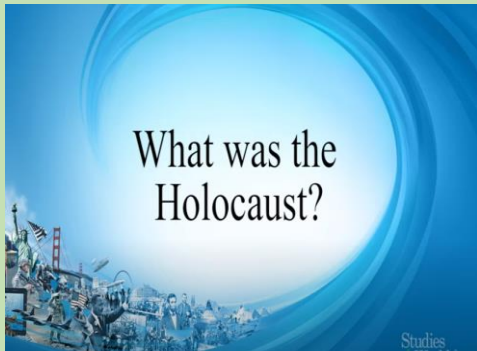
Holocaust Memorial Day is marked each year on the 27th of January.

It aims to remember the genocide of millions of Jews and other groups of people who were killed by the Nazis during the Second World War.

Holocaust Memorial Day also acknowledges the genocide in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The 27th of January is the date that the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated, therefore is a symbolic date for Holocaust Memorial Day as it reflects the hope that dark times do come to an end.

Each year a different theme is chosen as a way to honour the day. The theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 is One Day.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnEIIhLF6ww>

God of the past, present, and future, We remember today, the liberation of Auschwitz, the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and all those who have been targeted and killed in subsequent genocides.

We remember those who, having survived genocide, share their stories with us: We give thanks to You for the lessons of human stories, both in their suffering and in their joy.

We remember those who stood up against injustice and saved lives: We give thanks to You for their example. And we affirm that every life is loved by You and sacred.

Amen

Holocaust Memorial

The Holocaust and genocides across the world are dark times that we must mark in order to reflect and learn lessons from the past.

The theme this year is **Ordinary People...**

Genocide is facilitated by ordinary people. Ordinary people turn a blind eye, believe propaganda, join murderous regimes. And those who are persecuted, oppressed and murdered in genocide aren't persecuted because of crimes they've committed - they are persecuted simply because they are ordinary people who belong to a particular group (eg, Roma, Jewish community, Tutsi).

Ordinary people were involved in all aspects of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and in the genocides that took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Ordinary people were perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses - and ordinary people were victims. In every genocide, those targeted faced limited choices - 'choiceless choices' (Lawrence Langer) but in every genocide the perpetrators have choices, ordinary people have choices.



<https://youtu.be/wCYAFWiZfRg>