

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 12th October 2023

Gather Together

Begin by making the sign of the cross together.

Today we are going to reflect on the way we show our faith through our actions.



Scripture

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

In October we celebrate Black History Month. The theme this year of 'Saluting our Sisters' highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change, and building communities. This year's celebration will showcase pioneering black women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care, and more.

On a recent trip to Divine Saviour School Sister Judith Russi taught us about one such woman; Wangari Maathai.

Wangari Maathai was the first at a lot of things. A biologist, she was the first woman in Central Africa to earn a Ph.D. She was the first woman to be the head of an academic department at the University of Nairobi. She was the first woman to hold the job of Minister of the Environment in Kenya. And, in 2004, she became the first African woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. Her legacy includes the reforestation of her homeland on a huge scale.



As a young woman, Wangari Maathai understood that life was challenging for the people from rural areas of Kenya. Gathering firewood was difficult as the forest was becoming depleted of trees due to deforestation. Wangari realised that more trees were needed to provide firewood for the people to cook with and to provide habitats for the wildlife. She began

planting trees in 1976. In 1977, she started a project called 'The Green Belt' to begin to re-forest her homeland. This provided the possibility of a sustainable future for people in her community and helped to support the delicate ecosystem of the forest. Her project became widely known across Africa and in 1986 other African countries began replanting their forests as part of the Pan African Green Belt Network. Over 40 million trees have now been planted all over Africa since Wangari Maathai began her work.

In 2015, Pope Francis brought together decades of Church teaching in the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. In this deeply influential letter, Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.



In 2004, Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for working to improve the environment. The Nobel Committee said, *'She thinks globally and acts locally.'*

Reflect and Pray

Wangari used her gifts to serve others. Think for a moment. How do you use your God-given gifts for the benefit of others?

Our mission as Catholics is to show the goodness of our faith by our actions, as Wangari did - what will you do today to think globally and act locally?

Loving God,

We come together to thank you for our world. You created the Earth for us to live and prosper in. You taught us how to care for the world you created but we have not followed those laws.

Let us give thanks for the joy our world brings us and pray that we become good stewards of creation.

Amen