

WELCOME TO

ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

5 November 2023

First Reading Mal 1:14 – 2:2.8-10

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

- O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. *(R.)*
- Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. *(R.)*
- O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 2:7-9.13

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 23:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;

you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.

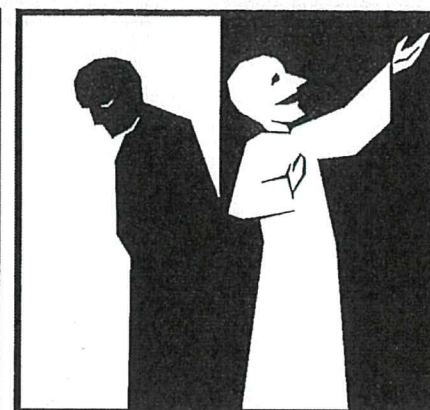
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 23:1-12

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is a lesson on leadership. The gospel writer has Jesus offering a very strong criticism of the religious leadership of his day as exemplified by the scribes and Pharisees. He accuses them of not practising what they preach – a rather familiar criticism often levelled at politicians, teachers and church leaders in our own society today. When the criticism is used today it often implies that if the person fails to practise what they preach then what they have to say carries little weight. But rather than totally rejecting the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus cautions his listeners to take notice of what they have to say – as their teachings were always grounded in scripture and tradition – but not to follow their example of behaviour.

Throughout Matthew's gospel we encounter criticisms of the scribes and Pharisees. This example is of the same nature: they were too caught up with rules and obligations and did not approach life with compassion and concern for the individual. The community for whom Matthew's gospel was intended was struggling with being both Jewish and Christian. They were coming to realise that to be followers of Jesus' way they needed to cast aside some of the attitudes and behaviours of their Jewish tradition. That applied particularly to the model of leadership that they had inherited from Jesus: a model of leadership through service, not power and authority. This gospel passage makes it very clear for that original community as well as ourselves that true leadership is provided through service to others and through humble action. Unlike the Pharisees of Jesus' time, Christian leaders are called to do away with the trappings of power and prestige and, instead, be of service to those whom they would lead.

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ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



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 Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
 Website: sheppartonicatholic.org.au
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 Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor
 Priest in Residence: Fr Joseph Kunnackattu
 Associate Priest: Fr Jackson Saunders
 Deacon: Francois Baguma
 Office Manager: Diane Teitzel
 Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community ...
 the heart of our faith*

Recently Deceased: Lucas John Whatman, John Johnson

Anniversary: Kevin Stein, Luke De Lai, Gavan Connelly, Paul Connelly, John Hicks, Des Taylor, Sylvia and Bill Crowe, Harry Hickey, Antonio Aloe, Nora Moylan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

Readers & Commentators November 11 & 12, 2023

6pm	Youth Mass	Youth Mass
8am	P. Guthrie	E. Samalca
11am	R. Aitken	J-M. Mupenda

Billabong Nursery Cafe Cuppa

All Sacristans and ladies who help around the Church are invited to join us for a cuppa, now on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10.00am. Including Saturday, November 11. All enquiries to: Kath Smyth 0409 003 420.



Melbourne Cup Sweep 2023

THANK YOU to everyone who has registered to go in the DRAW for our 2023 Melbourne Cup Sweep.



The draw for the horses will be made on Monday, November 6, and those whose names draw a horse will be notified that day. Winners will be notified Tuesday November 7. May the best horse win!

First Place \$200, Second Place \$100, Third Place \$50

The next **Men's Group** gathering is on Saturday November 11, at 7.30am in the MPJC.

We had an amazing presentation from Dale Wright at our last meeting with his story of helping local men through some very difficult life experiences, Thank you Dale.

If you have any questions, please phone Anthony on 5821 2633 or email anthonypastoral@bigpond.com



Youth Mass



A Youth-led Mass will take place on **Saturday, November 11, at 6pm.**

School aged children: Pizza and fun will be had afterwards in the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre.

For details or to be involved, please contact callummgrath@notredame.vic.edu.au or zoe.hamilton@notredame.vic.edu.au

Young adults aged 18-35: Join us for dinner at the Terminus Hotel, please RSVP to Fr Jackson on jackson.saunders@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Advent is just around the corner, beginning on December 3 this year. A great way to prepare for the Christmas miracle each year is by becoming involved in an **Advent reflection group**.

We have purchased some reflection booklets from Wollongong Diocese called "The Sign".

Our Parish is happy to help organise a group, at a time that is suitable for the majority of those involved. In the past we have also had a group meet on Zoom. You can call the office on 5821 2633 or email anthonypastoral@bigpond.com if you are interested in joining one of the groups.



Please Note: The Parish office will be closed on Monday November 6 and Tuesday November 7.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP:

We meet each **Thursday, 6 - 7pm** in the MPJC. All aged 18 - 35 are welcome.



Colouring Pages: There are colouring pages for children located in the Narthex. You will need to provide your own pencils or crayons.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am **PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**
SUNDAY LITURGY

Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm, Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

Rosary— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 5pm to 6pm

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

The Parish Bereavement Team invite all parishioners to our annual **Remembrance Mass** to be held at **7.30pm on Wednesday, November 8.**

This is an opportunity to remember all our loved ones who have passed away during the last 12 months in particular, or at any time in the past. A light supper will be served in the MPJC after the Mass.



There is interest in establishing a parish youth group. This is likely to be for those in years 9-12 at secondary school.

If this is of interest to your teenage children, please contact Fr Jackson on 5821 2633 or email jackson.saunders@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

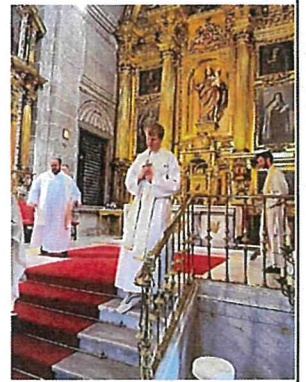


Expressions of interest are invited for people to assist with music at our parish Masses. We are looking for organists, drummers, guitarists, pianists and singers.

If you feel you would be able to assist us with music ministry, please contact the Parish Office on 5821 2633 or speak with Fr Joe or Fr Jackson after Mass.

During the week we celebrated All Saints Day. Recently during World Youth Day I had the privilege of con-celebrating a Mass with Bishop Mark Edwards of Wagga Wagga in Avila, Spain. This Mass was celebrated on August 8 on the Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's Saint.

It was a special day for our 35 pilgrims from across the Diocese, as we spent time in Avila where St John of the Cross and St Teresa of Avila lived. Fr Jackson



CHURCH ROSTERS

It's that time again! We need to prepare the next set of Rosters.

We would be grateful for assistance with

- Ushers/Greeters (particularly at 8am)
- Readers and Commentators
- Special Ministers (Church)
- Special Ministers (Homes)
- Offertory



If you **are** currently on a roster – please email our office to confirm whether you are happy to CONTINUE, alter or prefer to be removed.

If you **are not** currently on a ministry roster – we would be grateful for new people to join, please email us your Name, Phone Number, Preferred Mass time and Preferred Ministry.

If you have questions, please speak with Fr Joe or Fr Jackson after Mass. Office Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

2024 DAILY MASS BOOK

2024 Daily Mass Book: Now available in the Piety Store \$25 each.

Charismatic Prayer Group

All are welcome to join us at 2.00pm in the MPJC on the following Thursdays: November 9 & 23 with our last meeting this year being held on December 14.



All are welcome to join the **GARABANDAL PRAYER GROUP**

Monday, November 20 from 1.30pm. Enter through the Parish Office.



Liturgical procession -

A reminder that the Lector and Ministers of Communion are to always process in and out at weekend Masses.

The Lector goes first followed by the Ministers of Communion.

This follows the order of the Mass as we have the Liturgy of the Word first and then the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Lector carries the Lectionary head height on the way in to honour the Word of God.

When we leave the Lectionary is held open by the Lector to the people.

The symbolism of this is to remind us that we are to share the Word of God with the world as we go out into the world nourished by the Eucharist.



Have you thought about priesthood?

A gathering for those thinking about, or open to a vocation to the priesthood, will be held at St Brendan's Catholic Parish Shepparton, on **Sunday, November 12, from 3pm**. The afternoon will include prayer, reflection and discussion. Dinner will be provided.

The gathering will conclude by 8pm. This is open to men aged over 18. RSVP is essential to the Vocations Director of the Diocese, Fr Nathan Verallo. Please phone 5722 1970 or email np.verallo@gmail.com



LOST AND FOUND

Due to the number of items left in the Church after Masses, a box is kept in the main entrance of the Church (Narthex).

These items will be kept for 1 month before being disposed of. Please check the box in case one of these items belong to you.



Faith & Light Christmas Market

Location to be confirmed.

Friday December 8, 10am—4.30pm
Saturday December 9, 10am—1.00pm
We are raising funds to enable those with disabilities to go away for the weekend. CASH ONLY.

St Vincent de Paul - St. Brendan's Conference



We are looking for a generous person with basic bookkeeping skills for the position of treasurer of our Conference. The role mainly involves paying bills, buying vouchers and record keeping. Our present treasurer has had to resign due to ill health. Please ring Patricia Crane (President) for expressions of interest and further information on 0428 346 347.

Parish Morning Tea



We thank Notre Dame College students for hosting our morning tea for all parishioners each Thursday after the 9.15am Mass. Thursday, November 9 will be the last morning tea for the students this year. However, parishioners will continue to gather for morning tea each Thursday after Mass. All are invited.



Voice for Silent People

Fundraiser: for Orphaned Children in D.R. CONGO

Saturday November 18:
6pm Mass

Sunday November 19:
8am and 11am Masses

WALNUTS \$10KG



HANDMADE SOAP \$5

Also, handcrafted wooden crosses, plants and baked goods.

All enquires to Celie
0488 583 112



CATHOLIC EDUCATION SANDHURST LIMITED INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE



OFFICIAL OPENING AND AWARDS PRESENTATION



Cityscape, 2022, Emma Meyer, Yr 9, Catholic College Wodonga

The evening will commence with a short Liturgy of the Word, followed by the presentation of:

- Spiritual & General Art Awards
- Philomena Billington Social Justice through the Arts Scholarship
- Bishop's Choice Awards

We then invite you to view the Exhibition while connecting with others.

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2023

6pm - 8pm
Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo

RSVP by Wed 1 Nov 2023 via Microsoft Form link in email below

ENQUIRIES

Claire Spinelli
Education Officer: The Arts

E: cspinelli@ceosand.catholic.edu.au
M: 0407 721 088



Community of the Sons & Daughters of God
Saturday November 11, 11.30am Mass

Celebrated by Fr Jackson at St Mary's Mooroopna. Adoration will be held from 3pm—4pm. ALL WELCOME



Friends of the Suffering Souls (FoSS) is a Catholic association which facilitates Masses for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. FoSS began in Australia in the early 1980s and has spread around the world.

FoSS welcomes new enrolments to this important apostolate. To learn more and to enrol, www.fossnova.org or scan QR code.



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Along the track

Visiting the Family

Just about all my ancestors are buried alongside each other in a quiet spot in a country cemetery. It suits them. Here they are, these rather quiet, shy people who shunned publicity or the spotlight – these quiet workers who came in poverty but made their mark. This spot seems just about right for them – a long way from their native Ireland but tucked away under a gum tree in Australia in the farthest corner of the cemetery. Some had long lives, my great grandfather died at a hundred and eight, the oldest man in the colony at that time. On the other hand my brother died at eighteen, and the other two before their time and my nephew did not even make ten years old. My mother died before I got to know her. My sister is at rest there – she looked after the family when our mother died and her husband who brought a lot of joy to our family. And here is my father, that rather stern man with his extraordinary sense of duty and commitment to continuing the legacy he had been given. There are others too with just a few words to describe who they might have been. So I visit them.

I know that they are not there but I am always reminded on my visits of the final words of the burial service: *In peace let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.* So here they are at rest, in peace.

They deserve that – to be in peace and at rest. The few words on their graves do not really describe who they were, what they were to others, what they contributed to their communities, their families. But when they are gone, who will remember them but us? Who will pray for them but us? Who will give thanks for their lives, for them and for who they were? I know we don't need to go to the cemetery to do that, but there is a connection there, a time to remember and give thanks.

I appreciate that today more and more people do not believe in an afterlife but rather 'that this is it.' I don't believe that. I have no idea what an afterlife looks like, feels like, is like. And neither does anyone else really, including those who deny that an afterlife exists.

Nevertheless, in the words of John: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4). If that is so, why would that end at death?

Why would all that finish when our life changes? Why would God who planted within us this life force we call love just cut it off when life changes? Much of our life is about forming relationships that last, relationships that give meaning and purpose to our lives. Why would that just stop at death? It's more a question posed by songwriter Nick Cave, "When will I awaken to your love?"

Life is about how we love and how we have found love. Love is the very thing that gives life its meaning, its satisfaction, its direction, its purpose. We are better people when we love, more authentic, more true to who we are and what we are meant to be. We find purpose and fulfilment in genuine love. Yes, there are people for whom finding love in life is difficult, some who do not enjoy its comfort, security, its challenges and that reminds us that part of our purpose in life is to bring that love to others. That doesn't mean that some of us don't face death with fear or uncertainty, despite the depth of our faith. Why wouldn't we as we face the unknown.

Do I need to go to the cemetery? Probably not but when I do, I visit those who have gone before. Someone remembers them, someone prays for them, someone appreciates what they did. Did their life matter? I visit them to tell them that it did! I am here because of you, because of what you did, because of who you were.

The words of the final ceremony of burial have special significance:

As we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother/sister. May our farewell express our affection for him/her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

I guess that is why I visit my relatives.

Regards
Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
5 November 2023 – Year A

“The scribes and the Pharisees do not practise what they preach.”

Something to Think About

If you were in charge of the world, what rules would you create? Why would these rules be important?

The Story

Jesus referred to the religious leaders as hypocrites - people who said one thing and did something different. Jesus criticises them for showing off, acting important, taking the best seats, and having people call them by fancy titles. Jesus encourages his listeners to be humble, to put others first, and to place God before all else.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

"The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses. So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else. They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders and won't lift a finger to help them. Everything they do is just to show off in front of others. They even make a big show of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms, and they wear big tassels for everyone to see. They love the best seats at banquets and the front seats in the meeting places. And when they are in the market, they like to have people greet them as their teachers.

But none of you should be called a teacher. You have only one teacher, and all of you are like brothers and sisters. Don't call anyone on earth your father. All of you have the same Father in heaven. None of you should be called the leader. The Messiah is your only leader. Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others. If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honoured."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Who were the Scribes and Pharisees?](#)



Group Discussion

Encourage the children to think about the sort of person they believe themselves to be. They might describe themselves in terms of what is important to them, how they try to live and how they treat other people. If they were asked to write a profile of themselves - what would they say?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will practise what they preach. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will be humble in our words and actions. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for teachers and principals who help us follow important rules. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will help our family members at home without being asked. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will show our love for God through the way we treat others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to match our words with our actions and to put others before ourselves. Help us to be honest and sincere in all we do.

Group Activity

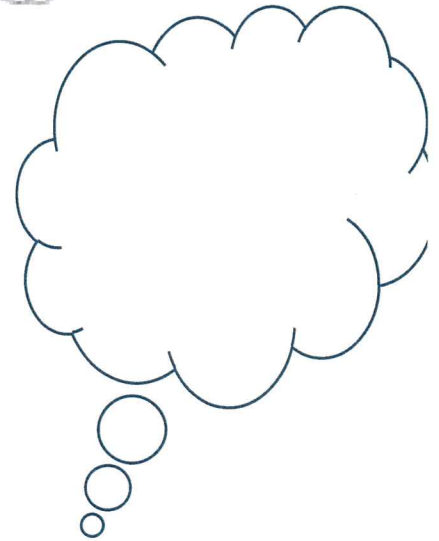
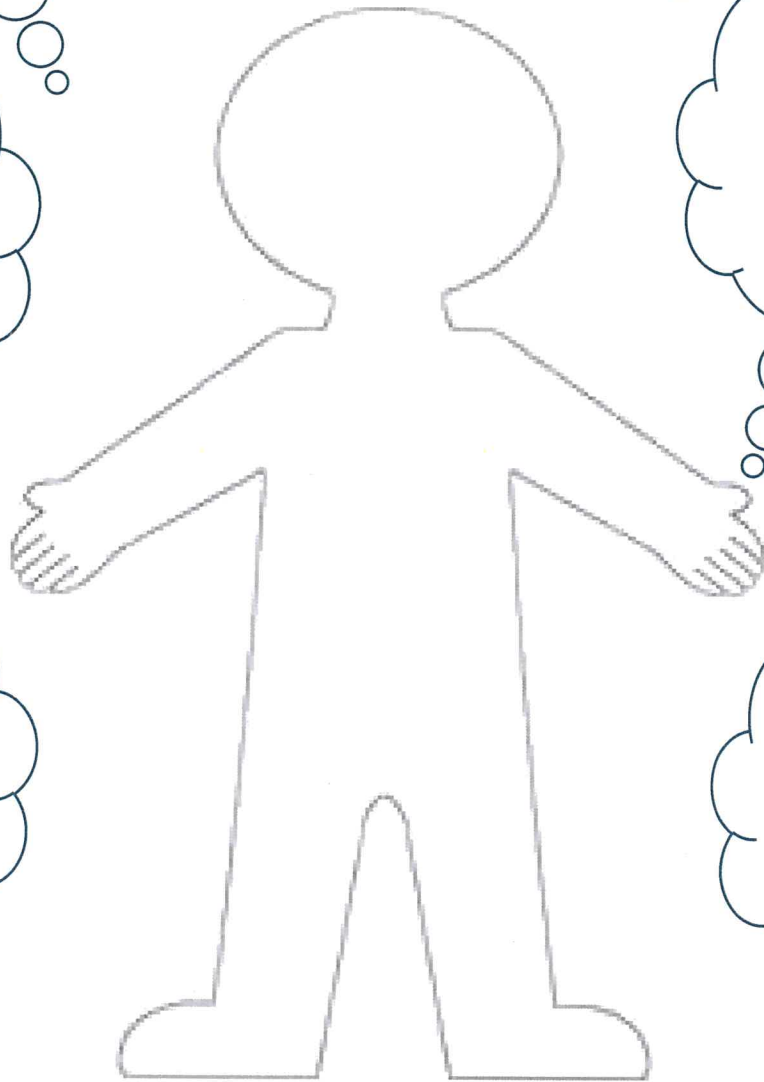
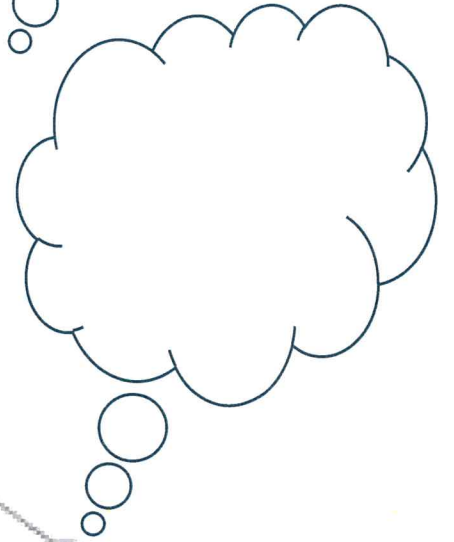
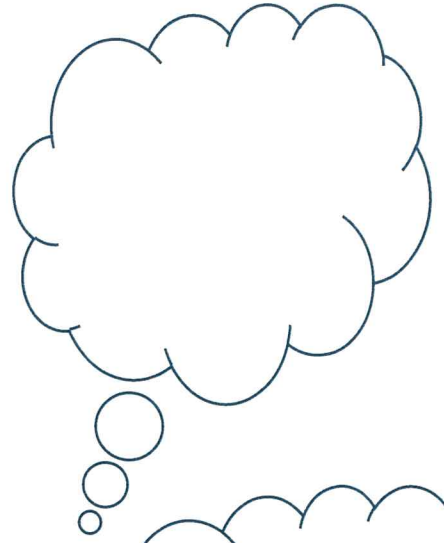
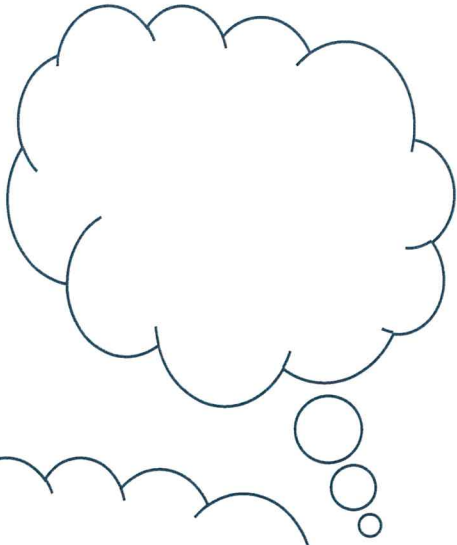
All About Me

You will need: "All About Me" template for each child, colouring pencils or markers. Option: collage paper to make clothes, wool for hair etc...

- 1) Ask children to think about how they would describe themselves e.g. I like to help people, I love animals, I am friendly.
- 2) Invite children to draw or write one characteristic in each of the bubbles.
- 3) Then ask children to add a face, clothes, hair, shoes and so on to the figure of the person so it looks like them.

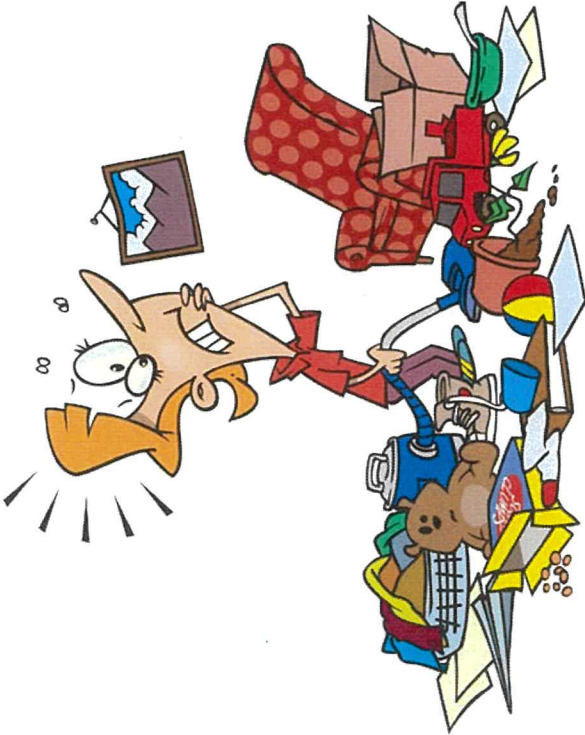


All About Me



WHOEVER IS THE GREATEST SHOULD BE THE SERVANT, HELPING OTHERS

HOW I MAKE A BURDEN FOR OTHERS



HOW I HELP TO LIFT THE BURDEN



SHOW HOW YOU HELP SOMEONE AND LIFT THEIR BURDENS