



OUR MISSION



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
LIVING • LOVING • LEARNING

Our Mission



It is with great pleasure that I can share this Mission document with you. I would like to thank the students, staff, parents, the Local Governing Body and Fr Philip, our chaplain, who have worked on this document with me.

This document outlines our Mission and the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love (Charity) that are the key stones of our Mission. As you read this document I hope and trust that you will come to the realisation who we are and what we want our students to aspire to be.

We want to articulate what makes St Joseph's a special place to live, love and learn.

St Joseph's places itself at the heart of the community, serving the parishes of Workington, Seaton, Harrington, Maryport and all the surrounding areas. We serve, placing Christ at the centre of all we do.

It is our intention that our students are guided by our **Mission Statement** to become virtuous young adults who can make a valuable contribution to society and live a full and happy life.

“Life is not just a succession of events or experiences. It is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful. It is to this end that we make our choices; it is for this that we exercise our freedom; it is in this – in truth, in goodness and in beauty – that we find happiness and joy.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Motto

Asculata [To Listen]

Mission

Living, Loving and Learning
through Christ

Theological Virtues

Faith:

The virtue by which we believe in
God

Hope:

The virtue by which we trust God

Love [Charity]:

The virtue by which we love God

SJCHS Intent:

Our curriculum is based upon the
virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
(Love).

At St Joseph's Catholic High School, we are a community of faith and learning rooted in Gospel teachings and inspired by the Charism of St Joseph. Our virtues and values are enshrined in the teachings of scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These foundations inform, inspire and instill our pupils to live a life of abundance. Through the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love (charity) our love of each other and Christ grows, so that we can better serve our community and become global citizens who strive not only for academic excellence, but for a fulfilled life guided by Christ and virtue he has placed into the heart of all.

A Prayer to St. Joseph



Saint Joseph, you who always trusted God, and made your choices guided by His providence teach us not to count so much on our own plans but on His plan of love.


You who come from the peripheries help us to convert our gaze and to prefer what the world discards and marginalises.

Comfort those who feel alone and support those who work silently to defend life and human dignity. Amen



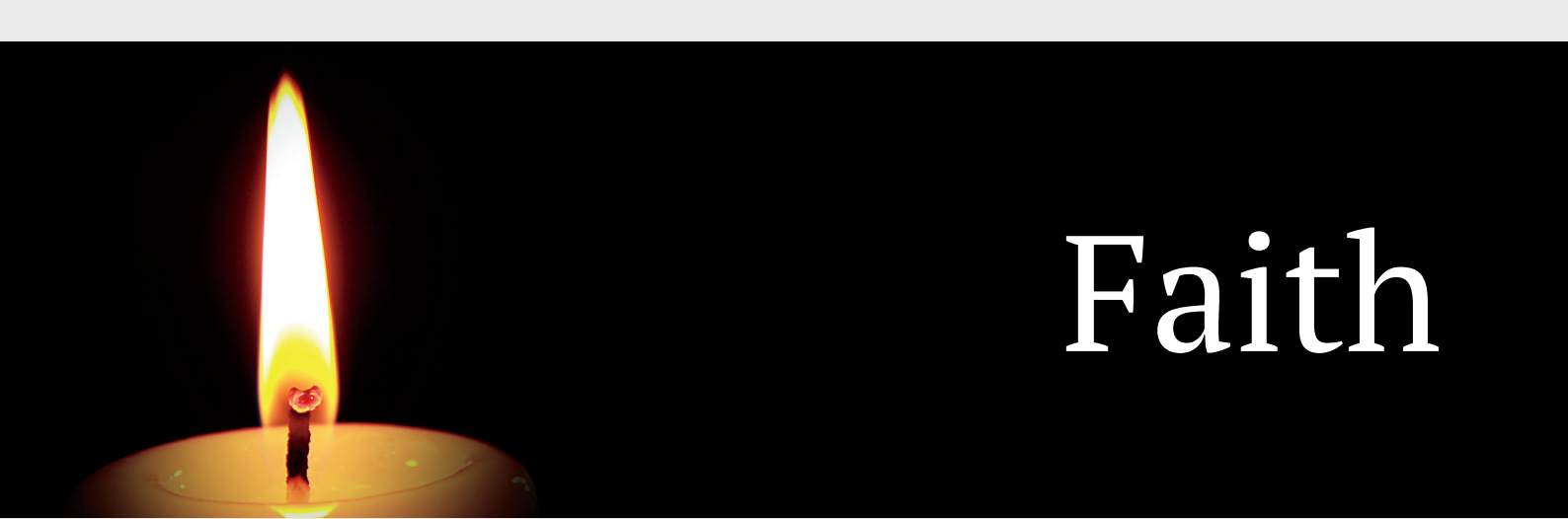
Our Virtues

Our Virtues incorporate our spiritual, academic, and pastoral elements to ensure all students can develop their talents and skills, widen their knowledge of the world, and have full participation in the arts. We want all our students to discover new talents and interests and develop their existing ones whilst at St Joseph's.



Virtue is its own reward, and brings with it the truest and highest pleasure; but if we cultivate it only for pleasure's sake, we are selfish, not religious, and will never gain the pleasure, because we can never have the virtue"

St John Henry Newman.



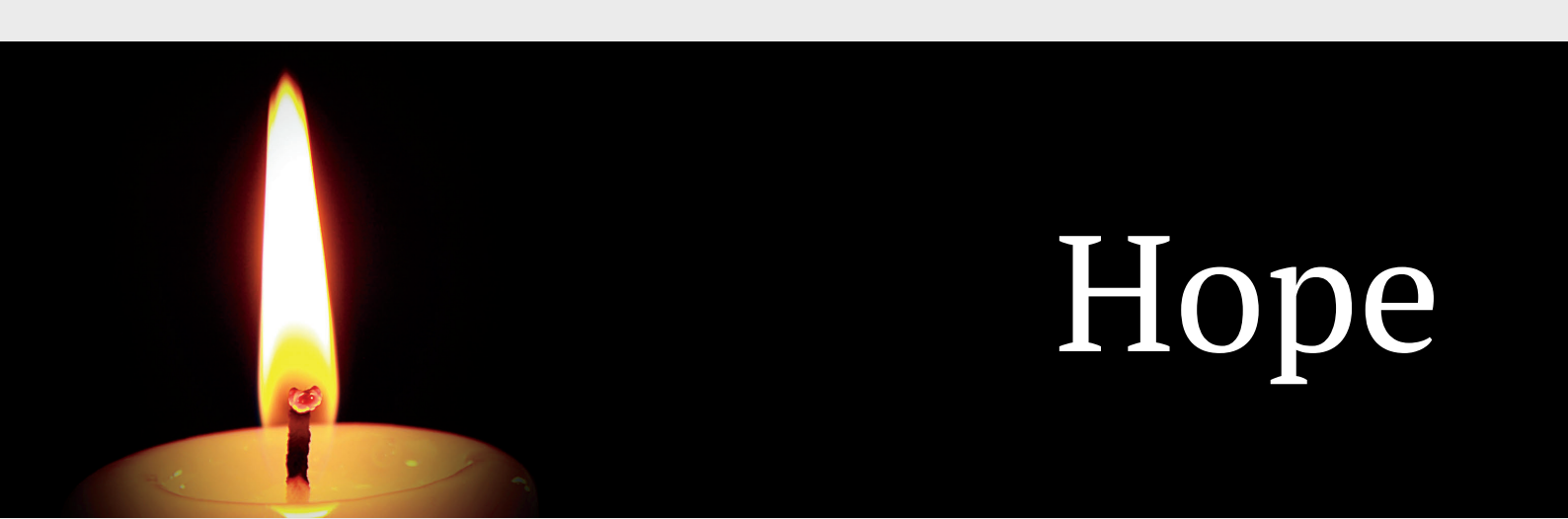
Faith

Faith is the virtue that enables us to believe in God and believe what He has revealed to us as truth because He is Truth Himself. By accepting that He has revealed Himself to us through This faith compels us to turn our lives over to Him and act accordingly. All humans have faith, we all place trust and belief in something and at St Joseph's we realise that there is no faith without works, as authentic faith necessarily calls us to action. For Catholics, God also reveals Himself through the Church He established. Therefore, faith also obligates us to be obedient to Him by way of following what the Church prescribes for us.

Faith requires both solitude and community. We must be able to find God in the solitude of our hearts and participate in intimate relationship and love with Him there. As individuals we can seek God out in the truth of His revelation by reading, studying, and asking questions. We can seek Him out in the beauty of nature, art, and music. We can find Him in the goodness of the world through the observation or participation in the good works we see being done all around us. All these things give us the faith and assurance of God's existence and allow us to interact with him on an individual level.

However, faith cannot exist alone and survive without a communal component as well. As members of the Body of Christ, we must cooperate in expressing our faith. Faith requires communal worship in liturgy and an acknowledgement of the Communion of Saints as unseen members of our Body. Community creates an atmosphere for discipline and obedience as we hold ourselves accountable to one another and the Church which He created.

The intimacy between God and humanity is expressed through faith and authentic faith requires action. "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen," (1 John 4:20). In loving our neighbour, we serve as a witness to our faith and demonstrate our love for God.



Hope

The secular definition of hope is more synonymous with wish – “I hope you have a good day” – but that is not how Christians understand it. Hope is the virtue by which we desire and seek our ultimate good and happiness which is eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. When everything else is going wrong all around us on Earth, it is hope that keeps us focused on the eternal goal beyond this life. It enables us to trust in all of Christ’s promises. As we work to perfect our lives in holiness as He directed us, we do so because of the virtue of hope which promises us there is something better ahead for us. It is the virtue of hope that propels us in our practice of fortitude as we persevere through the obstacles and trials in living out our Christian faith. Hope gives us the ability to do God’s will even when it is hard because we know we will be rewarded for doing so.

When circumstances or sufferings tempt us toward despair, it is the virtue of hope that fights against our temptation. We were not made to suffer or despair because those are not of God or His goodness. So, hope changes us and gives us a new perspective. Our end is not here on this earth but is, instead in heaven where there is no suffering or despair. It is a perfection of the virtue of hope which caused the Saints to express sheer joy amidst their sufferings and it is what we are called to as well.



Love (Charity)

Love (Charity) is the virtue that allows us to fulfil the two greatest commandments revealed by Jesus. “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31). We are called to follow them precisely because we love God above all things and we love others above ourselves. When we act in love, or charity, we naturally follow the old law, but it has new meaning. Love (Charity) is the highest virtue because any other virtue that you exhibit is necessarily driven by charity, either toward God or toward your neighbour.

Authentic love is to recognise God’s love for you and all of His creation and to reflect that love back into the world. It is to honour everyone and everything as He does. Jesus crucified is the perfect example of this authentic love and whenever we have any questions about how to act in Love (Charity), all we need to do is gaze upon a crucifix. Jesus put our ultimate well-being ahead of his own immediate well-being, suffering so that we might be saved from our own sins.

Contrary to the secular understanding of love as a feeling, the Catholic virtue of authentic Love (Charity) says that love is a choice. Regardless of how you feel or don’t feel in a particular situation, you may wilfully choose a loving action toward a person, wherein which heroic Christian virtue lies. Choosing Love (Charity) when it is difficult or undeserved is what we are called to do in the practice of this virtue and, while extremely fruitful, it is often difficult when done correctly. Knowing the difficulty that can exist here, we can again remember to rely on God and His grace and ask Him, in prayer, to increase our capacity for true and authentic charity, so that we may live more closely in accordance with his will for us.