

Friendship



Prayers

Prayer to St Julie Billiat

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiat

Father, thank you for our friends of all races. You made us different shapes, sizes and colours - each with a language and culture of our own. Although we appear so different, we are in fact the same... We are human beings, we share the same needs, desires, hopes and hurts. Thank you Lord, that whatever our race or colour, we are all your creation and you love each and every one of us. Help us to love each other. **Amen**

Reflect: Last week we began the Celebrations of the feast of our College with our Gala Day, Y11 Celebrations and Y7 Feast Day Mass. On Sunday the whole Catholic Church celebrated St Peter & St Paul as figures of faith and inspiration. We take all that into this week and hold firm to the things we know are so positive about this College and what it stands for - amongst them are the friendships that we are all able to nurture within these walls; friendships that for many will last a life-time: friendships between students and friendships between staff. On Monday and Tuesday this week we host our Spirit of Friendship Days for our Y6 friends who will soon become our new Y7 cohort, we hope that these days allow them to begin new friendships to sustain them on their journeys through College. Peter (see the gospel reading above) because of his love for, and friendship with, Jesus, made a firm commitment to him - he started the church that Jesus said would be built on him. It was a massive commitment but his was prepared to stand by it!

- How committed are you to your friendships?

Lord, I'm sorry for the times I've hurt my friends by my words or actions. Help me to think more carefully in difficult situations so that I don't make the same mistakes again. Amen

Matthew 16: 13 – 19

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi where he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" "Some say John the Baptist", the answered, others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet" "What about you?" he asked them "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God". "Good for you, Simon son of John!!" answered Jesus. "For this truth did not come to you from any human being but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven, And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven

Focus on one each day

Pray For:

- Our friends
- People to learn what it means to be a good friend
- Those we know who are unwell, close to death or who have died

- Be a friend to all
- Take your responsibility as a friend seriously
- Ensure you include everyone
- Avoid gossiping
- Smile

Lord, thank you for the blessings of each of our friends, for the times they've been there for us with words, actions and thoughts. Help us to be good friends and show appreciation for the friends we have and the love they give us.

Help me, O God, to be a good and true friend: to be always loyal and never let my friends down; never to talk behind their back, in a way which I would not do face to face; never to betray a confidence or talk about the things about which I ought to be silent. Amen

Keeping Friends

When she was eleven years old, Anita went to her mother to complain. "I can't manage to have friends. They all stay away from me because I'm so jealous." Her mother was taking care of newly-born chickens, and Anita held up one of them, which immediately tried to escape. The more the girl squeezed it in her hands, the more the chicken struggled. Her mother said: "try holding it gently." Anita obeyed her. She opened her hands and the chicken stopped struggling. She began to stroke it and the chicken cuddled up between her fingers. "Human beings are like that too," said her mother. "If you want to hold onto them by any means, they escape. But if you are kind to them, they will remain for ever by your side."

Lord, I give you all of the friends that I call to mind now...

(Pause to allow students to think of their friends)

I thank you for them. I thank you for everything that they are and for all their gifts and talents. I thank you for the many things that they have given to others and for all the kindness that they have shown me.

Bless them this day Lord, and bless our friendship always.

Amen

Lord, thank you for all the friends you have given to me; for those who have been in my life for a long time, and those who've only recently come into my life.

Help me to always be grateful for their trust, support and friendship. I'm sorry for the times I've hurt my friends by my words or actions.

Help me to think more carefully in difficult situations so that I don't make the same mistakes again.

Amen

God Our Father,
you are the friend who is ALWAYS there for us; day or night, rain or shine.
Help us all to call on your in the good times and in the bad - to talk to you as we would a friend and learn to place our trust in you. We ask this through Jesus your Son **Amen**