

Virtues

Virtue is not a word in common use in society at large, but it is common to hear people talk about being loving, respectful, honest, thankful, brave, fair, compassionate, forgiving and so on.

A virtue is a quality of good character, character which is shaped by the performance of virtues: one honest act does not make a person honest, but a determination to be honest performed in a series of honest acts throughout one's life makes one an honest person: we are what we repeatedly do!

A virtue is a habitual way of behaving, a disposition, that forms good character and, at the same time, constitutes a particular kind of community. Virtues build ethos.

Why virtue not value? It is common to hear the language of value used in our culture: Gospel values, British values, family values, my values, your values etc. However, values are subjective - they cannot be applied to everyone - and they need to be personally lived out. To the extent that some values are lived out they become virtues. Virtues are more holistic than values. Virtues constitute the person in two ways: they unite 'who I am' (identity) with 'how I am' (how I try to live).

Classification of the 'School Virtues'

Fundamental Virtue	Taught through the following aspects				
Faith	Faithfulness				
Hope	Prayer			Confidence	
Love/Charity	Courtesy	Service	Forgiveness	Friendship	Compassion
Justice	Honesty	Kindness	Trustworthiness	Generosity	Thankfulness
Solidarity	Love of Neighbour		Responsible Citizenship		Respect
Temperance	Simplicity		Love of Learning		Self-Control
Courage	Patience	Perseverance	Resilience		Determination
Practical Wisdom	Reflection			Discernment	

2 year cycle

Year 1

Advent 1	Lent 1	Pentecost 1
Respect	Faith	Resilience
Courtesy	Simplicity	Perseverance
Thankfulness		Kindness

Advent 2	Lent 2	Pentecost 2
Hope	Love/Charity	Honesty
Patience	Forgiveness	Service

Year 2

Advent 1	Lent 1	Pentecost 1
Love of Learning	Friendship	Determination
Responsible Citizenship	Love of Neighbour	Confidence
		Trustworthiness

Advent 2	Lent 2	Pentecost 2
Prayer	Compassion	Courage
Generosity	Self-Control	Discernment
	Reflection	