



caritas

diocese of hallam

promoting care and social action

Day 1: Good Shepherd Learning

Suggestions for Teachers in
Secondary Schools

Lent 2024





An Introduction for Teachers to Good Shepherd Learning

Every Day Miracles.

The theme for this year's Good Shepherd Appeal is Every Day Miracles: God actively participates in our lives, every day, and often through the people around us.

Here in Hallam, the Caritas team work with many different people, of all ages and backgrounds. Their hands are at the disposal of God, and through their work, God has blessed many with multiple 'mini miracles' and personal transformation.

But they are not alone. To a greater and lesser degree, we *all* collaborate with God in His plan to shower the world with His love... (We just don't always give Him credit for His role!)

On Day 1, we have provided you with resources to help you and your students explore this idea of 'Every Day Miracles'. We will be sharing Caritas stories of Every Day Miracles, and drawing inspiration from the saints, especially from:

- **St Teresa of Ávila** (1515-1582) – and her powerful prayer
- **St Thérèse of Lisieux** (1873-1897) – and her 'Little Way'
- **St Teresa of Calcutta** (1910-1997) – and her love of those on her doorstep.





Good Shepherd Learning Day 1

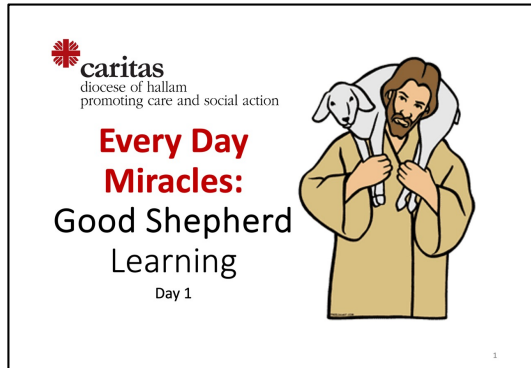
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How can we spot an Every Day Miracle?



Video: What is an Every Day Miracle?

This 2 minute video introduces the concept of Every Day Miracles, as a starting point for discussion:

<https://youtu.be/oRVXGf7hVS8?feature=shared>

PowerPoint Presentation:

The content of the video is also available as a PowerPoint presentation, should you want to go through it more slowly: [Day 1 Every Day Miracles Presentation 2024.pptx](#)

Example of an Every Day Miracle – St Alban's Primary:

In December 2023, the Y6s of St Alban's Catholic Primary School went to surprise a Grandma by singing carols outside her home. What makes this an Every Day Miracle? That God gave certain individuals the eyes to see, the ears to hear, and the heart to care...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-south-yorkshire-67762347>





The Veil Removed on *the Every Day Miracle of Mass*



Mass is an Every Day Miracle.

The Veil Removed is a 3 minute film that removes the veil between heaven and earth, and shows us what actually happens at Mass – should we have the eyes to see.

This video also shows us, in full mystical detail, what it means to pray with the communion of saints and the heavenly hosts.

Warning: you do see Jesus' blood.

https://youtu.be/OOLZDaTglaM?si=l_NQMBolrIOY6Moe



Exploring the *Communion of Saints*



Only a tiny bit of the Church is visible to our human eyes, here on earth.

**The Church is One Family:
it stretches from earth to heaven
and includes:**

- those who are alive today
 - and also the angels,
 - and all the saints,
 - and – of course – God!

**God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit.**

A Saint is someone who is in heaven, with God. We are all called by God to become a Saint!



Fact File: Saint Teresa of Ávila

(St Teresa of Jesus)



Born 1515 in Spain.
Died 1582, aged 67 years



FACTFILE:

Mystic	St Teresa received heavenly visions.
Doctor of the Church	St Teresa was the first woman Saint to be made a Doctor of the Church. This is because she helped the Church to better understand some difficult things.
Religious Reformer	St Teresa used her money to start up a different type of convent.
Known for	Her teaching around prayer and meditation, and especially the 'prayer of quiet'
Feast Day	15 th October

About the Life of St Teresa of Ávila - Video:

Catholic Television, 11 mins

<https://youtu.be/0ui1WtoAX7o?si=bCR9NCdf4RRbwnsH>⁷



Saint Teresa of Ávila

teaches us especially about prayer



**Saint Teresa tells us that Jesus is a
close and special friend,
who loves us so very much.**

**We make time to spend time with
our special friends, don't we?
Jesus loves it when
we choose to spend time with Him!**

Discussion Opportunity:

- We can't see Jesus in the same way that we can see our other friends. How can we spend time with Jesus?



Let us Pray with Saint Teresa of Ávila



Where are your hands?
Where are your feet?



St Teresa tells us:

Jesus has no body now on earth, but yours!
No hands but yours!
No feet but yours!

Your feet are the ones He wants to do good in the world.
Your hands are the ones He wants to bless the world.

Are you ready to help Jesus
make the world into a better place?





Art Opportunity: Create some 'helping hands'!



**“God doesn’t require us to succeed,
He only requires that you try”.**

(St Teresa of Calcutta)





Fact File:

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

(The Little Flower)

Born 1873 in France
Died 1897, aged 24 years



FACTFILE:

A Thinker	As a child, St Thérèse loved to just sit down and think about God, life and eternity in heaven. She always wanted to be a saint.
A Sister	St Thérèse was the 4 th sister of 5; 4 of them – including Thérèse became Carmelite Nuns.
A Writer	St Thérèse wrote a book called 'Story of a Soul', which was published after her death.
Known for	Her simple, childlike relationship with God, called 'The Little Way'. This is all about doing little things, but with great love.
Feast Day	1 st October



Living “*The Little Way*” with Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Doing Little Things...



...With **Great Love!**

What little things can you
do to help someone at:

- School
- Home
- Church?

How can you do it with
great Love?





Fact File:

Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)



Born in 1910, as an Albanian
Died 1997, aged 87 years

FACTFILE:



Inspired by St Thérèse of Lisieux	Mother Teresa was born 'Agnes'. She loved St Thérèse of Lisieux, but one of the other Sisters (nuns) already had that name. So she used the Spanish – Teresa – instead.
A Missionary	Called by God to serve the poorest of the poor, for Jesus - especially in Calcutta, India.
A Founder	Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity. By the time she died, there were 4,000 nuns helping people through 517 missions in over 100 countries!
Known for	Her service to the poor, and for doing 'small things with great love'.
Feast Day	5 th September



The Life of Mother Teresa (*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*)



The Life of Mother Teresa (Saint of the Gutters) - Video:

Catholic 365, 8 mins long

<https://youtu.be/EjMGO--esoA?si=Ed9RNdrXI6EERimk>



Learning from Mother Teresa (*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*)



She only did a few things, but what she did, she always did with great love:



1. She smiled and talked with people, and she wrote a lot of letters;
2. She cared for those who nobody else loved – the very poor, the sick, the dying, and those with no family;
3. And she prayed. Mother Teresa tried to talk to God all day and all night!



She had great faith – she trusted God completely, and knew that He would never let her down:

Mother Teresa was very poor – she didn't have any money because she always gave it away. She asked God for everything she needed so that she could look after other people. And God never let her down!



The life of Mother Teresa is full of Every Day Miracles.

The help she needed – money, buildings, people – always arrived exactly when she needed it!



Words of Encouragement from Mother Teresa



**“Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things with great love.”**



**“Never worry about numbers.
Help one person at a time and always start
with the person nearest you.”**

**“The way you help heal the world is you start
with your own family.”**

**“Prayer is not asking.
Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God,
at His disposition, and listening to His voice
in the depth of our hearts.”**

**“If we have no peace,
it is because we have forgotten that
we belong to each other.”**



Music Opportunity: *Magic Penny...*

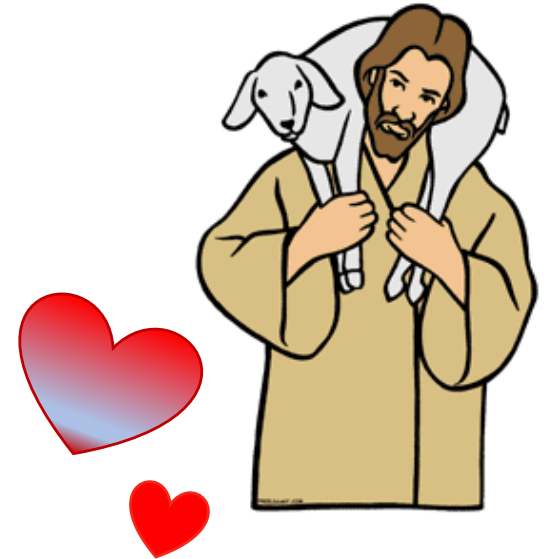


Love is something if you give it away,
give it away, give it away,
love is something if you give it away,
you end up having more!

It's just like a magic penny;
Hold it tight and you won't have any;
Lend it, spend it and you'll have so
many,
They'll roll all over the floor, for...



So let's go dancing till the break of day,
And if there's a piper, we can pay.
For love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.





Caritas Hallam

– also full of Every Day Miracles

God can use everyone's hands to do *good* for the world.

And we make it a lot easier for Him when we purposefully set out to collaborate with Him in this work!

Caritas Hallam is one such organisation. It is full of people committed to showing God's love to our local communities. At Caritas, we offer our hands (and our gifts and talents) to help and support our communities from 'cradle to grave', and we do this through doing lots of *little things, with great love*.



The Caritas Schools Team now works with 27 schools within our Diocese and local communities, delivering one-to-one counselling, group interventions, and summer holiday support to the pupils who need it. And they support the staff working in schools too.

Caritas delivers Parenting and Well-Being programmes, as well as Family Therapy. They partner other local organisations and deliver projects of support, such as the Light Project for victims of domestic abuse. And they continue to support a range of other projects around the diocese that aim to be there for their local communities at their time of need.

Miracles are happening; let's all engage, work and pray for more!