

Worthing Deanery Prayer

The theme of this week 13th February 2017.

Real love



Reflection

In the Sunday gospel on 12th February Jesus is giving his teaching to the people on a little hill outside Jerusalem. The Sermon on the Mount is the longest piece of teaching from Jesus in the New Testament and it contains the central tenets and beliefs of Christian discipleship. The heart of the Christian message is “**love**.” Jesus summed up the Commandments and the Law by telling his listeners that we all need to do three things: **love** God, **love** our neighbour and **love** ourselves. We can understand the first two categories but loving myself??? What’s that about and what does it mean for us today? St Valentine’s Day is 14th February and lots of students at Chatsmore will send and receive Valentine cards, red roses and chocolates! This is good news because we can give and receive **love**. But Jesus tells us that if we do not and cannot **love** ourselves with all our gifts, skills and talents but also with our many failings, then how can we possibly **love** other people? We need to realise that ultimately we are created in God’s image of perfection even though at times we can fall short of his message. “All you need is love.”

Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred let me sow love; injury, pardon; doubt, faith; despair, hope; darkness, light; sadness, joy. Let me bring the light of your love to those who are in greatest need.
Amen.

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

From the bible

“..love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matt 5: 44