

*Blessing of the Mushrooms and Benches
in Memory of Mrs Bolden*



*Together at Our Lady School
We are living, learning and growing
Through Jesus Christ and His Church*

September 2013

School and visitors gather round the mushrooms

Mrs Brown welcomes:

'We are here to remember Mrs Bolden and everything she gave to us here at Our Lady School.

These mushrooms and the benches are symbols of her playfulness, reminders of her love and commitment to children and teaching. It is poignant for us to be outside as Mrs Bolden headed up improvement of the outside environment and provide us with a place to remember and reflect.

Head Girl Reads Matthew 5: 13-16

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew

Jesus said: You are like a light shining for the whole world to see; just as a city built high on a hill cannot be hidden from view. No one lights a lamp and then covers it up with a bowl; they put it high up on a stand so that it gives light to everyone in the house. When you are good you will bring light into the world around you, others will see you and thank God for sharing his goodness.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Mrs Brown has composed a short poem for Leda and her mushrooms.

Poem for Leda By Susan Brown

'Mushrooms for remembrance- not rosemary, I say

With Leda's name engraved thereon for when the children play

They light upon the name and think- this person must have loved us all

And invites us now to sit upon her mushrooms and remember her.

Mushrooms for remembrance - not rosemary, I say

A legacy of light and love and memories of the way

She was so enthusiastic - brought hearty cheer to all

The special qualities of these mushrooms help us remember her.'

Mrs Phillips: *These mushrooms, each one lovingly carved by hand so no two are the same, have been donated by you children, your parents and friends of Our Lady school in memory of dear Mrs Bolden. We will treasure these special seats and enjoy playing and sitting on them and looking for her name, uniquely carved for you to find on each one.*

Fr Michael: Father Michael to bless the mushrooms

All sing: This little light of mine (chorus continually until procession returns)

During singing the house captains, head boy and girl, Mrs Brown and Mrs Phillips with Fr Michael and visitors process to the two benches up on the field.

Fr Michael: Father Michael simply reads the inscriptions and blesses the benches.

The group processes back to the mushrooms.

Mrs Thorp: Let us join our hands and say together the Prayer of Faith

Prayer of Faith

'Lord let me see your face, know your heart and experience your love in my life.

Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith; I believe Lord - help my unbelief.

All sing: 'On this place your blessing Lord,'

'On this school your blessing Lord,'

'On us all your blessing Lord,'

Head Boy- Reads Unicef letter

Before we all depart and go our separate ways, let us reflect on this meditation as it so accurately describes Leda - a beloved.

Reflection: You have to be a beloved to know.

'God is always choosing people. First Impressions aside, God is not primarily choosing them for a role or a task, although it might appear that way. God is really choosing them to be God's self in this world, each in a unique situation. If they allow themselves to experience being chosen, being beloved, being somehow God's presence in the world, they invariably communicate that same closeness to others. And thus the mystery passes from age to age. Yes, we do have roles and tasks in this world, but finally they are all the same- to uniquely be divine love and to share it in a way that no one else can or will.

All sing: Shine Jesus shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining

in the midst of the darkness shining;

Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,

set us free by the truth you now bring us,

shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus shine,

Fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow,

Flood the nations with grace and mercy;

Send forth your word, Lord,

And let there be light.