Primary 7 Religion task – How well do you know Fr. James?

Following on from our work last week on Holy Orders and the Priesthood, I would like you to create a piece of work about our very own Fr. James O’Reilly.

* You can be creative with the presentation of your information, whether that be a piece of writing, a fact file, an illustration with labels or something entirely different, the choice is yours!
* To help you with this, I have asked Fr. James to answer a number of questions about his childhood, school days, study and life in the Priesthood. He kindly provided me with the answers which I will attach here.
* Please use the information provided by Fr. James and anything else you know about him from your time in St. Joseph’s.

I look forward to reading your pieces of work and I know Fr. James would love to see what you all come up with!

Send them to Mrs McNally and myself via Seesaw or email.

Good luck and have fun!

Mrs Kearney

Fr. James Q & A

1. What is your full name?

James Thomas (Matthew is my Confirmation name) O’Reilly.

1. When were you born?

17th October 1984.

1. Where did you go to school?

I went to primary school in St. Kieran’s in Poleglass and I went to secondary school in St. Patrick’s in Lisburn.

1. What did you enjoy at school?

I loved making friends. I was quite sporty and enjoyed playing football and doing P.E. I loved learning about religion and my Catholic faith. My favourite subjects were English, Religion, P.E. and Science.

1. Was there a bishop present at your Confirmation?

Yes, I was confirmed by Bishop Anthony Farquaar.

1. Have you always wanted to be a priest?

I would say the honest answer is no. It wasn’t until I was a good bit older and my faith became the most important thing to me that I began to think that God might want me to be a priest. I wanted to be a P.E. teacher or a journalist when I was at school.

1. What age were you when you began your journey into the Priesthood?

I began thinking about it when I was 23, then I began my studies when I was 25.

1. For how many years did you study?

Six years.

1. What did you enjoy most about studying to become a priest?

We got to study the Bible in great detail and that was something I really enjoyed. But most of all I enjoyed the chance to spend time with God and other men who were considering the same call in life.

1. When were you ordained?

I was ordained on the 12th June 2016.

1. Where was your first parish?

I am delighted to say that Antrim is my first parish.

1. Which sacraments do you love to celebrate?

I love to celebrate all the sacraments, but the one I get to celebrate most is Mass. I love celebrating it with all the people and especially with all the children from St.Joseph’s.

1. What do you like about being our priest in St. Joseph’s?

I love being in St. Joseph’s because everyone is so friendly and so good to me. All the children and staff in the school have made me like part of the family. I love seeing all the boys and girls being able to express themselves and become the young people God has created them to be.

1. What do you do in your spare time?

I love to spend time with friends and family, play football, read, I play a bit of guitar so I like to practise that. There’s loads of things I love to do!

1. Any other interesting facts about yourself?

I like to think I’m an open book and you has discovered a lot about me, but I lived in the USA for a year, I’m from Belfast, I have one sister and three brothers and I REALLY REALLY MISS ALL OF YOU BOYS AND GIRLS AND I PRAY FOR YOU EVERYDAY!