ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OTLEY

Mini Vinnies Meeting

Date: 22 September 2026 **Time:** 12:10 pm

Children's Garden Portfolio – Our Ideas for a Prayer Garden

During our Mini Vinnies meeting, the children shared their ideas for developing a special prayer garden in our school grounds. They discussed how the garden could help us to pray, remember stories from the Bible, care for God's creation and create a peaceful space for our school community. The children were encouraged to share their own ideas and explain what they would like to see, make and look after.

Attendance	Halle, Sophie, Ava, Katie, Niamh and Hughie
Apologies	Jude and Jemimah (swimming)

Discussion and Children's Ideas

The Prayer Garden

The children would like the garden to become a peaceful place for prayer and reflection. They suggested using natural materials and meaningful objects so that the garden feels connected to God and His creation.

The Vineyard

The children chose the name **“The Vineyard”** for the garden. They liked the idea of including grapes and vines to remind us of Jesus and the Bible stories connected with vineyards.

Jesus and the Cross

The children would like a cross and an image or statue representing Jesus to be included as important Christian features. They felt these would help make the garden a special place to spend time with God.

Fake Grapes

The children suggested adding artificial grapes to help create the feeling of a vineyard. These could be used as decorations within the garden.

The Jealous Vineyard Story

Niamh offered to create a poster for **The Vineyard**, linking the garden to the Bible story about the jealous vineyard. The poster could explain the story in child-friendly language and help visitors understand why the garden has this name.

Garden Designs

The children would like to create their own garden designs. They can draw where they would like the cross, statues, plants, bird baths, fish and other features to go, explaining why each feature is important.

Bread and Wine

The children suggested including symbols of bread and wine in the planter. These would remind us of Jesus, the Last Supper and the Eucharist, which is a very important part of our Catholic faith.

Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus

The children chose a statue or display of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. They felt this would make the garden a welcoming and prayerful place where we can remember the Holy Family.

Bird Baths – Caring for Creation

The children suggested adding bird baths so that birds can use the garden. They recognised that looking after the birds is one way we can care for God's creation and show respect for the world He has made.

Fish – The Feeding of the 5,000

The children wanted to include fish as a reminder of the Gospel story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. They liked the idea of using fish as a symbol of sharing, kindness and Jesus caring for others.

Next Steps Chosen by the Mini Vinnies

• Niamh will begin designing a poster for **The Vineyard**, linking it to the story of the jealous vineyard.

• All of the children will create their own **prayer garden designs**, showing the features they would like to include.

• The children's ideas will be considered when planning the layout, decorations and Bible-themed features of the garden.

• The children will think about how they can **care for the garden and God's creation**, including looking after plants, birds and other living things.

• The finished garden will be a shared space for **prayer, reflection, learning and remembering Jesus**.

“As a family with God in our hearts, we love, laugh and learn.”