

The inspiration behind the name 'Little Treasures'

The Story of St Laurence.

Laurence worked for the Pope in Italy in 258AD and he was in charge of the treasures which were owned by the church. Unfortunately, the emperor at the time decided that he no longer wanted the Pope to remain in his job and ordered him to be put to death. Laurence, who had served the Pope for many years, was heartbroken by this decision and accompanied the Pope as he was taken away.

The last words spoken by the Pope to Laurence were that he (Laurence) would meet his own death in 3 days' time.

The Emperor, who had his eye on the treasure from the church, requested an urgent meeting with Laurence and asked him to bring the treasure to him.

Laurence asked the Pope for three days - time to assemble the treasures. During this time, he made the decision to distribute all the wealth from the church to the poor people of Rome.

On the third day, he chose to take the poor people to the emperor and presented the people to the Emperor saying,

"These are the treasures of the church, not the gold and silver." The emperor was enraged and at once ordered his soldiers to kill Laurence. The legend has it that he was strapped to a large gridiron and burnt to death. The gridiron is our school emblem. (The legend also says that during his torture, Laurence is reported to have said to the soldiers, "I am already roasted on one side and, if you would have me well cooked, it is time to turn me on the other.")

The famous comments of St Laurence about the "treasures of the Church" surely remind us that the true treasures of the world are indeed its people, and not jewels, gold and silver, which are really of no lasting value.

