



# CHAPLAINCY



*An update of Chaplaincy at Our Lady's*

## "Rejoice in Hope!"

### OUR ADVENT FOCUS

This Advent, we have been focusing on hope as we await the coming of Christ at Christmas. As the third Sunday of Advent approaches, we are reminded that this hope is a joyful hope - the hope that is in the person of Jesus Christ, who came to be our hope and the light of the world. This has been the theme of our Advent morning prayer time with year 8; the promise from Isaiah that "the people in darkness have seen a great light." We explored how Jesus is the light and hope of the world and how, if we are meant to be like him, to be another Christ, we must also be the light and hope of the world. The students used candle cut-outs (see right) to write a pledge of how they would try to bring light and hope to a world that walks in darkness.

We added these candles to our Advent display to go alongside our wreath and remind us every time we walk in through the entrance hall that we are commissioned by Jesus to be light for the world and to bring to all people the hope that is found in our Emmanuel.

*Advent Prayer:  
God our Father,  
Please help us to use this season of Advent to prepare our hearts and lives for welcoming Jesus this Christmas.*

*Help us to recognise the Jesus in those who need hope and help in our communities and please send us your Holy Spirit so we might have the courage to play our part in making our society a more hopeful, loving place.  
Amen.*



# Faith in Action

## THE SIXTH FORM SLEEP OUT AND OUR LDHAS APPEAL

As part of our support for Lancaster District Homeless Action Service (LDHAS) this half term, 28 Sixth Form students and 6 members of staff took part in a sponsored sleep-out in our Entrance



Courtyard, raising over £1000. They braved the rain and cold, taking part in fire-lighting workshops, baking workshops (the produce of which was very well received by the homeless community!) and a talk from Phil, the LDHAS manager. The experience inspired everyone to look at the problem of homelessness in a new light and to always remember that, even if you can't spare any change, you can treat people with a smile, a conversation, and the dignity they deserve.

*"May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you."*

PSALMS 33:22

## WHAT'S ON IN THE CHAPLAINCY

Mondays

Lunchtime Mass

Tuesdays

Chaplaincy Drop-in

Wednesdays

Chaplaincy Drop-in

Faith in Action Group

Thursdays

Faith Formation and

Sacrament Preparation

Fridays

GIFT Team (Form Time)

Faith in Action Group

## Year 9 Day with a Difference

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Year 9 enjoyed their "Day with a Difference" on October 21st. This included a litter-picking session, Fairtrade-based activities, a session based on Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si", looking at working for world peace, and the highlight of the day: the human food chain! We ended up delivering lots of food to both the Father's House Foodbank and the Olive Branch, both of whom were extremely grateful!



## All Saints' Day

### CELEBRATING MASS IN SCHOOL

On November 1st, our priest chaplain, Fr. John-Paul, came into school to lead us in the celebration of Mass on the Solemnity of All Saints' Day, which is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church. It was great to see so many students and staff joining in the celebration of this wonderful feast day, which reminds us that we too are all called by God to be saints in our everyday lives!



# *Sing for Joy to the Lord!*

The evening of Monday 12th December saw our Advent Carol Service take place at St. Joseph's Church and it was a night full of joyful anticipation of Christmas!

A huge thank you to all who came and made it such a wonderful and prayerful occasion, and to all who took part - we are so privileged to have such a fantastic array of talented students (and staff!) and it was beautiful getting to share in that and to offer it to the God who offered us His only Son to walk with us as our Emmanuel.



*O come, O come,  
Emmanuel,  
and ransom  
captive Israel,  
that mourns in  
lonely exile here  
until the Son of  
God appear...*

*Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
shall come to  
you, O Israel!*

## *Coming Soon in the Chaplaincy...*

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **Friday 6th January: Solemnity of the Epiphany** (Holy Day of Obligation) - Mass will be celebrated in school
- **Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd February: Sixth Form Retreat.** - a 2 night stay at Hyning Hall in Warton for sixth form students. Still places available, so ask Rachel or Ben for a letter!



## *Lastly... Happy Christmas!!*

From all of us here in the Chaplaincy, we wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas, filled with the joy of Christ's coming! Have a wonderful break and a well-earned rest and we look forward to welcoming you back safe and sound in 2023!