



CHAPLAINCY



"What Do You Seek?"

SEEKING GOD IN THE ORDINARY

This first half term of 2023 has seen the end of Christmastide and the move into the season of Ordinary Time.

In our diocese, we have recently mourned the passing of one of our priests, Monsignor Joseph Branson, at whose funeral we heard Jesus say in the Gospel "What do you seek?" to John the Baptist's disciples. It's a great place to start the season of ordinary time, and indeed the new year, by asking ourselves: "what do you seek?"

At Our Lady's, we have a group of students who have answered our Lord's question with a desire to seek and know Him more deeply. We have been making this journey together in our Faith Formation group, walking towards being fully received into the Church through

the sacraments of Baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation.

We ask for your prayers to help these students on a journey of faith that will last a lifetime, that they may get to know and love God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who has called them into relationship with Him.



A Prayer for Ordinary Time...

God, give us the courage to live in the now. Help us to live into the ordinary days of our lives and of the church year. Remind us again that this day is a gift from you in all its ordinariness. For this day, we give you thanks, Gracious God, because you gave us another day to love you and to love each other. On this ordinary day in ordinary time, we will worship you, Loving God. Amen.



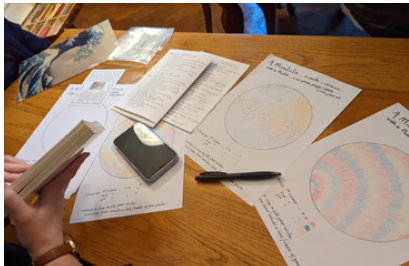
Hyning Retreat

OUR SIXTH FORM VISIT HYNING MONASTERY

For the first time since the outbreak of Covid-19, we have been able to take our sixth formers on retreat. We spent 3 days at Hyning Monastery in Warton, which included the feasts of the Presentation of the Lord and St. Blaise.

Following the themes of these feast days, we looked at our identity, following how Simeon identified Jesus as the Messiah when he held him in the Temple, and using our voice, as

St. Blaise is the patron saint of throats! We did prayerful colouring looking at what feelings we identify with, art depicting our life's journey and who we are now, we looked at people who have used their voice for good: St. Óscar Romero (one of our school's heroes of faith) and designing Romero cross-inspired tealight holders for those who are oppressed, Sophie Scholl and making roses to symbolise speaking out against injustice, and Malala Yousafzai and petitioning for the universal right to education, which led us to develop our own presentations on what we are passionate about too. We also took part in the Divine Office and celebrated Mass, (we even received a traditional blessing of the throat!) making it a beautiful and fruitful retreat for us all!



"...My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all the nations: a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

LUKE 2:30-32

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)
Fairtrade Café (Lunch)

Our Lady of Lourdes Celebration

CELEBRATING OUR DIOCESAN PATRONESS

Our Lady of Lourdes is the patroness of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocese, so this is a day of great celebration within our region! As this feast falls on the 11th February (in half term) we celebrated it a tiny bit early, together in a prayer service with our feeder primary schools at Lancaster Cathedral.

A group from our year 7 choir and 4 year 11 students attended along with Rachel, Ben, Mrs. Holbrook, Mr.

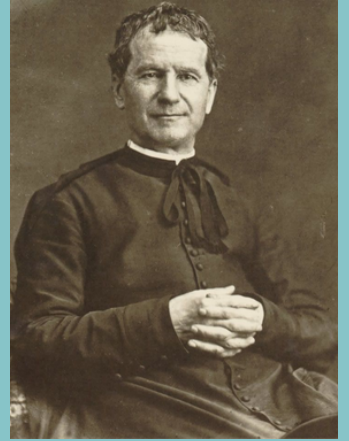
Pinnington, and Mrs. Seddon. The service was a wonderful occasion in which Fr. John-Paul (our priest chaplain) and the primary students led us in prayer, meditating on the joyful mysteries of the Rosary, while the Our Lady's students led the music. We thank God and all who took part, making it such a great day and we ask Our Lady of Lourdes to pray for us in this Diocese of Lancaster, that we may grow in faith, hope and love for God and our neighbour.



Coming Soon in the Chaplaincy...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **Wednesday 22nd March: Ash Wednesday** - this marks the start of Lent. There will be a voluntary service in the hall for all those wishing to attend - make sure to sign up in form time.
 - **Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th March: Year 7 Retreat** - We will be taking a group of year 7s to Savio House near Macclesfield on retreat. There's still a little bit of time if you want to go - come and get a letter from Ben in the Chaplaincy!
 - **Friday 24th March: Year 8 Day with a Difference** - a fun, interactive day off timetable for year 8 looking at the idea of forgiveness and what this means in our world today.
 - **Monday 24th - Friday 28th April: Year 10 Retreat.** - a week's stay at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick for year 10 students. Still places available, so ask Ben for a letter!
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*"It is not enough
to love the
young. They
must know and
feel that they
are loved!"*

ST. JOHN BOSCO



Have a great half term!

From all of us here in the Chaplaincy, we hope you have an amazing half term full of rest, joy and blessings. God bless you all and see you in the new half term!