



SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER 2 2023

CHAPLAINCY



*An update of
Chaplaincy at
Our Lady's*

Year 7 Retreat

A TRIP TO SAVIO HOUSE WITH YEAR 7...

In March, we had the pleasure of visiting Savio House, a Salesian retreat centre, with some year 7 students.

As our retreat was in Lent, our theme was "Bridges" - looking at reconciliation, repairing our broken bridges and creating new bridges. We used St. John Bosco's model for the four areas of life (school, playground, home and church) to examine our consciences and see where we needed reconciliation in our lives. We took this to a reconciliation service, where we offered it up to God and had the opportunity for sacramental reconciliation too! The students also had the opportunity to explore the ideas of reconciliation and forgiveness through the lenses of music, dance, acting and art; creating some beautiful reflections that they got to present to the

group at Mass (pictured above).

While we made plenty of time for God, St. John Bosco always ensured the children in his oratories had plenty of time to play, and we certainly did too! We enjoyed a walk up to "White Nancy" (pictured below), a disco with karaoke, time in the games room and time on the new football pitch!

Thank you to all who came on the trip and those who helped - you all made it a very fruitful and joyful experience!



*"Have mercy on
me, God, in your
kindness.*

*In your
compassion blot
out my offence.
O wash me more
and more from
my guilt and
cleanse me from
my sin."*

- Psalm 50:3-4

Big Lent Walk

WALKING TO SUPPORT CAFOD

This Lent, our school are taking part in CAFOD's "Big Lent Walk" campaign, which supports their Lent appeal to help those suffering as a result of climate change. This helps those suffering from the effects of natural disasters such as cyclones, flooding and drought, which are all serious threats to people's livelihoods and food sources. With over 1000km walked already, our students have made a great effort to support those in need!



If you would like to donate to our fundraising appeal and support the wonderful efforts of our students, please get in touch!

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst...He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

ST. TERESA OF KOLKATA



Year 8 Day with a Difference

HOW CAN WE FORGIVE?

On Friday 24th March, our year 8 students spent the day off-timetable on a Day with a Difference, looking at the ideas of forgiveness and reconciliation. We heard an interview-style talk, with Jonny Bayes (from NISCU) and Marcus Mosey (whose sister died in the Lockerbie disaster), exploring how Marcus came to forgive those who had killed his sister and how forgiveness sets us free, sets others free and conforms us to Jesus because we are acting as he did when he was on Earth. We also looked at other situations from the media and discussed how hard they were to forgive as well as what makes things

hard to forgive too.

The students also got to take part in reconciliation-themed workshops such as planting "seeds of forgiveness", "weight of sin relays" and "reconciliation bracelets", all while having the opportunity to drop into the chapel for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We ended the day with a Reconciliation Service, praying for personal and global forgiveness and leaving our examinations of conscience at the foot of the cross, asking Jesus to forgive our sins.

So we can all commend our broken relationships, situations and sins before Jesus and ask him to heal and forgive us through his infinite mercy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE CHAPLAINCY

Mondays
Breaktime drop-in
Lunchtime Mass

Tuesdays
Faith in Action

Wednesdays
Faith in Action

Thursdays
Breaktime drop-in
Sacrament Preparation
Group

Fridays
GIFT Team (Form Time)
Breaktime drop-in
Lunchtime Adoration

Coming Soon in the Chaplaincy...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **Sunday 9th April: Easter!** - We hope you all have a happy and blessed Easter!
- **Monday 24th - Friday 28th April: Y10 Castlerigg Retreat** - a fun and faith-filled retreat in the heart of the Lake District, which is bound to be a great experience! If you haven't paid yet, please ensure you hand the money into Mrs. Wilson in the Finance Office as soon as possible.
- **Thursday 18th May: Solemnity of the Ascension** - as this is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church, Mass will be celebrated in the school hall. Please make sure you sign up in form time if you want to attend!

How Can I Grow in Faith?

- **Sunday Mass!** - This is the easiest and surest way to grow in faith: listening to God's Word in the Bible readings and receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist! Check out your local Catholic church's Mass times and what other services they have to offer,



such as Adoration, Stations of the Cross, etc. Here are a few local churches: St. Joseph's, St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Bernadette's, St. Mary's Morecambe, St. Patrick's Heysham...

- **Podcasts** - there's plenty of great Catholic content on the internet - some of our favourites are: "Ask Father Josh", "The Word on Fire Show", "10 Minutes with Jesus" and "Do Something Beautiful".
- **Websites/Blogs/Social Media** - there are also lots of inspiring Catholic websites, social media accounts and blogs out there too! Here are a few: Life Teen (lifeteen.com), Catholic Teen Life (Instagram: @catholicteenlifeblog) and Ascension Press (ascensionpress.com).
- **Read the Bible!** - This is one of the surest ways to get to know Jesus! The Gospels are a great place to start, and "The Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz" podcast is a wonderful companion and motivator for reading and praying with Sacred Scripture.
- **The Chosen** - this is a fantastic app-based series that shows the life of Jesus - highly recommended for those of you who are Netflix fans (and everyone else)!

Lastly... Happy Easter!!

From all of us here in the Chaplaincy, we wish you a very happy and blessed Easter (when it finally arrives!), filled with the joy and hope that Christ's Resurrection brings. Have a wonderful break and a well-earned rest and we look forward to welcoming you back safe and sound for our final term of the year!



A Prayer for
Lent:

*Come, my Light,
and illumine my
darkness.
Come, my Life,
and revive me
from death.
Come, my
Physician,
and heal my
wounds.
Come, Flame of
divine love,
and burn up the
thorns of my sins,
kindling my
heart
with the flame of
thy love.*

DIMITRII OF ROSTOV

