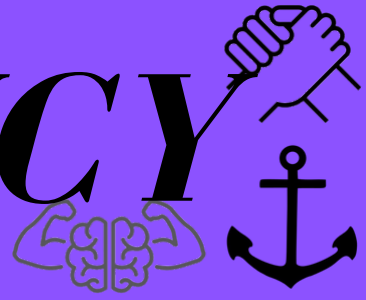




AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 2 2023

CHAPLAINCY



*An update from
Chaplaincy at
Our Lady's*

Year 10 Retreat

ENJOYING A WEEK AT CASTLERIGG!

This year, our year 10 students went to Castlerigg in November. We enjoyed making agape bracelets (an instant hit with students and staff!), salt jars and candles to focus on Jesus' call for us to be salt and light to the world, walking in the beautiful Lake District, celebrating Mass, learning new ways to pray and even a disco! The retreat provided us with a great opportunity to seek Jesus in the ordinary and get to know Him in our lives.

Whether it was Just Dance at break times, reading and singing at Mass, singing grace before meals, or contributing to our reflection and discussion time in small groups, it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the students and their willingness to get stuck in!

We pray that this retreat experience will bear fruit in their lives and that relationships will blossom as a result!



*"Come to me, all
you who labour
and are
overburdened
and I will give
you rest."*

MATTHEW 11:28



Christ the King Youth Festival

CELEBRATING JESUS OUR KING AND
YOUTH SUNDAY

On Tuesday 28th November, we held the Christ the King Youth Festival at Our Lady's to celebrate the feast of Christ the King and the commemoration of Youth Sunday.

To prepare for the festival, the chaplaincy team from OLCC visited some of our Catholic primary schools to deliver some preparation workshops, which were great fun! Then, the chaplaincy team helped with running the festival too. We had workshops based on Pope Francis' reflection on Mary as a "holy influencer" and how we are called to Rise Up as God's saints to build His kingdom here on Earth, following some of the catechesis material and themes from the recent World Youth Day in Lisbon. There was also a fun game of "Pin the Crown on the Christ", which went down a treat! And we made crowns too to remind us of Christ's kingship and our sharing in that kingship through baptism.



"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

REVELATION 5:13



CHAPLAINCY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday

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

Tuesday

Adoration (8:10-8:30)
Breaktime drop-in
Holy Mass (8am on first Tuesday of the month, 15:15 on last Tuesday of the month, lunchtime every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

Breaktime drop-in
Sacrament Preparation (lunchtime)
Faith in Action

Thursday

Breaktime drop-in
GIFT Team (After school)

Friday

Rosary (8:10-8:30)
Breaktime drop-in
Faith in Action (lunch)



Sixth Form Sleep Out

A NIGHT IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE
HOMELESS

A brave group of sixth formers and staff spent a bitterly cold November night sleeping out in the school's entrance courtyard in solidarity with those who are homeless and in support of Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service (LDHAS).

Over the course of the evening, we had a talk and Q&A session with Phil Moore, manager of LDHAS, we baked goodies for LDHAS to distribute to those they serve, as well as making Christmas cards to give out with the LDHAS care packs we collected later on in the term.

It was a testing but wonderful experience for all involved, especially as the temperature dropped, but the students maintained their positive outlook until the end and their efforts saw them raise nearly £500 for LDHAS, which will make a huge difference to their work, especially as the demand for services increases over the winter months.

All Saints Day Mass

CELEBRATING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US AND OUR CALL TO SAINTHOOD

For All Saints Day, we went to celebrate Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, taking over 100 students. It was a joyful occasion and was extra special that we got to celebrate with members of the local parish and pupils from St. Joseph's Primary too! As Fr. John-Paul said to us, this feast is a reminder that we are all called to be saints, so let's always try and live out this amazing mission!



Advent Appeal

SUPPORTING LDHAS DURING ADVENT

Throughout Advent, we have been supporting LDHAS as our chosen charity. This involved raising money from the aforementioned Sleep Out, some year 11 GCSE Business students organising a mufti day, and making up care packs with some winter essentials recommended by LDHAS. Each form group made a care pack and the response was amazing, we had so many things donated!

As you can see to the left, some of the GCSE Business students and some of our chaplaincy team helped on the two trips we needed to make in order to donate everything - it was too much for one journey! Once again, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their astounding generosity and kindness - Phil (manager of LDHAS) was amazed and said that our donations would make all the difference for a lot of vulnerable people this Christmas.

"Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you."

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO ST. JUAN DIEGO



Carol Singing

OUR LADY'S SINGERS GO ON TOUR!

Our school choir were on tour in the last week of term! We played Christmas carols at the Ashton Manor Care Home and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, which was a source of great joy for all who joined to listen! They thoroughly deserved every complement, they were amazing!

A big thank you to all our choir, and for Mr. Pinnington and Mrs. Holbrook who organised the trip!





Advent Prayer

PRAYING FOR PEACE IN OUR WORLD

This Advent, our prayer theme has been peace. We looked at Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah in Isaiah 9:6, calling him the "Prince of Peace" and how we can respond to Jesus' challenge for us to be peacemakers in the world.

Our year 8 students took part in a special

Advent morning prayer, led by Ben and some of the chaplaincy team where they looked at how Jesus taught about peace and where in the world needs our prayers for peace. We also looked at what we can do to bring peace in our own communities.

Each year group also had an Advent Service looking at the same theme and how Jesus challenges us to break the cycle of violence and choose peace, as well as how Jesus' desire to come into our hearts every day means that peace isn't just an ideal for the future, but a reality for the present!

Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **25th December 2023: Christmas Day!** - this is the feast we've all been waiting for! Today, we celebrate the fact that Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, became man to show us the love the Father has for us. Why not make paying a visit to church on the 25th, or even the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve, part of your Christmas routine - to give God some time over this busy season?
- **2nd February 2024: Uganda Project Quiz Night at St. Mary's Morecambe** - come along and join us for a light-hearted evening of quizzical excitement, organised by our Uganda Project group in support of our partner schools over in Uganda. It's in the St. Mary's Parish Hall, Matthias Street, Morecambe at 18:00.
- **6-8th February 2024: Sixth Form Retreat** - there is still time to book onto the 6th Form retreat to Hyning Monastery in February! Guaranteed to be a fun, relaxing and faith-filled couple of days - make sure your name is on the list!
- **14th February 2024: Ash Wednesday** - this marks the start of Lent and it's a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics, meaning that you can have a maximum of one full meal plus two snacks that don't equal a full meal, and no meat! Also, check out your local parish for Mass times - there won't be anything in school as it's half term!
- **11-13th March 2024: Y7 Savio House Retreat** - places are available for Y7 to spend a couple of days at this excellent retreat centre. Every trip we've run here has been a great success and the children have enjoyed it greatly, so don't miss out this year!

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPLAINCY INSTAGRAM TOO!!



@olcc_chaplaincy

*"O Emmanuel,
our King and
Giver of Law:
come to save
us, Lord our
God!"*

O ANTIPHON FOR
DECEMBER 22ND



God bless and have a happy, holy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!