



# CHAPLAINCY



*An update from  
Chaplaincy at  
Our Lady's*



## Sixth Form Sleep Out

A NIGHT OF FUNDRAISING AND  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE HOMELESS

In November, a record number of 32 sixth formers and 7 staff spent a cold and wet 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, which was fascinating and gave us some great ideas about how we can help locally. We also made 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 we bedded down on the unforgiving hard floor, but the students maintained a positive outlook until the end and their incredible fundraising efforts saw them raise over £1600 for LDHAS, which will make a huge difference to their work, especially as the demand for services increases over the winter months.



*Is not this the fast  
that I choose...  
Is it not to share  
your bread with  
the hungry, and  
bring the  
homeless poor  
into your house;  
when you see the  
naked, to cover  
them, and not to  
hide yourself  
from your own  
kin?*

ISAIAH 58:6-7

# Christ the King Youth Festival

CELEBRATING JESUS OUR KING AND YOUTH SUNDAY



On 22th 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 GIFT team from OLCC visited St. Joseph's, St. Mary's, and St. Patrick's to deliver some preparation workshops, which were great fun! They also helped with running the festival, where we had workshops based on Pope Francis' reflection on how God sees us as precious in His eyes and calls us to Rise Up as God's saints of the current generation, 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! We made crowns too to remind us of Christ's kingship and our sharing in that kingship through baptism, and finished with a short liturgical prayer with music, readings, and intercessions for the coming of Christ's kingdom.



*"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  
GIFT Team (After school)

### Tuesday

Adoration (8:10-8:30)  
Breaktime drop-in  
Holy Mass (lunchtime)

### Wednesday

Breaktime drop-in  
Caritas Ambassadors (lunchtime)  
Sacrament Preparation (afterschool)

### Thursday

Breaktime drop-in

### Friday

Rosary (8:10-8:30)  
Breaktime drop-in  
Caritas Ambassadors (lunchtime)

## GIFT Team Retreat

EXPLORING WHAT IT MEANS TO SERVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOUR

In December, our GIFT Team went on a retreat and a reward trip. We went to Hyning Monastery for a retreat focused on service and how this stems from God's love for us. We learnt about how we are precious and chosen in the eyes of God and chosen for acts of service that are unique to us, as St. John Henry Newman says: "God has created me to do Him some definite service." We also had some time being shown around the monastery and finding out what the life of a Bernadine Cistercian nun looks like!

We then went to Soul Bowl in Morecambe for a reward for all the hard work the GIFT Team have done this past year, which was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and it was a day that inspired and renewed us to continue serving the Our Lady's family.



# Reconciliation Service

A CHANCE TO BE RECONCILED WITH GOD IN ADVENT

This Advent saw the launch of our reconciliation services. We had our first of the year for year 9, which involved a Liturgy of the Word, with a reflection on the Prodigal Son, followed by Adoration and a time for sacramental reconciliation. It was great to see students and staff receive the sacrament of reconciliation and those who hadn't received the sacrament of reconciliation receive a blessing! Praise God for His amazing mercy and His presence in the Eucharist!



*“Confession is a place of victory.”*

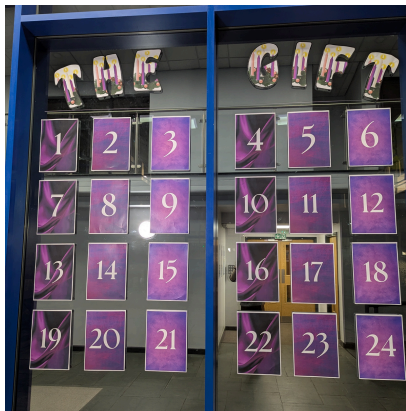
FR. MIKE SCHMITZ



## Advent Prayer

FOCUSING ON THE REAL GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Throughout Advent, year 8 have been taking part in a special Advent morning prayer. Again, we focused on “The Gift” and how God’s gift to us is the gift of an encounter with Jesus - the Son of the Living God - not just at Christmas, but every single day. We looked at the Magi and how they returned home a different way, meaning that we can never leave our encounter with Jesus unchanged, we are always changed to be more like Him! With that in mind, we used our reverse Advent calendar to see how we can be a gift to others by sharing Christ’s love and following His command to “freely give”. There are suggestions such as complimenting someone you don’t know, baking for your family or neighbours, spending 10 minutes of your time helping someone else, and many more. In these last days of Advent, could you choose one thing to do to share the gift of Jesus to the world?



*“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.”*

ST. TERESA OF KOLKATA

## 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, Nazareth House and the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, which was a source of great joy for all who joined to listen! They also joined residents at Ashton Manor for a drink and a chat afterwards, which was very enjoyable, and they thoroughly deserved every complement, they were amazing! A big thank you to all our choir, and for Mr. Pinnington and Mr. Bryant who organised the trip!





# Advent Carol Service

## PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S COMING

To prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas, we had our Advent Carol Service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. We focused on our theme of "The Gift" and how the real gift of Christmas was the Messiah promised to us by God. We had carols and readings focused on this promise throughout the Old Testament and how this promise is revealed in the New Testament as well.

Thank you to St. Joseph's parish for hosting us, to our wonderfully talented readers, singers, music staff, and Uganda Project group who served refreshments afterwards to raise money for our Ugandan partner communities. It was a beautifully prayerful evening and really helped us reflect and pray about the real meaning of Christmas!

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## Things to Watch Out For...

### SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **25th December 2024: 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?
- **12th January 2025: Calais Trip Training Day** - a day of preparation and prayer for those involved with the Calais trip. This is an essential for those on the trip so please get it in your diary!
- **24th January 2025: Jubilee Year Begins** - the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year begins on the 24th January, with Pope Francis having announced the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope". Look out for events that will be coming up in school to celebrate, such as statue visits, a mission week, art competitions, and more! The Vatican has also released a mascot called "Luce" for the Jubilee Year. Check her, her friends, and her pet out online to get in the spirit for the year!
- **4-6th February 2025: 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 2025: Devolved Inset Day & St. Valentine's Day** - there is no school on Friday 14th February, so please don't come in - in the nicest way possible! It's also the feast day of St. Valentine - maybe you could do some research about him and why his feast day is a celebration of romantic love?

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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 23RD



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*God bless and have a happy, holy  
Christmas see you in 2025!*