



SALUS POPULI

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER 1 2023

CHAPLAINCY



*An update from
Chaplaincy at
Our Lady's*

Harvest Appeal

OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY AMAZES
LOCAL FOODBANKS!

This autumn, our harvest appeal has been collecting food and toiletries for two local food banks: Father's House and The Olive Branch. The appeal was started by Mr. Eidsforth leading a trip with the Faith in Action Group and Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Team to visit The Olive Branch to find out about what they do, as well as lend a helping hand - as you can see to the right! These students then helped Mr. Eidsforth and Ben to deliver an assembly to launch the appeal, to which our students and staff responded with incredible generosity and kindness, leaving the staff at The Olive Branch "blown away" by the donation (see above). A huge thank you to everyone who contributed an item and to those who helped campaign and deliver the items!



*"Truly I tell you,
whatever you did
for the least of
these brothers
and sisters of
mine, you did for
me."*

MATTHEW 25:40



Year 9 Day with a Difference

LOOKING AT FAITH IN ACTION

Year 9 had their Day with a Difference on the 6th October and spent it exploring how Catholic Social Teaching guides us in following Jesus' call to live out the Gospel in our daily lives.

The theme of the day was "Faith in Action" and included sessions looking at living out the Parable of the Good Samaritan in today's society, making rosary beads decorated with our pledge of faith in action, campaigning for justice in the food system, care for creation and litter picking, and Fairtrade. We ended the day by creating a human food chain to pass half of the donations down from school to the Father's House food bank, as well as campaigning with the placards the students made earlier in the day. We even got a few beeps of support from the passers by!



"So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

JAMES 2:17



WHAT'S ON IN THE CHAPLAINCY

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

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

Wednesdays
 Breaktime drop-in
 Faith in Action

Thursdays
 Breaktime drop-in
 GIFT Team (After school)

Fridays
 Breaktime drop-in
 Faith in Action (lunch)

Year 7 Inductions

FAITH-FILLED FUN!

Our new year 7 students had their inductions in September to immerse them into life at Our Lady's. This included a day at Father's House taking part in prayer, team-building activities, craft sessions and reflecting on one of our virtues for the autumn term: solidarity. We looked at how the activities we'd taken part in helped us to learn to trust others, to help others and how to work with others to achieve a goal. We saw how we can use this skills to act in solidarity with those who are suffering and to act to make our communities and the Our Lady's family a better place to be.

Their days ended with a trip down the road to St. Joseph's Church, where we took part in a liturgical prayer focused on how Jesus calls us all to be saints! Please join us in prayer that all of these children may come to the knowledge that they are loved by God and that they respond generously to Jesus' call in their lives, especially throughout their time at Our Lady's.



A New Hero of Faith!

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS JOINS THE TEAM

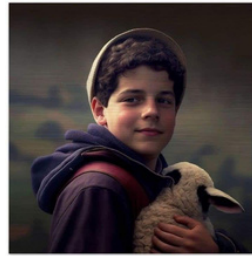
This year, we have added a new “Hero of Faith” to our line up. As our school has been getting bigger over the past few years, we have needed another “band” to place students in, and these are named after our Heroes of Faith. We thought that Bl. Carlo would be a great example to our students, as he learned how to find holiness in modern day life - balancing his love of computers, video games and football with his greater love of Jesus in the Eucharist and serving the poor. He responded to Jesus’ call to live out an ordinary life with extraordinary love - a wonderful example to us all.

To celebrate his feast day on the 12th October, we had chocolate and prayer cards (see top right) at break time, which lots of students took part in and were very interested in learning more about his life!

Blessed Carlo Acutis...



... Pray for Us!



“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.”

ST. GIANNA MOLLA

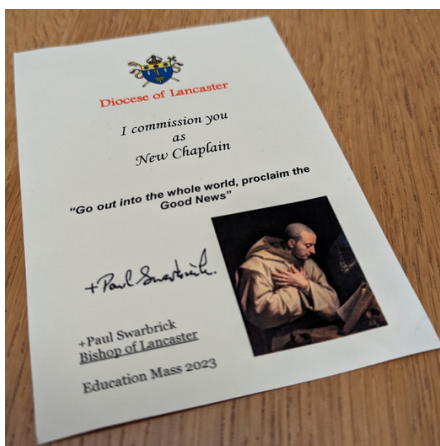


Our New(ish) Chaplain

BEN IS COMMISSIONED AS LAY CHAPLAIN

In October, a number of Our Lady’s staff attended the Education Mass for the Diocese of Lancaster at Lancaster Cathedral. It was a joyful occasion and a wonderful celebration of all the hard work that goes into the education and Catholic formation of the children throughout the Lancaster Diocese. Also, Ben O’Flynn (a familiar face - formerly a chaplaincy assistant) has been kept on as our permanent lay chaplain at Our Lady’s, so he was commissioned by Bishop Paul Swarbrick as he begins his new role.

Please pray for Ben and the mission of the chaplaincy, as well as all the Our Lady’s staff who work hard to give our students a good, Catholic education.



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

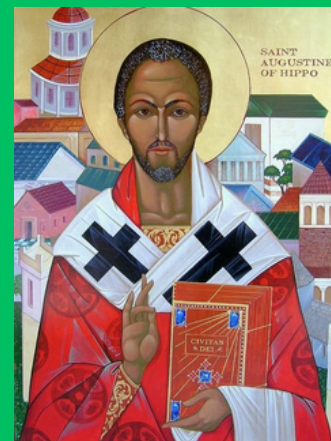
MATTHEW 28:19

Lift the Ban!

CAMPAINING FOR JUSTICE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

In June, year 12 at Our Lady's Catholic College Sixth Form took part in a "Day with a Difference" looking at justice for refugees and asylum seekers. One of the sessions involved looking at the rights of asylum seekers to work in the UK – which they currently do not have (apart from a few small exceptions). This inspired the students to take action through the charity who came in to deliver the session, Asylum Matters, and led to a plan to do some campaigning around Lancaster's local businesses.

This September, these students from Our Lady's Sixth Form (along with Mr. Cloke and Ben) helped plan and then went into Lancaster City Centre to take part in the "Lift the Ban High Street Challenge", campaigning for the rights of asylum seekers to work. and went around speaking to local businesses, informing them about the situation asylum seekers face when they arrive in the UK, as well as the estimated benefit to the economy that allowing asylum seekers to work would bring. The response we had from Lancaster's local businesses was incredible. Lots of them signed up to take part in the Lift the Ban campaign and have their business named on the "Lift the Ban Coalition", calling on the government to change their policy and allow asylum seekers the right to work. Many businesses posed for photos too, which will be shared by Asylum Matters on their social media sites, promoting the business and gaining them some positive publicity!



“Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.”

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **1st November: All Saints Day** - this is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics, so we are offering Mass for this wonderful feast day where we remember and recognise the lives and example of those who have gone before us in faith and we ask for their intercession now that they are in Heaven.
- **10-11th November: 6th Form Sleep Out** - our annual sleep out in partnership with LDHAS is always a brilliant experience, raising money and baking goodies for the homeless and raising awareness of what life is like for the people affected in the local area.
- **20-24th November: Y10 Castlerigg Retreat** - there are still places left and this is always a great week full of faith, friends and fun! Come and get a letter from Ben in the chaplaincy, or contact him at b.oflynn@olcc.lanccs.sch.uk

God bless and have a great, well-earned half-term!

