



SALUS POPULI

CHAPLAINCY



*An update from
Chaplaincy at
Our Lady's*

Sixth Form Retreat

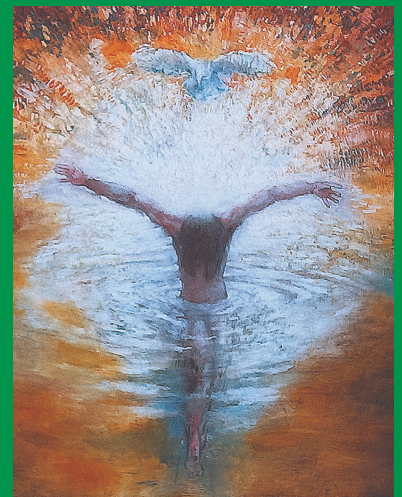
EXPLORING OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST AT
HYNING MONASTERY

In February, we enjoyed a fantastic retreat at Hyning Monastery with eleven of our sixth form students. The retreat explored the theme of “Identity” and what and who we find our identity in. We had sessions on our theme exploring the things that make us who we are and then exploring who God is and who He says we are to Him. We also had sessions on the Mass, on St. Paul Miki and the Japanese martyrs (as this was the feast for our Mass), praying through art, as well as helping the sisters out with jobs around the monastery like peeling apples (which tasted great in that evening’s crumble!) and moving logs into the drying shed. We really enjoyed joining the sisters for prayer too, which was a great experience. The peaceful and prayerful environment of Hyning lent itself perfectly to our retreat and we had great fun growing as a group too with plenty of social time!



*“You are my
beloved Son;
with you I am
well pleased.”*

LUKE 3:22



Blessing the Stations of the Cross

OFFERING OUR STUDENTS' ARTWORK TO GOD

As we are approaching Lent, Fr. John-Paul blessed our Stations of the Cross at our Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Fr. John-Paul told us that Mary's instruction to "do whatever he tells you" is her great instruction to follow her son and that through the Stations of the Cross, we reflect on our call to follow him always, even to the Cross. We give thanks for our extremely talented students and teachers who have made these stations possible!



"And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

ROMANS 5:5

Holocaust Memorial Day

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

Our Caritas Ambassadors have been learning about Holocaust Memorial Day and the theme of "For a Better Future". We looked at how we can practice the virtues of solidarity and love of those around us to remember the atrocities of the past, live in solidarity as loving citizens in the present, and thus work towards a future of peace, where God's love will be shown throughout society, producing a display about our hopes as a school family "for a better future".



CHAPLAINCY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday

GIFT Team (Form Time)
Breaktime Games in the Covered Courtyard
Lunchtime drop-in

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
Lunchtime drop-in

Friday

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

Pilgrims of Hope Art Competition

ENTERING INTO THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH OUR TALENTED ARTISTS

To mark the launch of the Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church, we launched a "Pilgrims of Hope" art competition, inspired by the Vatican's mascots for the Jubilee: Luce and her friends. The challenge was to create an image of Luce and her friends either on pilgrimage or carrying out a corporal work of mercy, and we were very impressed at the results (some are shown around the article)!



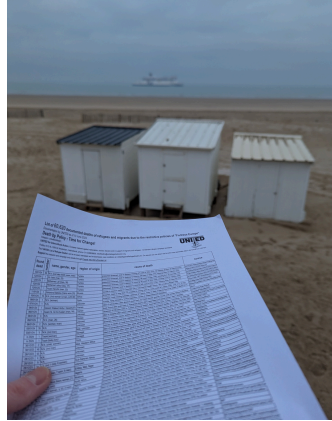
Calais 2025

A FESTIVAL OF ENCOUNTER

At the turn of January into February, we joined a group made up of students and volunteers from all over England to participate in a “Festival of Encounter” in Calais, France. We travelled to Calais from Folkestone and we were immediately struck by the extremely high barbed wire fences all around the compound at Folkestone and the port of Calais.

Once we arrived in Calais, we shared a meal together and some time in prayer, reflecting on and preparing for the situation and the people we would encounter over the next couple of days.

We volunteered with the charity Care4Calais and began our work in their warehouses, preparing items of clothing in the morning to be distributed both afternoons, which were vital, given the temperatures were dropping to -5 Celsius! We then spent the afternoon distributing clothing and providing services such as phone charging, bike repair, first aid, English lessons, barbering, and games. These services are so important because they afforded everyone we served some precious dignity in a situation where dignity was very hard to come by. Care4Calais also gave us a talk and Q&A session on the history and current situation in Calais, which was very interesting and taught us a lot about the statistics behind migration and asylum seekers as well as UK government policy and what can be done to help alleviate the situation so many people face on a daily basis. We found that whatever people’s political views, this was a situation that demanded compassion and called us to love the people we faced by seeing Christ present in them.



“The encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, is also an encounter with Christ.”

POPE FRANCIS



Our Lady of Lourdes Celebration

CELEBRATING OUR DIOCESAN PATRONESS WITH OUR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

To celebrate our diocesan patroness, Our Lady of Lourdes, our choir attended a service with the local Catholic primary schools where we meditated on the joyful mysteries of the rosary through music, prayer, and drama. It was a wonderful celebration and we’re very thankful to the Cathedral for hosting it! We had a great time and even had the chance to explore the Cathedral afterwards, which was very interesting! Finding out more about Our Lady and Lourdes was very exciting as Lourdes is one of our new houses at Our Lady’s, so learning about why Lourdes is important as a place of pilgrimage really helped us understand Lourdes house better.

“In this place, Mary comes to us as a mother, always open to the needs of her children. Through the light which streams from her face, God’s mercy is made manifest. Let us allow ourselves to be touched by her gaze, which tells us that we are all loved by God and never abandoned by him!”

POPE BENEDICT XVI



How Can I Grow in Faith?

EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS TO ENCOURAGE YOU ON YOUR FAITH JOURNEY

- **Youth 2000** - A Catholic youth ministry with events all over Britain, as well as digital resources and courses to help grow your faith. Follow them on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube for more.
- **LifeTeen UK Summer Camp** - A camp run by American missionary group "Lifeteen", bringing 11-18 year olds across the UK together for a joyful celebration of the Catholic faith. See Ben for more details!
- **OLCC Sacrament Preparation** - Interested in being baptised, First Holy Communion, being confirmed, or finding out more about the Catholic faith? Come along to the Chaplaincy Office on a Wednesday after school!
- **Lancaster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage** - Are you aged 15-21? Join young people from the Lancaster Diocese on this special anniversary pilgrimage to Lourdes in France! See Ben for more information or visit joewalshtours.co.uk/tours/diocese-of-lancaster-lourdes-pilgrimage-youth for more details.
- **Castlerigg Manor Gap Year** - Fancy a gap year in youth ministry? Castlerigg Manor are looking for volunteers to join their team for the 2025/26 academic year!



“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

JEREMIAH 29:13



Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **5th March: Ash Wednesday** - Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and we traditionally receive ashes on our forehead as an outward sign of our repentance. There will be distribution of ashes at school, so sign up if you'd like to come! It's also a day of fasting and abstinence, so no meat and a maximum of one full meal plus two smaller meals that don't add to a full meal.
- **7th March: OLCC Talent Show** - At 7pm, there is a talent show at Our Lady's, showcasing our talented students! There will be baked goodies and artwork for sale at the interval, as well as a raffle, with all proceeds going towards our Uganda Project fundraising.
- **12-14th March: Savio House Retreat** - Year 7 are out on retreat at the Salesian retreat centre, Savio House, for three days of prayer, reflection, team-building, and adventure!
- **15th March: Flame 2025** - Open to year 9 and above, there are still places available for this amazing opportunity to attend a festival of praise and worship, dance, prayer, talks, live music, and workshops about faith. See Ben for a letter before places run out!
- **4th April: Easter Break begins** - A well-deserved holiday, which includes Holy Week! Why not finish your Lent well by going to church over Holy Week, particularly attending some (if not all) of the Easter Triduum at your local church? Find out what's going on at your local church to see how you can enter into this holy season well.

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPLAINCY INSTAGRAM TOO!!

 @olcc_chaplaincy



God bless and have a fantastic half term!