



# CHAPLAINCY



*An update from  
Chaplaincy at  
Our Lady's*

## Castlerigg Retreat

EXPLORING OUR IDENTITY WITH YEAR 10

At the end of February, we set off on retreat to Castlerigg Manor with our year 10s. We had a wonderful time looking at the theme of "Identity", allowing us to grow in our relationships with God and those around us.

We explored the theme through various games, workshops, and content sessions, as well as enjoying time in creative workshops (making rosaries, banners, salt jars, and candles), walks in the stunning Lake District, and some party games on our last night.

We spent time learning new ways to pray too, which are very convenient for fitting into a busy schedule - for example, a teaspoon (tsp) prayer of thanks, sorry, and petition to start our day off. Many people also experienced Eucharistic Adoration for the first time as well, which was a very moving experience!

Over the course of the week, many new friendships were formed and old ones strengthened, as well as people being inspired to ask the deeper questions about life and consider God for the first time. Praise God for His goodness and we pray that He would keep drawing us closer to Him so that we find our deepest identity in Him!



*"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:  
'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.'"*

ISAIAH 43:1

# Savio House Retreat

## REFLECTING ON BUILDING BRIDGES WITH YEAR 7

What better time is there than Lent to consider building bridges with God and our neighbour? That's exactly what we did with year 7 on our retreat to Savio House! Throughout our time there, we followed St. John Bosco's model of "A Salesian Window", looking at our relationships at home, at school, in the playground, and with God. We explored this concept of building bridges through team building games (helping our trust and communication with others), creative workshops (including drama, poetry, and music), and a reconciliation service to rebuild a bridge with God. We also enjoyed a walk out in the beautiful Peak District, celebrated Mass together, and partied at a disco and karaoke (of course!) to draw our time together to a close. Thank you to everyone who came and to Savio House for a wonderful retreat - and of course to God for blessing us so richly!



*Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."*

MATTHEW 18:21-22

## 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  
Lunchtime drop-in

### Friday

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

## Big Lent Walk

### RAISING MONEY FOR CAFOD'S LENT APPEAL

This Lent, we have been supporting CAFOD's Big Lent Walk appeal. By walking towards a target distance and getting sponsored, we hope to support people experiencing poverty and war in countries such as (but not limited to) the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Colombia, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan.

This year, we introduced a new house system, with four houses named after pilgrimage destinations: Iona, Canterbury, Lourdes, and Santiago. The distance between Lourdes and Santiago is approximately 924km and it is approximately 930km between Iona and Canterbury. Therefore, we thought that everyone would be included by walking the total distance between the houses: 1854km. At the time of writing, we have already beaten this, walking a total of 1916km! We have loved spending time walking in our beautiful surroundings and using Damian's garden (pictured bottom left) to pray for our fundraising and the people it will be supporting before we set off.

If you would like to track our progress or would like to donate yourself, you can use the following URL:  
<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/our-ladys-catholic-college-big-lent-walk-2025>.



# Ash Wednesday

STARTING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY  
AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We started Lent by coming together as a community to mark Ash Wednesday. We had a Celebration of the Word with the imposition of ashes, reflecting on how God calls us to repentance and reconciliation in this special season of preparation. It marked the start of our Lenten season in school and was a great start to this season of reconciliation with God and our neighbour, with hundreds of students attending and hearing the Word of God!



*“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.”*

JOEL 2:13



## Year 8 Day with a Difference

A FOCUS ON RECONCILIATION  
DURING LENT

Our year 8s had their Day with a Difference in March, spending the day looking at how powerful forgiveness can be in our own lives and the lives of others.

We began the day with a session led by Jonny Bayes and Marcus Mosey, who shared an extremely powerful story of forgiveness from Marcus' life. We then looked at how we could apply Marcus' example of forgiveness into our own lives and whether it's possible to forgive in every situation. We also spent time in an activity carousel, considering the weight of sin in our lives and how reconciliation (especially with God) can lighten that burden, how we can reconcile with one another through friendship bracelet making, how we can grow towards reconciliation through planting seeds, and how reconciliation with God allows us a fresh start through burying sin in sand. We finished the day with a Reconciliation Service, where we reflected on the parable of the Prodigal Son and had the opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation.



*“Let us get up, therefore, and set out as pilgrims of hope, because, just as Mary did with Saint Elizabeth, we too can bring news of joy, generate new life and be artisans of brotherhood and peace.”*

POPE FRANCIS

## Luce's Travels

BEING PILGRIMS OF HOPE WITH LUCE

To help celebrate the Church's Jubilee Year, we have acquired a new member of the Our Lady's family: Luce! She is the Vatican's official mascot for the jubilee year and she has been inspiring us to be "Pilgrims of Hope" by travelling with us on our retreats, trips, and doing the Big Lent Walk with us! Our students have enjoyed looking after her and she's certainly helped us enter the jubilee year more deeply and with great joy as we journey together as pilgrims of hope towards our heavenly home.



# Denominational Inspection

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR DIOCESAN SECTION 48 INSPECTION

Over 5-6<sup>th</sup> March, we had our Section 48 denominational inspection.

The inspectors were very impressed with what they saw and we were very happy with the outcome! We were judged to be outstanding in Catholic Life and Mission, as well as in Collective Worship, while being good in Religious Education. Some of the highlights from the report

included: "Governance is strong and rooted in a clear vision of Catholic education", "Senior leaders are driving improvement with positivity, resilience and compassion", and "Chaplaincy is exemplary and well-targeted for the needs of students."

Our students also shone during the inspection, with one of our sixth formers saying, when asked about the Sixth Form Sleep Out, "It is really important to do things like this because it helps us understand what it feels like to be in this position. Isn't this why Jesus became human?"

We were glad that our inter-departmental links were celebrated too, as the inspectors commented on the recent work of making Stations of the Cross: "The liturgical year is creatively celebrated not only liturgically but also with sign and symbol, which students – working with chaplaincy and the art department – enrich greatly. For example, the Stations of Cross for Lent are inspiring and a model of excellence showing what can be made by students themselves, with skilled guidance."

The RE department were also rightly praised for their amazing work in Catholic education:

"Students are very well behaved in religious education and engage in their lessons, drawn out by skilful and patient teaching", and after observing A-level RE, they commented: "Impressive teaching and learning in the sixth form is leading to ambitious and articulate students."

A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed and continues to contribute to the mission of our school. This could not have been done without the continued hard work of so many governors, staff, students, and families – we really appreciate it! And, most importantly, we thank God for the blessings and graces He has given and continues to give to our school. Our Lady of the Rosary and our patroness, pray for us!



*"When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delight in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I am happier than you can possibly guess."*

OUR LADY TO  
BLESSED ALAN DE  
LA ROCHE



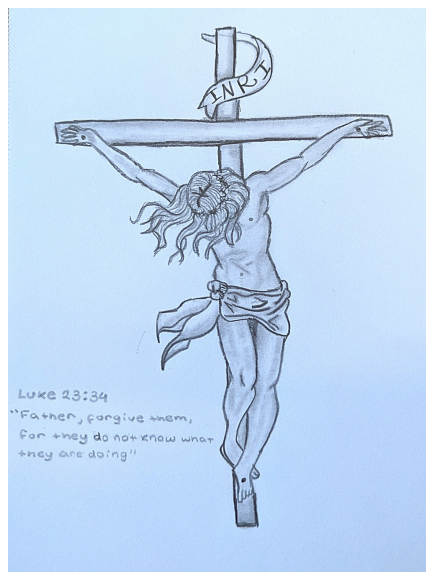
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## Holy Week Resources

### ENTERING HOLY WEEK THE CHURCH

If you're looking for how to enter Holy Week more fully, here are some pointers for you...

- **Your parish!** - this is a great place to start! Make sure you see if your local parish has a website, newsletter, and/or social media presence. See what they're doing in Holy Week and go along to join in - there's no better way to enter Holy Week than going to church!
- **Hallow App** - have you ever tried the Hallow app? It's a fantastic prayer resource with so many different ways to pray and a few famous faces you might not have known are Christian to guide you along the way.
- **Ascension Press** - their YouTube channel has so many great videos about Holy Week and the Paschal Mystery. If you've never really understood it completely, why not give them a try? They also have a great prayer app too, which is definitely worth a try!
- **CAFOD Website** - CAFOD have many great prayer resources, particularly for Holy Week. They can be accessed via their website: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/holy-week-prayers>



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*"Why did you suffer for me, dear Jesus? For love! The nails...the crown...the cross...all for the love of me!"*

ST. GEMMA  
GALGANI

# 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.
- **theASCENT UK** - Are you Catholic and wanting to learn more about your faith and get to know lots of other young Catholics? theASCENT is a 3-year discipleship programme designed to help you know the Catholic faith better, deepen your relationship with God, and find joy in a Catholic community of young people. Visit their website: [www.theascentuk.co.uk](http://www.theascentuk.co.uk) for more information and to sign up!
- **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 [joewalstours.co.uk/tours/diocese-of-lancaster-lourdes-pilgrimage-youth](http://joewalstours.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!

## Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **17-20th April: The Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday** - This is the holy period including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Why not join in with the Church's celebrations of this most important festival and find out what's going on in your local parish? Also, Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence, meaning no meat and only 1 full meal plus 2 smaller meals that do not equal a full meal.
- **23rd April: Easter Mass** - We are blessed to be in school during the Easter Octave this year, meaning that we can celebrate Easter in school! Therefore, we will be celebrating Mass on the Wednesday we come back, so make sure you sign up in form time to attend.
- **10<sup>th</sup> May: DiamondFest** - We will be celebrating our diamond anniversary with a charity festival in aid of CancerCare and St. John's Hospice. This will include live music, a fairground, and a dedicated kids zone. See our school Facebook for more details and how to get your tickets!
- **17th May: National Altar Servers Mass** - This year, we have the huge privilege of hosting the National Altar Servers Mass at Lancaster Cathedral. This will be at 12:15pm but it is advisable that you get there by 11:30am at the latest, as it's expected to be a very busy occasion! If you're an altar server, make sure you come along to this fantastic celebration of your ministry!

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPLAINCY INSTAGRAM TOO!!



@olcc\_chaplaincy

*God bless and have a blessed Holy Week and Easter!*

*“Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven.”*

ST. ROSE OF LIMA



*“She who is the Mother of Sorrows and also the Mother of Consolation can understand you completely and help you.”*

POPE ST. JOHN  
PAUL II