



SALUS POPULI

CHAPLAINCY



An update from Chaplaincy at Our Lady's



Patronal Feast Mass

CELEBRATING OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, OUR PATRONESS

Our school's patronal feast day is Our Lady of the Rosary, which we celebrated on October 7th. To mark the joyful occasion, years 7-9 visited St. Peter's Cathedral for Mass and years 10-13 had Mass in our school hall. It was amazing to see both the cathedral and the school hall so full! Our worship, prayer, and thanksgiving were aided by some fantastic readers and musicians, all of whom helped us focus on the Mass, the role of Mary in our story of salvation, and praying for our school community.



We have also spent time in reflection on the gift of the Rosary itself: Ben, our lay chaplain, led us in assemblies to explore the beautiful simplicity and power of the Rosary as a prayer centred on the life of Jesus and how this opens up the Scriptures to us. We have been praying decades of the Rosary every week during our form prayer, as well as exploring the origin and meaning behind the "Hail Mary" prayer, in order to help us meditate more deeply upon what we're praying and come to know Jesus better!

"There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

SR. LUCIA DOS SANTOS OF FÁTIMA



Year 9 Day with a Difference

FAITH IN ACTION

Our year 9s participated in their “Day with a Difference” in October, learning the importance of putting faith into action - as St. James tells us: “So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:17). They took part in activities and workshops run by visitors, including: Aid to the Church in Need, The Olive Branch, Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union, and Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice. The day focused on how we can act, not just out of compulsion because we think it’s the right thing to do, but in solidarity and love for our neighbour. Pope Leo’s recent encyclical “Dilexi te” inspired us, as he said: “No Christian can regard the poor as simply a societal problem; they are part of our family, they are one of us.” To finish the day, we created a human chain to pass food donations collected on a non-uniform day to the foodbank at Father’s House church, knowing that each item of food was not only a big help, but a sign to those receiving it that they are not forgotten and they are loved.

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

JAMES 2:17



CHAPLAINCY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Ecumenical Prayer Group (8:10-8:30)
Breaktime drop-in
Sacrament Preparation (Afterschool)

Thursday

Breaktime drop-in
Lunchtime drop-in
Adoration (15:05-16:00)

Friday

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

GIFT Team Cleator Trip

VISITING A DIOCESAN SHRINE

To mark the conclusion of the “Pilgrims of Grace” tour of the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes around the Lancaster Diocese, we were invited to celebrate Mass together with other schools in the diocese in Cleator, at one of the diocesan shrines to Our Lady. We had a great time with our GIFT Team, as a reward for their hard work preparing our chapel for the visit of the statue to our school.



Charity Focus

OUR FUNDRAISING FOR THIS HALF TERM

This autumn term, our focus is on local charities. We aim to support their work by raising awareness and donating to them. This half term, we supported The Olive Branch and the food bank at Father’s House Church. Our year 9s donated food to Father’s House and showed their posters off to the public whilst in the human chain, sharing the message of justice for the poor. Also, a group of Sixth Form students helped transport the other half of donated items to The Olive Branch, where they got to see the warehouse and the scale on which they help the people of the Lancaster district who are experiencing food poverty.



Sixth Form Induction Day

WELCOMING OUR NEW AND RETURNING SIXTH FORMERS

Our sixth form students had their induction day at Lancaster University in September. We started off by dedicating the day to God in the Catholic Chapel on campus and it was a privilege to be able to use such a beautiful space to reflect on what God had to say to us. The induction service focused on the themes of where (and in whom) we find our identity and what this means for our lives. We were pleased to welcome Paddie Denton, from the Kenelm Youth Trust, as our guest speaker and he helped us reflect on our themes, as well as the quote from St. Catherine of Siena: "Be who God made you to be, and you will set the world on fire!" - which is on the wall of the Sixth Form building as soon as you walk in! Paddie encouraged us to remember Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me", because God will always strengthen us to be who He made us to be! The rest of the morning was spent bonding as a community through sports and games, before an afternoon of finding out about post-Sixth Form options - our route to how we're going to set the world on fire!



"Be who God made you to be, and you will set the world on fire!"

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA



Apostolic Nuncio Visit

JOINING HIS EXCELLENCY AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

To celebrate the centenary year of the Lancaster Diocese, we had a visit from the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía. As part of his visit, he was keen to meet students from the diocese, so we were invited (along with other schools) to Lancaster University for an audience and Q&A session with him.

Archbishop Buendía gave us a short summary of his ministry in the Church, particularly his roles in the Vatican, where he has worked closely with both Pope Francis and Pope Leo. After this, we took part in a Q&A session, in which two of our students asked questions. The archbishop was very keen to stress that our care for the poor is a central part of our Christian lives - one that is not optional, as he spoke of his delight in Pope Leo's recent encyclical: "Dilexi te". This was extremely encouraging for us, as many of our sixth formers are involved in our Uganda Project group and help out with other charity projects across school.



"Dear young people, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are."

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

Pilgrims of Grace Statue Visit

A VISIT FROM THE DIOCESAN STATUE
OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

To celebrate the centenary of the Lancaster Diocese, statues of Our Lady of Lourdes, our diocesan patroness, have been making their way around schools in the diocese. It was our turn to host one of these statues from the 10-12th September.

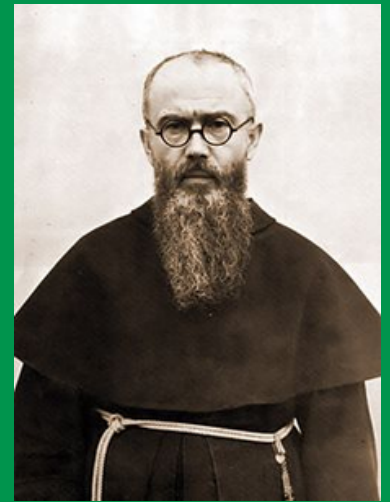
We began the statue's visit with a handing over ceremony at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, where our new year 7s prayed together with St. Joseph's Primary School and St. Joseph's passed the statue of Our Lady on to us. Our Lady then found a home in our chapel, where our GIFT Team had prepared her a home and a prayer station where people could come and pray with the Rosary, the Bible, and through meditative colouring. There were different templates based on the wedding at Cana, where we looked at Mary's role as an intercessor for Jesus' first miracle and how her help as our mother is equally effective today, asking for her intercession for our own needs and intentions. We also had templates for the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, which was celebrated on September 12th - the last day of the statue's visit.

We finished the visit off by joining the Cathedral Primary School for Mass at Lancaster Cathedral, where we processed in with the statue of Our Lady as a handover to Cathedral Primary.



“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE



Year 7 Inductions

WELCOMING OUR NEW STARTERS!

In September, we welcomed the newest additions to the Our Lady's family - our year 7s! Throughout the first week, they took part in “bootcamp” activities, getting them used to life and expectations at Our Lady's, as well as having lots of fun!

As part of this week, forms enjoyed time at Father's House Church, where they took part in team-building games, prayer, and reflection, based on our virtues at Our Lady's. We looked at how the virtues (and particularly Jesus' example of living the Christian life of virtue) are important for our lives in school, as well as who we will grow into as people beyond school.

After this, we went to St. Joseph's Church for a service in which we received the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes for the Pilgrims of Grace tour (mentioned above), and focused on how God calls each and every one of us to follow Him and to become saints, despite our imperfections. We explored the lives of the Apostles and how they weren't always perfect, but responded to God's call for them, trusting that God can do amazing things despite any imperfections!



“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

MARK 9:37

Prizegiving

CELEBRATING THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

In October, we celebrated the successes of our students in the 2024/25 academic year. Among the prizes were the Damian Bates Catholic Life of the School Award and the Anthony Finnerty Catholic Life of the School Award, for key stage 4 and key stage 5 respectively. These were presented by the Right Worshipful Mayor of Lancaster, Margaret Pattison, a former pupil of Our Lady's! KS4 was awarded to Ella Gardner, who has been a massive help in the chaplaincy with changing banners for new liturgical seasons, helping put event posters up around school, helping set up for "Days with a Difference", and taking out the recycling! She's also helped create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in the chaplaincy for pupils in the younger years, which is shown by how much they appreciate her. She has been very generous in giving her time and artistic talent to create beautiful pieces of art for liturgical celebrations in school and for social media.

Ruth Klzier received the award for KS5. She has been an outstanding example of someone willing to live out her faith boldly. She has volunteered to help with assemblies (which she did for our Fratelli Tutti week), read at Mass, and got involved with anything concerning putting her faith into action. She has also been involved in the Uganda Project group and the Caritas Ambassadors. She is a shining example of faith made fruitful in good works and a joy to work with.

We're so grateful for all the hard work our students do to carry out the Church's mission of evangelization and charity, so thank you to everyone who has been involved in any way - big or small!



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

COLOSSIANS 3:23

"To love our neighbour in charity is to love God in man."

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



Uganda Project Update

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF THE UGANDA PROJECT



We are now into the second year of a two-year cycle of fundraising with the 2026 Uganda Project. So far, we are delighted to announce that we've raised over £16,000 to help communities in Uganda! This has been through the tireless fundraising of the group of committed students we have on the project and through generous grants from the Catholic charities SPICMA and The Little Way Association, who have supported the group's appeal for a solar water pump in Rubuguri (our 2024 group are pictured with students in Rubuguri in the top photo). Our target for the solar water pump has now been met, with construction due to begin in late 2025. Our next target is to support the building of a water supply to the Home of Divine Mercy Vocational School in Nyanja, which will be the focus of "A Night at the Races", which is advertised on the next page. We'd be really grateful if you can make it to the evening, you can buy tickets in advance by contacting school, or you can also buy tickets on the door.



A Night at the Races!

OLCC Uganda Project

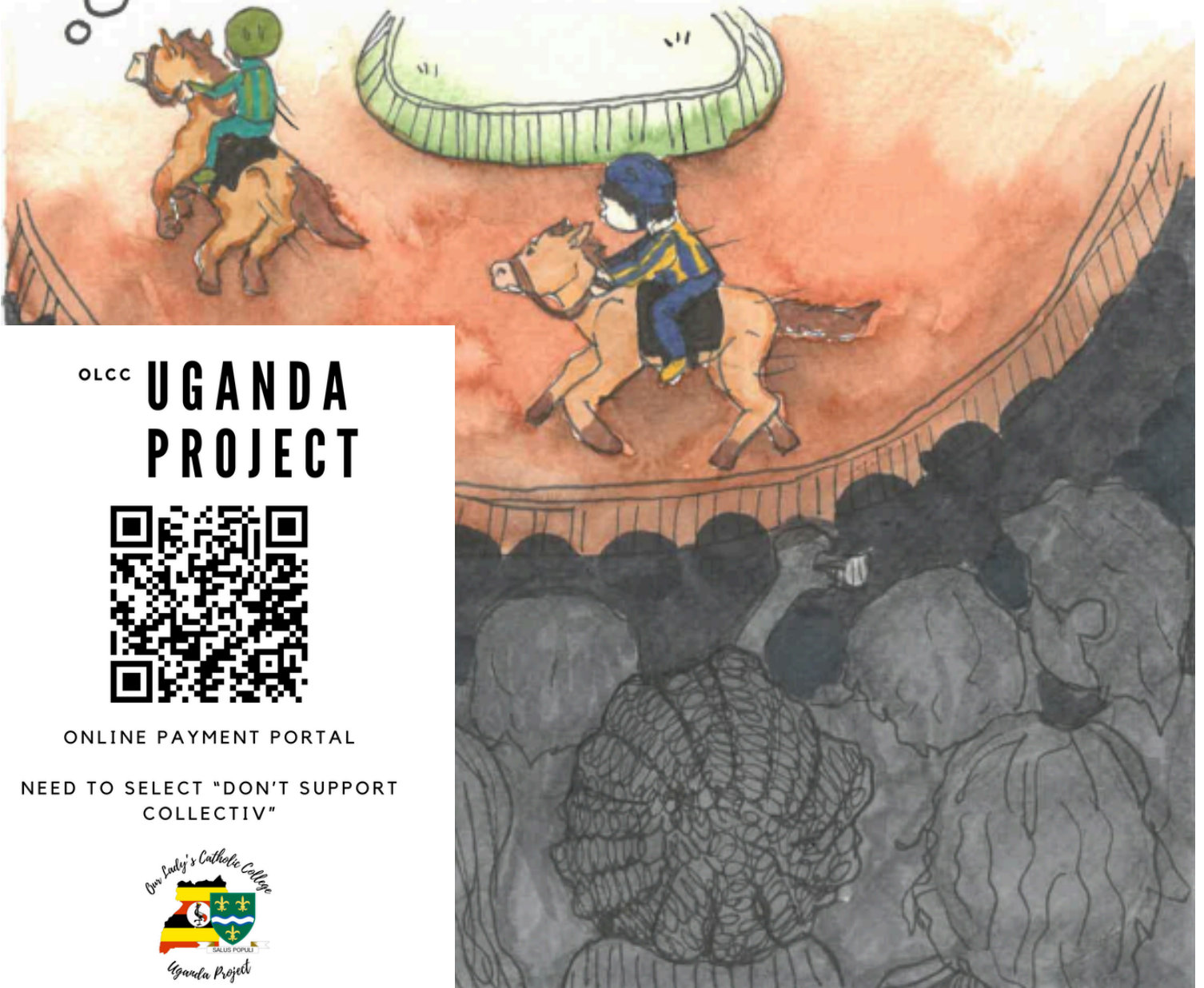


Bring your own drinks
Crafts and baked
goods on sale!
Raffle

Date: Friday 7th November @19:00

Location: Our Lady's Catholic
College

Tickets: £4, £3 for concessions
(16+ only)



OLCC **UGANDA
PROJECT**



ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL

NEED TO SELECT "DON'T SUPPORT
COLLECTIV"



How Can I Grow in Faith?

EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS TO ENCOURAGE YOU ON YOUR FAITH JOURNEY

- **Youth 2000 Preston Retreat** - Are you looking to grow in faith, find out more about Catholicism, or meet other young Catholics, Youth 2000 is for you! Be sure to check out their social media and website: <https://www.youth2000.org/events> for all they have going on, including a retreat just down the road in Preston!
- **Sacrament Preparation** - Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Churches are always open to those wanting to follow the call to follow Jesus! Have a look in your local church or ask your priest if they are running sacrament preparation classes.
- **Ascension Press** - Ascension Press are an American Catholic media company that have everything you need to grow in faith. Whether it's their "Bible in a Year", "Rosary in a Year", or "Catechism in a Year" podcasts, their YouTube videos, their prayer resources, or their funny and engaging social media posts, there's something for you!
- **Augustine Institute** - Search for the "Augustine Institute" on Spotify for podcasts to help you grow in faith, and even to help you sleep!



“But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

DEUTERONOMY 4:29

Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **7th November: “A Night at the Races” by the Uganda Project** - Join us at school from 7pm for a fundraiser for our partner communities in Uganda. A night of betting for charity, plus sweet treats and crafts on sale! Age 16+ only.
- **10-14th November: Light Fever** - New this year, Light Fever is coming to OLCC! This is a unique opportunity for everyone to remember loved ones who have passed away, praying for them and lighting a candle for them.
- **11th November: Mass of Remembrance** - Our annual Mass of Remembrance for all deceased members of the Our Lady's family. All are welcome! This will be at 15:30 and please contact Catherine Rowlands at c.rowlands@olcc.lanccs.sch.uk or 01524 66689 to confirm your attendance.
- **14th November: Sixth Form Sleep Out** - Our sixth formers will be braving the elements to fundraise for LDHAS and stand in solidarity with those who are homeless. If you'd like to sponsor us, please get in touch with school.
- **30th November: Advent Begins!** - How can you grow closer to Christ this Advent as we prepare for His coming at Christmas? Could you come back to church? Commit to 5 more minutes in prayer per day?
- **13th December: Youth 2000 Preston Retreat** - See above for the details.
- **19th December: Carol Singing in St. Nic's Arcades** - Watch out for our Uganda Project students singing Christmas carols in St. Nic's Arcades in the afternoon! They'll be raising money for our partner communities in Uganda and St. John's Hospice.

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPLAINCY INSTAGRAM TOO!!

 @olcc_chaplaincy



God bless and have a fantastic half term!