



SALUS POPULI

# CHAPLAINCY



*An update from Chaplaincy at Our Lady's*



## Epiphany Mass

CELEBRATING THE VISIT OF THE MAGI

For the feast of the Epiphany, we took a group of students to Mass at St. Joseph's Church. It was a beautiful occasion where students from Our Lady's, St. Joseph's Primary, and members of the parish all came together to celebrate.

We also took time to pray in school about the significance and meaning of the Epiphany, meditating on how this feast shows us that God's plan for salvation is meant for all people, not just the people of Israel we hear about in the Old Testament, and that this plan for our salvation is brought to us through Jesus. The word "epiphany" means "revelation", and Jesus reveals God's love for each of us, so that we too might "rejoice exceedingly" like the Magi!

*"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy."*

MATTHEW 2:10



# No Greater Love Exhibition

EXPLORING THE LIFE OF FRANZ AND FRANZISKA JAGERSTATTER

At Our Lady's we have a rota where forms take it in turns to create a form prayer, including a "saint of the week" prayer, which celebrates the life of a saint, or someone on the path to sainthood. By chance, the form 12DOK in Sixth Form were given a saint of the week in May last year based on Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, a humble Austrian farmer with a chequered past, who returned to his faith in adulthood and was executed by the Nazis in 1943 for his refusal to join the Nazi army.

So, when the chance came this year to host an exhibition about Franz, his wife Franziska, and their lives, we jumped at the opportunity! Laura Gatti, one of our governors at Our Lady's, has been involved in translating the exhibition, called "No Greater Love", from Italian into English. She also gave up her time to come into school and put the exhibition up in our entrance hall (see bottom picture) for all to see, and deliver assemblies which gave a bite-sized insight into the exhibition and this remarkable story of God's strength playing out in the life of an ordinary lay man.

We also hosted an open evening where members of the public were invited to come in and explore the exhibition. Our student helpers (middle picture) were a fantastic help and did a great job of explaining the story to visitors and saying how it had inspired them to be courageous in standing up for what is right. If you'd like to know more about this incredible story, we still have some cards with a QR code to the exhibition available in our school reception.



*"I would not exchange my small, dirty cell for a king's palace if I was required to give up even a small part of my faith."*

BLESSED FRANZ JAGERSTATTER



## CHAPLAINCY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Monday

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

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

### Friday

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

## Candlemas

CELEBRATING THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD WITH THE GIFT TEAM

Long after the rest of the world has put their Christmas decorations back in the loft for another year, our crib remained standing in our entrance hall! This is because the Christmas season traditionally continues until Candlemas - or the Presentation of the Lord as you might know it. After the Christmas festivities, we have a period of the Epiphany season (which is within Christmastide) which includes how God's salvation for the world - given to us at Christmas - is revealed to the nations through events like the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, and His Presentation in the Temple. To celebrate this culmination of the Christmas festivities, our GIFT Team gathered together in a short liturgical prayer: lighting a candle (to symbolise Christ, the Light of the World) listening to the Gospel of the day, a musical rendition of the Nunc Dimittis, and writing our petitions for Jesus to bring His light to a situation, place, or person we know on a candle and offering it physically in the crib and in prayer. Come Lord Jesus and give us your light!

# New Prayer Groups!

## GROWING OUR SCHOOL'S PRAYER LIFE

This year, we have been delighted to launch two new prayer groups at Our Lady's!

The first of these is a Bible Study group, which was actually the request of a couple of students! Since then, we have been meeting and praying together every Thursday after school, exploring how to pray with Scripture and listening to what God has to say to us through His Word.

Our second addition has been an ecumenical prayer group, where Christians of all denominations gather together each Wednesday before school starts for a morning of praise & worship, reflection, and intercession for the needs of our community.

We're really excited to see what God is doing through these groups and in our lives! If you're interested in joining, there's always space for new people - the more the merrier!



*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

1 THESSALONIANS  
5:16-18

## Why 40 Years?

### A THOUGHT ON LENT

This year, Lent begins in half term. Therefore, we've been preparing the children in school this week in assemblies to get them into Lent mode so to speak! Here, I share some thoughts behind the assembly, hoping they help you enter Lent well too.



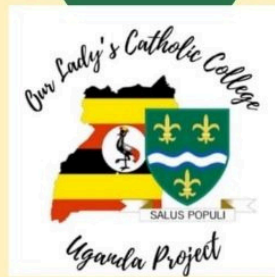
We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday, where ashes are placed on our foreheads as a reminder that Lent is a penitential season. Penance is an act done to show one's sorrow for wrongdoing - a way of showing you're sorry. God invites us to reconciliation, particularly during Lent, which is the repairing of our relationship with Him. When we have done someone wrong, it's often hard to look someone in the eye. Reconciliation (reconcilia) literally means "again with eyelashes". God invites us not only to be able to look Him in the eye again, but so close that we are eyelash to eyelash. Sometimes it's hard to accept this. Our idea of God means that we struggle to see that He could forgive us, our shame prevents us from approaching Him, or our fear of letting our Father down convinces us we're not worth His time or love.

The people of Israel take 40 years to make what should have been an 11-day journey. Why? These people had been slaves in Egypt for the past 400 years, so only ever knew what it was like to be treated as less than human. Their hearts weren't ready to accept the freedom of the Promised Land, of being called God's family. So God needed to prepare them for freedom, to teach them what it meant to be free and be in a position to accept the good that God wanted to give them. Whenever God gives the people of Israel an inch of freedom in the Exodus, their hearts turn back to being slaves and reject God's plan. We find this in our own lives too, not in being slaves to another person, but to sin. For whatever reason, our hearts turn back to sin and struggle to accept the freedom that comes from living as God intends for us. I am reminded of Pope St. John Paul II's quote about freedom: "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." At Easter, we will celebrate Christ's all-surpassing victory over sin and death - a victory that we're invited into as well. Jesus has won for us and constantly offers us a freedom from sin, whatever it is that separates us from God. Lent is the time the Church offers us before Easter where we can allow God to transform and heal our hearts through prayer, fasting, and works of charity, making our hearts ready to receive the freedom that is offered to us at Easter, so let's grab it with both hands and trust that, as our Loving Father, God is preparing us for joy and freedom for relationship with Him.

*"Works of mercy are recommended as a sign of the authenticity of worship."*

POPE LEO XIV





## **The Uganda Project**

The Uganda Project has been running at Our Lady's Catholic College for over 15 years, supporting students and other members of communities in multiple schools and villages with the aim of helping rural communities in Uganda by raising money for things such as a water pump to provide easy supply to clean water, improved educational facilities and creating a more comfortable and safer environment for the community to live in.

The project includes organising and undertaking fundraising events, parish visits and eventually, in July, a few of our students will be embarking on a trip to Uganda to meet the people within the communities benefitting from the money and awareness raised.

## **Local Parish Visits**

In recent months, our students have been paying visits to Churches, Communal Centres and more to raise awareness and money for the project with the help of the wider community. These visits allow members of the public to get an insight into the obstacles that Ugandan people have to overcome on a daily basis and the work that the members of the project are doing, in order to aid them in overcoming these challenges. We have received multiple generous donations which have aided us in managing to achieve our target of £21,600, changing the lives for many. There are more visits planned for the coming months, so pop down to support the project and the students, and help yourself to some cake!

## **Uganda Quiz Night.**

One of our most recent events was our Uganda Quiz Night. Our fundraisers worked in pairs to create their very own quizzes on a range of different topics - for example, food, music, Disney and most importantly on Uganda! Our students each presented the quizzes they made and the team who got the most correct answers won a hamper. Hosted in the Cathedral Social Centre all the money raised via ticket sales and the raffle was put towards the project, raising over £600 - which is over 2,000,000 Ugandan shillings! It was a marvellous night for everyone in attendance, with our Uganda team's unique quizzes bringing tons of entertainment to the local community as well as raising money to help the schools in Rubuguri.

Keep an eye out for more fundraising events hosted by the Uganda team - we hope to see you there!

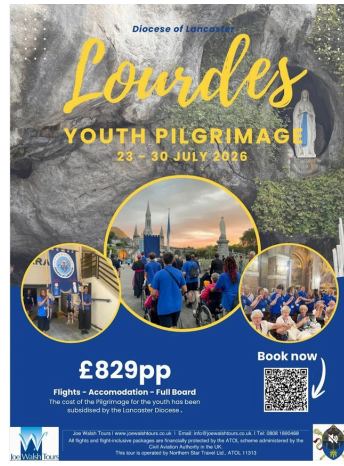
## **When our fundraising becomes life-changing!**

Uganda project has been fundraising for a new water pump to be installed in the village of Rubuguri, with the total cost of the pump being £21,600. We are proud to say we have surpassed the target and have raised about £22,500. Rubuguri, a poor village in South-West Uganda where access to clean water has long been a daily struggle. Residents need to hike up and down the steep valley, carrying jerry cans weighing 50 litres at a time, a task that is physically demanding and time consuming. This journey will now be prevented by the installation of a solar water pump system funded by the donations we have collected from quiz night, parish visits and other events we have put on across the two years. The new system will pump water from a natural spring at the bottom of the valley up to collection point to meet both sides. Rubuguri will gain reliable access to clean water for domestic and agricultural use, which is significant as many families rely on farming for support and income. The new water pump will help grow crops, improve health and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Rubuguri!

# How Can I Grow in Faith?

EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS TO ENCOURAGE YOU ON YOUR FAITH JOURNEY

- **theASCENT** - Are you looking to grow in faith, and grow closer to God and His Church? theASCENT is a 3-year discipleship programme for those in year 10 and above, including content sessions, 3 years of mentoring, and three retreats per year. If you're interested, find out more on their website [www.theascentuk.co.uk](http://www.theascentuk.co.uk) or ask Ben. Registration for 2026/27 opens soon!
- **Hallow App** - Hallow is a subscription-based app that provides you with so many prayer resources you'll be spoiled for choice! Choose from Lent reflections, daily Bible readings, the Rosary, saint stories, worship music, and more - a great investment for Lent!
- **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! They are also launching a Lent devotional series called "Crux" which you can sign up for on the free Ascension app.
- **Lancaster Diocesan Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage** - The Lancaster Diocese Youth Service are once again running a youth pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23-30<sup>th</sup> July 2026. See Ben for more details or visit: <https://joewalshstours.co.uk/tours/diocese-of-lancaster-lourdes-pilgrimage-youth/>



*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”*

REVELATION 3:20

## Things to Watch Out For...

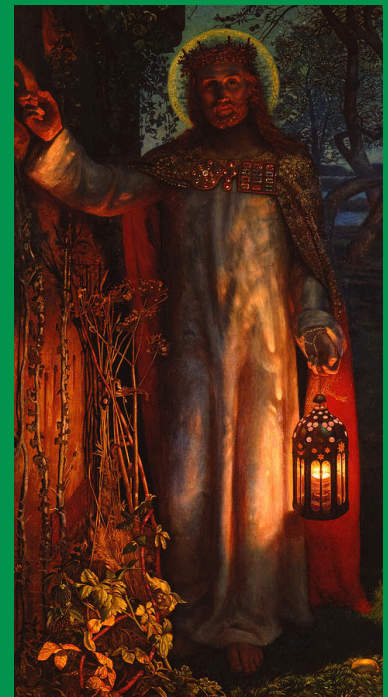
SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **18<sup>th</sup> February: Ash Wednesday** - This marks the start of Lent. Check out the local parish websites for details about when you can get to Mass on this day. The parishes of St. Peter & The Lancaster Martyrs and the parish of St. John Henry Newman will have services throughout the day. It's also a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics!
- **23-27<sup>th</sup> February: Y10 Castlerigg Retreat** - Our year 10s are off on retreat to Castlerigg this week, remember to bring your suitcase to school on Monday if you're on the trip!
- **11-13<sup>th</sup> March: 6<sup>th</sup> Form Retreat** - Our sixth formers will be on retreat in March too, exploring the theme of "A Reason for Hope". We're excited for what God has in store for us!
- **18<sup>th</sup> March: Y8 Day with a Difference** - As part of Lent, year 8 will spend a day looking at the theme of "Forgiveness" with the help of some special guests. There will also be the chance for any students and staff to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **20<sup>th</sup> March: Good News for Everyone Visit** - Each year, year 7 students each receive a copy of the New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs from Good News for Everyone (formerly known as the Gideons). They will be visiting us in assembly to do the same this year so we can grow closer to God through the gift of His Word.
- **27<sup>th</sup> March: "Building Bridges" Primaries Day** - As part of Lent, we'll be welcoming groups from our Catholic feeder primaries for a day of activities on the theme of "Building Bridges".
- **29<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April: Holy Week** - The holiest week of the year begins on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Again, have a look at your local parish website for details of Masses and services to help you enter into Holy Week more deeply and celebrate Easter more joyfully!

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPLAINCY INSTAGRAM TOO!!



@olcc\_chaplaincy



*God bless and have a fantastic half term!*