



CHAPLAINCY

An update from Chaplaincy at Our Lady's...



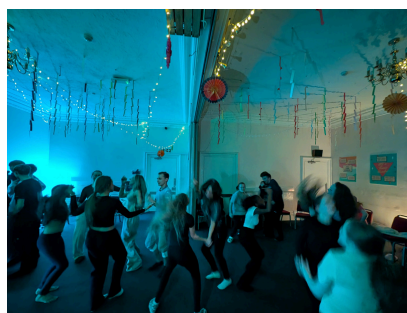
Castlerigg Retreat

EXPLORING IDENTITY WITH YEAR 10

In February, we took a group of our year 10 students to Castlerigg for a retreat on the topic of identity.

Throughout the week, we had the opportunity to grow closer as a group through team building activities and some amazing walks in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. We also heard from the Castlerigg team about what God has to say about our identity and where we look for it, as well as having time in our small groups to discuss the big questions that came out of those talks, which was really fruitful!

We also had plenty of time to pray, of course, and one of the highlights was definitely our Wednesday night session where we took part in Adoration, Confession, and prayer ministry. To see so many people go for Confession and prayer ministry was incredible and we all felt so much better afterwards! It was a powerful time of prayer in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and you could feel God's presence in the room! Finally, we celebrated our time together with Mass - a prayer of thanksgiving to God - and our party night! It was an amazing night of dancing, party games, and karaoke that capped off a fantastic week which left us all wanting to stay longer!



“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”

PSALM 139:13-14



Hyning Retreat

A REASON FOR HOPE

We were really privileged to take a group of our sixth formers on retreat to Hyning Monastery in March, which was a great experience! Our retreat was focused on the theme of "A Reason for Hope" - including sessions on what the Christian message of hope is and how we can hope in the person of Jesus.

We also joined the nuns at Hyning for some of the Divine Office, which was a fascinating and very peaceful experience of prayer. We got to know them a bit better too, hearing about what life is like as a nun and living in community. As the retreat was in Lent, there was a service of Reconciliation, allowing us the opportunity to receive God's mercy and have our relationships with God and others healed.

There was plenty of time for getting to know each other better too, through our walk through the surrounding countryside (which, despite what the pictures tell you, ended in us getting absolutely drenched!), sharing mealtimes and doing the washing up together - which went down a treat! - and our social time, which included a board games night and a night of Just Dance and karaoke!



*"I plead with you,
never, ever give
up on hope!"*

ST. JOHN PAUL II



CHAPLAINCY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday

GIFT Team (Form Time)
Breaktime Games (covered courtyard)
Holy Mass (lunchtime)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Breaktime drop-in
Lunchtime drop-in
Bible Study (after school)

Friday

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

The Annunciation

CELEBRATING THE WORD MADE FLESH

For the feast of the Annunciation, the news of Mary's pregnancy announced to her by the archangel Gabriel, Fr. John-Paul, our priest chaplain, celebrated Mass for us and helped us reflect on why this Christmas-related feast in the middle of Lent actually helps us understand the Easter story more fully. Fr. John-Paul encouraged us to bear in mind the words of Jesus to Pilate at his trial: "I was born for this", and how with this in mind, Jesus' entire life is put into focus. If the purpose of Jesus' life was his death and resurrection, then we can't keep him at arm's length as just a "good teacher", we have to see him as God and Saviour. It was a wonderful celebration and it was great to see the school hall full for Mass and our choir in good voice too.

To add to our festivities, we also had our Lent non-uniform day to raise money for the communities we support in Uganda, which you can here more about on the next page...



Lent Fundraising

SUPPORTING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN UGANDA

In Lent, our school fundraising takes a global focus: helping our brothers and sisters in communities in rural Uganda who we have been partners and, even more importantly, friends with for over 20 years now.

As part of the Uganda Project as a whole, the students from Our Lady's receive training in public speaking, which they have to practise when delivering assemblies to the rest of the school to talk about the needs of the Ugandan communities and how we are going to support them. This year, we have been asked to support: the construction of a clean water supply to the Home of Divine Mercy Vocational School (top image), providing equipment for a STEM centre in Rubuguri (middle image), maintenance work on classrooms at St. Paul's Secondary School in Bukinda, the construction of a playing field at Giants Secondary School in Bukinda, educational resources for primary schools in Shagasha and Rubuguri, and beds for Lolachat Seed Secondary School in Moroto.

Thank you to all who have supported the project in any way already, your generosity is greatly appreciated!



"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same - with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."

ST. MOTHER TERESA



Year 8 Day with a Difference

A FOCUS ON RECONCILIATION

Our year 8 students spent a day off timetable looking at the theme of "Reconciliation" as part of our Lent programme. We looked at how reconciliation is vital in our relationships with God, others, and ourselves and how God offers us healing as well as forgiveness.

We began the day hearing a powerful testimony of forgiveness from Marcus Mosey, which we followed up in a session thinking about how easy or difficult it is to forgive others in different situations. After this, we thought about different aspects of reconciliation through a practical activity carousel, including burying our sins in sand (how God removes our sins from us), weighted relay races (how sin weighs us down), friendship bracelet making (restoring broken relationships), and planting seeds (working towards growth and healing in our relationships). We ended the day with an opportunity for sacramental confession in a reconciliation service, and it was amazing to see a great number of students take the opportunity to go to Fr. John-Paul to receive either the sacrament of reconciliation or a blessing!

We pray that everyone will come to know God's mercy and have a better idea of how to live this out in the world.



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

MATTHEW 18:21-22



Uganda Training Day

PREPARING FOR OUR TRIP



During the February half term, the Uganda Project group gathered together for a training day in order to prepare us for the trip this summer with the help of James Trewby from the Columban Missionaries.

We spent the first half of the day focusing on what it means to live in community as a group because we will be together for just under 3 weeks, which might be a bit of a shock to the system! We took part in some team-building activities which tested our communication skills and our ability to recognise each other's strengths and weaknesses, and finished off with a meditation on how God calls His people to live in communion with each other and with Him when He gives the 10 Commandments.

Fr. Sunday (a long-time friend of OLCC and Ugandan priest who guides us on the trip) celebrated Mass for us before we enjoyed some lunch and jumped into our afternoon activities, looking at how the motivation behind our charity has to be a desire for justice, solidarity, to uphold the dignity of all people, and ultimately a deep love for our neighbours, even if they are all the way in Uganda!

"Love is itself the fulfillment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run: we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1829

Building Bridges Primary Day

A DAY OF FUN AND FORGIVENESS!

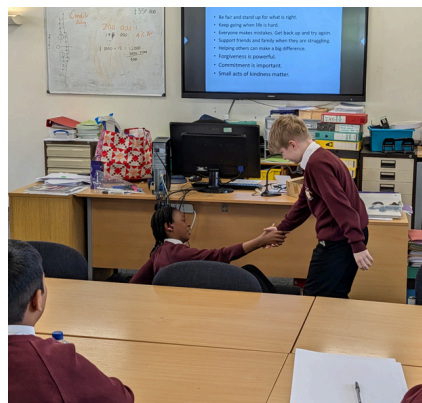
This March saw the launch of the first of our revamped Primary Days: "Building Bridges". We welcomed The Cathedral Primary School to OLCC for a day of fun-filled activities and workshops centred around the idea of "Building Bridges" as a way of exploring forgiveness and reconciliation. Ben and Mr. Haughton were helped by the OLCC GIFT Team, who did a great job helping out and getting involved too!

Mr. Haughton began the day by leading us in a reflective session about what Jesus tells us about forgiveness, and how forgiveness might play out in different scenarios in our lives in school and at home. Ben then led a practical session where we played "human bingo", seeing how each person has a valuable place in society and we lose out on what gifts they bring if we don't build bridges. We also built bridges of our own as a way to see that if we take away a brick from our bridges, the whole bridge falls apart, so everyone has a role to play. We celebrated Mass together with Fr. John-Paul before sharing lunch together in the beautiful setting of Damian's Garden. In the afternoon, Mr. Haughton and the GIFT Team led us in a drama workshop on the Way of the Cross and how Jesus' Passion is His expression of forgiveness and love for us to accept and follow. Finally, Ben led us in a closing reflection on St. Paul's Body of Christ analogy and how the whole Body suffers if one part is hurt or removed, but how it flourishes with Jesus as our head and example, while we work together to build a community rooted in love.



"The world needs his light. Humanity needs him as the bridge that can lead us to God and his love. Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace."

POPE LEO XIV



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 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 pilgrimage to Lourdes in France! See Ben for more information.
- **Castlerigg Manor Gap Year** - Fancy a gap year in youth ministry? Castlerigg Manor are looking for volunteers to join their team for the 2026/27 academic year!



Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **3rd April: Good Friday** - The day that Jesus gave His life for us. Why not mark it by attending either the Walk of Witness in Dalton Square or the Good Friday Service at the Cathedral at 3pm?
- **5th April: Easter Sunday** - The most joyful day of the year! Again, why not find out where your nearest Mass is to celebrate the joy of Easter?!
- **29th April: Year 7 Day with a Difference** - Our year 7s will be exploring the theme of Catholic Social Teaching of the Call to Community in a day of workshops and activities with some special guests.
- **1st May: Second Savio House Payment Deadline** - If your child is on the year 7 retreat, please ensure you have paid the second instalment by this date.
- **8th May: Uganda Concert** - Our final fundraiser before the trip is a festival of musical delights from school and some old friends of OLCC! Tickets are available from reception of OLCC by phone or in person, as well as by emailing Ben O'Flynn at b.oflynn@olcc.lancs.sch.uk
- **10th May: Holy Communion** - This May, one of our students will be receiving their First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's. Please keep her and all the students at Our Lady's preparing to receive the sacraments in your prayers as they take these bold steps in their journey with the Lord.
- **14th May: The Ascension** - This is a holy day of obligation, so there will be Mass in school so keep a look out for the invitation during form time to sign up for Mass!

CHECK OUT OUR CHAPLAINCY INSTAGRAM TOO!!

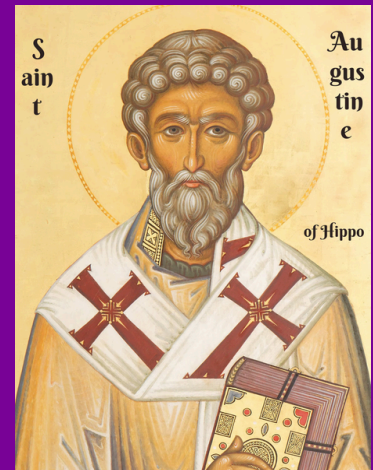


@olcc_chaplaincy

God bless and have a joyful Easter!

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you!"

ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO



"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI