



CHAPLAINCY



*An update
from
Chaplaincy at
Our Lady's*



End of Year Mass

CELEBRATING OUR YEAR IN
GRATITUDE

This year, we celebrated our End of Year Mass with the theme of gratitude. In the build up to Mass, we created artwork in every form class to remind ourselves of what we've been grateful for over the course of this academic year. We spent time in prayer in our forms thanking God for so many gifts both in and out of school over these 12 months.

It was a joyful occasion and we are very thankful for the help of all who were involved in making Mass beautiful: the music group and choir for some amazing music, our readers for confidently reading in front of our whole school community, our Eucharistic ministers, our teachers for organising logistics, Mr. Teasdale for the wonderful photos, and Fr. Keefe for generously coming in to celebrate Mass for us.



*"I thank my
God every time
I remember
you. In all my
prayers for all
of you, I
always pray
with joy..."*

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-4

Savio House Retreat

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH OUR YEAR 7S



In June, we took our year 7s to Savio House on retreat for 3 days. During this time, we focused on the theme of “Building Bridges” in a number of areas in our lives, using St. John Bosco’s model: our relationships in school, with our family, our friends, and with God.

We did this through team building activities, prayer stations, a reconciliation service, time for reflection, music, creative writing, dance, drama, celebrating Mass, and a disco! It was great exploring faith and our relationships with others and God through these activities, we all had great fun! We also found out that many of our year 7s have fantastic singing voices - the corridors have been full of song since they’ve been back!

We’re very grateful for the time to build relationships with our friends and teachers in school and we pray that these will bear fruit throughout our year 7s’ time at OLCC.



“By taking on our flesh, Jesus united us to one another, reconciling divisions and charging us to acknowledge him in all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor and those in need.”

POPE LEO XIV

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)

Uganda Trip

A FINAL UPDATE BEFORE THE TRIP



The fundraising and preparations for the Uganda trip are now complete, with the calm before the storm of travelling now set in!

This cliché is often overused, but the past two years have well and truly been a rollercoaster. It feels like everything has been thrown at this trip and project: uncertainty over funding, a war in the Middle East, an Ebola outbreak, and the tragic death of a headteacher of one of our partner schools. However, what has been a constant through everything is that the group of students and staff taking part this year have worked incredibly hard to raise money, awareness, and cultivate relationships with each other and with our Ugandan brothers and sisters, even when (at one point) we were faced with the probability of not going on the trip.

It has been a genuine pleasure to work with them all. What has also been clear is that God has been at work through it all. Our fundraising has been astounding and God is definitely using the little drop in the ocean we have offered and given back to the Ugandan communities with endless generosity. Please keep our travels and the continued work in our partner communities in your prayers.

Change Ahead

A NOTE FROM BEN AND WELCOMING FRANCIS

I wanted to pinch a little bit of space in this newsletter to write a final goodbye and an encouragement for my successor, Francis - I hope you can afford me the time and space.

Five years ago, I joined Our Lady's on a chaplaincy gap year whilst discerning entering formation for the priesthood. I had everything planned out in my head for the year and then to move onto formation the following September, but it appeared God had other plans.

What was meant to be one year turned into five and I can say looking back that God definitely knew what He was doing - even if I didn't! It's been five of the best years of my life, filled with trips to places I'd never dreamt of visiting, meeting the most incredible people, sharing countless moments of joy and laughter, as well as having my heart broken by the occasional sorrow too. I can say with confidence that it has been the best job ever and to give myself to this ministry has been an absolute pleasure, so thank you so much for having me and changing me from the fresh-faced graduate rookie into the man I am today.

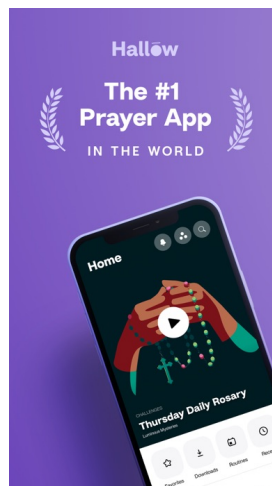
I leave with a sense of peace too, knowing that I am handing over to a wonderful man, Francis Stewart. I know he will bring his love for Jesus and desire to serve God's people to the job, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for the future. Please keep Francis in your prayers as he takes on this mission, and myself too as I take the next steps on my journey too. Thanks and God bless!



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 or ask Ben. Registration for 2026/27 is open now!
- **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!
- **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.
- **Castlerigg Gap Year 2026/27** - The Lancaster Diocese Youth Service at Castlerigg are looking for volunteers for their 2026/27 team. If you fancy a gap year or would like to build experience in youth ministry, check out their website for more details about their youth ministry internship: <https://castleriggmanor.com/join-the-team/index.html>
- **Youth 2000** - Youth 2000 is a Catholic organisation run for young people by young people. If you're aged between 16-35 and you'd like to go deeper in faith and build a community of Catholic friends, Youth 2000 is the place for you! Check out their website for upcoming events: <https://www.youth2000.org/>



"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

MATTHEW 9:37-38

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy."

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX



Things to Watch Out For...

SOME KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **8-25th July: Uganda Trip** - A group of 6th Form students and staff will be travelling to Uganda. Please keep them in your prayers for their safety and that their fundraising is fruitful.
- **15th August: Solemnity of the Assumption** - A holy day of obligation for Catholics. Why not try and find Mass near you either at home or when you're on holiday?
- **3rd September: School Restarts** - 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!
- **7th October: Our Lady of the Rosary** - Our school's patronal feast day is Our Lady of the Rosary! Keep your eyes peeled for Mass times and celebrations as a school community.

God bless and have a fantastic, restful, and blessed summer!

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

MATTHEW 11:28-30



@olcc_chaplaincy