

# St Michael's Catholic College

*Summer Term 2024*



**RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR**

**RUAH**

*“The breath of life that animates the soul”*





## GOOD SAMARITAN MASS AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL



St Michael's were invited to attend and participate in the annual Good Samaritan Mass at St George's Cathedral. Maya B in 7SA was picked to read the first reading for the Mass, which she did eloquently and confidently.

Attending the Good Samaritan Mass at St George's Cathedral was an enriching experience. The Archdiocese of Southwark came together to celebrate the communal values the Mass was focused on, demonstrating these perfectly. The Archbishop's Homily was very engaging, once again bringing everyone together and educating about love in a fun way. Going as our own community, and seeing everyone enjoying themselves made me proud to be part of this community, not only within the school, but the church as a whole.

*Asiri C-K 10DA - Year 10 Chaplaincy*







## CHAPLAINCY TEAMS



At the end of the year, all pupils across St Michael's Chaplaincy Teams are invited to attend a special liturgy held for themselves in thanksgiving for the wonderful things they have done this year. Students shared readings and prayers to reflect on the year gone by. The Chaplaincy teams across KS3,4 and 5 are instrumental in arranging charity events, assemblies and liturgies. Year 10 kindly look after the Chapel week in and out, making sure it is a wonderful space for prayer. Year 8 are phenomenal at putting on a show, often led by representatives in Year 12. Year 7 are really keen and get stuck in with making things, supporting and attending events, and Year 9 are wonderful at leading in assemblies with staff members. Years 7, 8 and 9, through the Faith in Action program complete tasks both in and out of the college which led to their graduation at the end of this year, all completing final pieces, be it a song, video or prayer – all to support the Catholic life of the college. Through all of their actions they have helped to orchestrate a range of charity events over this academic year, culminating in successes of over £2000 raised for a range of worthy charities, including CAFOD, Alzheimer's UK and local pensioners.



I'd like to personally congratulate them on their hard work and commitment to all of our events and enterprises this year, it was wonderful to welcome you all to the Chapel on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Well done!  
*Miss Casey – Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*





## CAFOD GRADUATION



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Year 12 pupils from St Michael's were invited to St George's Cathedral to attend their graduation celebration, completing their CAFOD Young Leadership Program. This year's participants were an exceptional example of faith in action and dedication to the cause. Starting with St Michael's Day, where they helped to raise over £600, along with all the assemblies they have put together and shared across the college. Along with all of the students in the Year 12 Chaplaincy team, they have helped to raise awareness of causes important to the college and many of them are ambassadors for other groups, such as the All Are Welcome and Diversity teams. Well done to them on a great year.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, the Graduation Ceremony for the CAFOD Young Leader Program took place, marking the culmination of a year of faith, teamwork, and community service. The event was held at St George's Cathedral, Southwark commencing with a networking session and a guided tour of the Cathedral. One of the notable centerpieces of the tour was the Romero Cross, a significant symbol of peace and justice. This cross commemorates Archbishop Oscar Romero, a prominent figure known for his advocacy for human rights and his unwavering commitment to peace during a tumultuous period in El Salvador's history. Dedicating his life to speaking out against oppression, violence, and social injustices faced by the Salvadoran people. His unwavering commitment to non-violence and his efforts to promote peace have left an indelible mark on global human rights movements. Therefore, the Romero Cross is a representation of hope, resilience, and the enduring human spirit in the face of adversity.

The day began with participants engaging in networking activities, fostering connections and exchanging experiences. A self-guided tour of the cathedral followed, allowing attendees to appreciate the architectural beauty and spiritual significance of the venue. Afterwards, the CAFOD team delivered a series of inspiring speeches, emphasising the impact of the programme and the importance of continuing their charitable efforts working together towards a stable, peaceful and safe world. The ceremony then featured presentations from various schools, showcasing the diverse projects and initiatives undertaken throughout the year. Each presentation highlighted the creativity, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the young leaders. The culmination of the event was the awarding of certificates and badges, symbolising the accomplishments and growth of each participant. This was poignantly marked by the blessing of our hands with oil, a sacred ritual symbolising our readiness to serve and lead.





## CAFOD GRADUATION



Participation in the CAFOD Young Leader Program has been profoundly beneficial. It has strengthened our faith, fostered a sense of teamwork, and provided invaluable educational experiences. Working together towards a common goal of striving for a better world through charity events and fundraising efforts has been both fun and rewarding. Additionally, it has allowed us to build stronger connections within our school community through working together on various projects, such as leading services and fundraising activities.

The program aligns closely with Catholic Social Teaching and Salesian values, emphasising the principles of human dignity, community, and the common good. By engaging in service projects and fundraising activities, we have put these teachings into practice, demonstrating a commitment to social justice and the welfare of others. The Salesian values of kindness, generosity, and service to the young have been at the core of our efforts, guiding our actions and inspiring us to be compassionate leaders. The Graduation Ceremony was a fitting conclusion to a year of growth and service. The CAFOD Young Leader Program has equipped us with the skills and values needed to make a positive impact in our communities. We look forward to continuing our journey of faith and service, inspired by the teachings of the Church and the legacy of St. John Bosco.

*Laura B – Year 12*





## WORLD RELIGIONS: RIDVAN AND SHAVUOT



Ridvan is a Bah'ai festival. Ridvan, also known as the Most Great Festival, celebrates Baha'u'llah's time in the garden of Ridvan on the outskirts of Baghdad in 1863 when He publicly declared His station as a Manifestation of God. The Ridvan Festival is 12 days long and is also the time of year when Baha'is elect their governing bodies.

In lessons, Year 7 and Year 8 in RE learnt all about the history of the Bah'ai faith and how this festival came to be, creating Ridvan cards to celebrate this.



After school, we held an event called the Roses of Ridvan. Roses are a popular gift to give one another for Ridvan, reflecting on the beauty of the garden. We had an interactive workshop where students could make their own paper flower bouquets, enjoyed a sweet treat and a short presentation led by Year 12 Chaplaincy members.



Though it is less observed in modern times than other Jewish holidays, Shavuot marks one of the most important moments in Jewish history, the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. This was the moment when, in the Jewish understanding, God's will was expressly communicated to human beings. It also marked the transition of the ancient Israelites into a religious community bound by covenant into a mutual relationship with God. It is a springtime holiday.

The term Shavuot itself literally means "weeks," a reference to it falling in the calendar precisely seven weeks after the start of Passover. As a college, Year 7 and Year 8 Faith in action presented a retelling of this story, supported by Year 10 and Year 12. Year 7 helped to build the 'mountain' painting and building boards, whilst Zachary O in Year 8 took on the role of Moses, collecting the two tablets. This festival is a dairy based one, all who attended enjoyed cheesecakes and yoghurts.







## FAITH IN ACTION GRADUATION



On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> July, we were proud to celebrate the achievements of KS3 pupils in Faith in Action who have worked tirelessly to work in service of Christ and of others. The ceremony had been a while coming for Year 9, whom some of them received the glory of all three awards, Bronze, Silver and Gold. We had 58 students graduating in total in a wonderful evening, supported by the Friends of St Michael's. They were raising funds for one of our Year 13 Chaplaincy members, Mariana, who is volunteering in China next year with Project Trust.

The ceremony itself, included prayers and reflections from Fr. Keith, as well as speech's from representatives of all three year groups; Adam and Nkemjika (7Vicuna); Zachary and Kobby (8DaCosta) and Maja and Mirabel (9DaCosta)- who all shared reflections on their time in Faith in Action, what they have done and what they gained from this experience.

Fr. Keith very kindly shared the presentation of the badges and Ms Corcoran led a final speech commending on their dedication. Miss Casey created a short video; it was a wonderful celebration of the dedication and fun they have had in these chaplaincy teams.





## FLORENCE: THE SALESIAN EXCHANGE



Going to Florence this year with my friends was a great experience and I had a lot of fun with them and my teachers. I made many memories with the Italian students and they were all lovely and very welcoming. I really enjoyed doing the quiz with them in the game room where I was chosen to do the skipping on one foot even though I came 2nd. The Italian students were very good at sport and I had a lot of fun with them that day. The food was always delicious and the movie nights were very fun and lively. I most enjoyed visiting the prison tower with the 300 steps because we got to see a lot of Italy that day and we were also allowed to have some gelato and the man serving us was incredibly kind and funny. I also enjoyed the Masses we attended in Italy because I was able to see how similar they are to us in terms of our services and how highly they valued their faith. Despite me not understanding anything the priest was saying, I was still engaged with the service on Sunday. Another thing that we did in Florence that I enjoyed was going to the Pizzeria on the first day. I had fun with everyone and I got to know some of my peers better and I can call most of them my friends now. We also visited the leaning tower of Pisa where I took many photos with my friends and had a taste of Italian McDonald's. We visited a very large Cathedral and we also climbed a hill to the top of the Piazza Michelangelo with many shops to buy interesting souvenirs. I truly had fun on this trip and I hope to go on another one soon.

*Elayne A – 8 Rua*







## SHOWCASE EVENING



On Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> July, the entire college welcomed parents and guardians to the Summer Showcase, to highlight the work different departments and extracurricular teams have done across the year. In the Chapel, members of Faith in Action Year 7 and Year 8 shared pictures of the events they have participated in and supported across the year.

All of the students were able to share the work they have done, and shared with our visitors lots of the different elements of the Catholic life of the school. They showcased prayer books, previous copies of the Chaplaincy Bulletin, reflection prayers, charity days and information about St John Bosco, from whom we have our Salesian ethos.

Well done to all of those who shared the wonderful work they have done to support the Catholic Life and Mission of St Michael's.





# FUNDRAISING



Mazzarello charity week took place in June to fundraise for two brilliant charities; Mary's Meals and The Sickle Cell Society. Over a series of events, a Go Fund Me page and team work, the House was able to raise over £600. There was a range of tuck shops, and a real capitalising on the sudden hot weather with an abundance of ice poles being available for purchase.



Mazza Charity Week  
600 (ish) pounds raised!



## ALL ARE WELCOME AT ST MICHAEL'S

### HOW ARE WE CELEBRATING ALL ARE WELCOME DAY?

- **Karaoke** - come along to sing your favourite songs by empowering artists and allies!  
**Date:** 28th June - Period 4A  
**Place:** Main Hall
- **Arts and Crafts session** - make rainbow bunting and flags to display around the school (KS3 only)  
**Date:** 28th June - Period 4A  
**Place:** NG2
- **House Competition** - design a poster inspired by an LGBTQ+ icon, or what Pride means to you  
**Date:** Ends 01/07/2024  
**Prize:** House points and Amazon vouchers

- **Cake Sale** - buy some delicious treats, run by the food tech department  
**Date:** 28th June - Period 4A+ 4B  
**Place:** Playground
- **Talks by Guest Speaker** - come along to learn something new and interesting!  
**Date:** Monday 24th June - 3.30pm  
**Place:** G18/G10
- **Film screening** - watch the movie 'Pride' and meet one of the actors  
**Date:** July 15th - 3.30pm  
**Location:** G18
- **Rainbow Laces** being sold throughout the month  
**Date:** Month of June



As always, the month of June has the intention of celebrating those in the LGBTQIA+ community. The St Michael's community, led by the All Are Welcome ambassadors, shared a week and final day of support. Mr Mullik and the All Are Welcome team led assemblies, heard from guest speakers from LGBTQIA+ Westminster Diocese, ran a Karaoke event, sold Rainbow laces and much more. It is a time to come together and reflect on the dignity of all human beings and the love that Christ has for everybody.



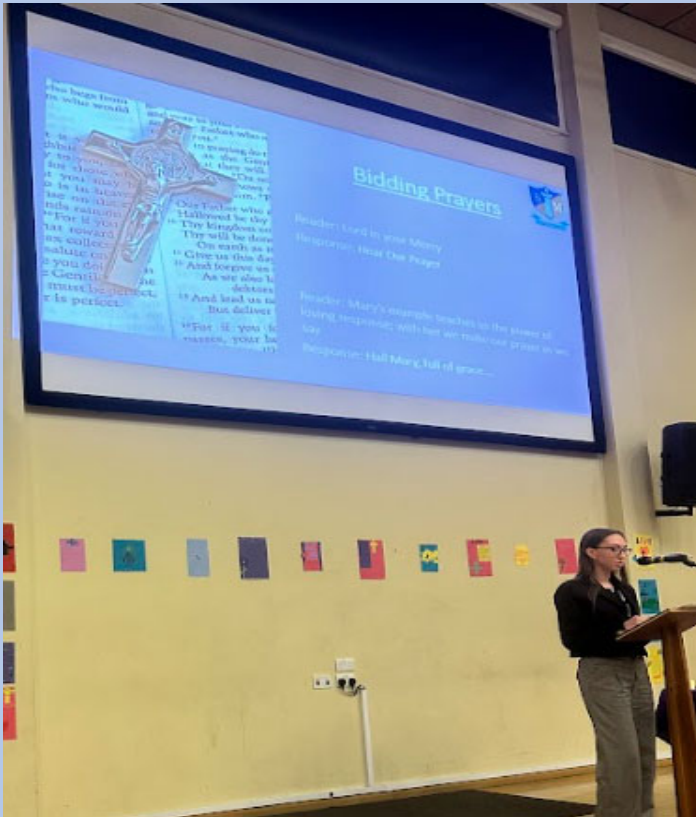


# A LOOK BACK...



There were services, Masses, fundraising events, prayer intentions, world religions and faith in action activities from the Chaplaincy team this year, some of which didn't make it into previous bulletins. The pupils of St Michael's are dedicated and committed to their Catholic faith, are resilient and have showcased how well rounded they truly are through all of the things they have managed to achieve through their many and continued acts of service to support the St Michael's community.

## EASTER SERVICES



## YEAR 10 TRIP TO MADRID





## A WORD AND A PRAYER

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means walking with honesty and courage and walking with love, respect, and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer. Talking with God means praying words of praise for the beauty of creation, saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times, asking God's help in all your decisions, especially if challenges come your way. May you walk and talk with God every day. Amen.

*Ms. F. Corcoran -  
Principal*

May we make our homes places of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.

Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer and vacation days.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body. May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.

*Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

### UPCOMING

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are some of the events taking place in the last week of term which we will update you about in the Summer. As always, please do look at our website, Instagram or X (Twitter) to see ongoing events throughout the year.

- Sports Day
- Arts and Enrichment Week
- End of Year Prizegiving