

St Michael's Catholic College

Spring Term 2025



RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR

RUAH

"The breath of life that animates the soul"





THE LAUNCH OF THE JUBILEE



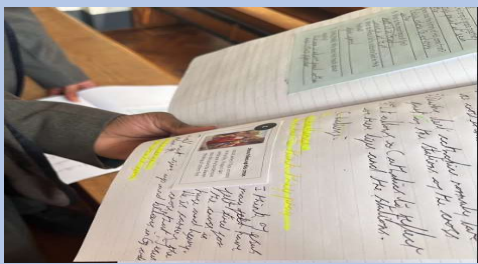
Just before Christmas, Mr Kelly led assemblies on the preparation for the start of the Jubilee Year, which commenced on Christmas Eve – where Pope Francis unsealed the Holy Doors, something that happens usually every 25 years. In January, Ms Corcoran, Mr Kelly and Miss Casey then officially launched the Jubilee at St Michael's with another range of assemblies.

Friday 24th January was the launch day in Southwark and all students and staff shared in a presentation all about HOPE! – and how we this year can be and will be Pilgrims of Hope. Each student completed a declaration of hope for the year, that they can add to as the year goes on; it was a way to make a pledge. Later on in the day students were then invited to take part in a challenge to give back to the rest of the world. By answering questions at lunchtime on Friday we managed to donate 43,020 grains of rice towards the UN World Food Program. Finally each form was given bunting to decorate with messages of hope to hang up in their classrooms for the year. 7 Vicuna were first and shared some lovely messages.





YEAR 7 PILGRIMAGE TO MOST HOLY TRINITY DOCKHEAD – STATIONS OF THE CROSS



As part of the school pilgrims of hope pledge to go on different pilgrimages across the year, Year 7 began with a Lenten pilgrimage reflecting on the Stations of the Cross at Most Holy Trinity Church, Dockhead. Each class had an introductory session with their class teachers, following this they travelled along Jamaica Road in their next lesson to hear from Canon Alan about the artistry and meaning behind these Stations. Students were then able to share their own reflection from the previous lesson with one another going around the church before returning to school.

My class had the chance to go the church during our lesson to see the Stations of the Cross, which we had just learnt about the day before. Miss Casey told us all classes would be doing this but we were going first. The priest spoke to us for a little bit before we had the chance to go around the church to see the images for ourselves and not just on paper. It taught us all to be grateful that Jesus gave up his life to save us from our sins. The second station is where Jesus takes up his cross, a symbol of the obedient sacrifice. Overall I'm glad we did this pilgrimage and am glad that we got to appreciate the act of Christs' sacrifice.

Eloise E-N – 7MA





FLAME 2025!



The bi-annual celebration Flame hosted by CYMFed returned to Wembley on the 15th March 2025. St Michael's students attended from across the year groups, some returning from the festivities in 2023. The four secondary schools in the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust attended together and it was a nice chance for some of the students to meet each other for the first time. During the merriment there was a wonderful range of speakers, including Bear Grylls, singers, including Guvna B, dancers and much more; the day finished with the Blessed Adoration led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Flame 2025 was the first time I had gone to a religious event like this. I loved how they made a religious event so fun and still keep God in our mind. Also the performance with pop music and singing were really fun. I was amazed by how the famous pop song they sang had a religious meaning and was not edited. The amount of people from everywhere was so nice and gave us an opportunity to meet different people that share the same love for God.

Madalena L – 7VI





HOLI

As part of the college commitment to highlight world religions and their festivals, we once again turned our attention to Holi. During the day the kitchen served wonderful Indian main meals and treats. That week during an RE lesson, Year 7 and 8 made pastel paper chains to decorate the school and the hall. After school all students and staff were invited to attend the event. To begin, they had a small presentation by Miss Casey. Then the fun began led by the Year 12 Chaplaincy team. Students enjoyed games, dancing, snacks and the chance to decorate their own T-Shirt for £5 – going towards Mazzarello's Charity Day which raised nearly £100.



Holi, the vibrant festival of colours, is one of the most joyful celebrations in India and across the world. It marks the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. The spirit of togetherness and joy is what makes Holi a festival of love and unity. In class, we decided to get into the festive spirit by creating paper chains, and Miss Casey brought in colorful paper strips for the activity. We each took a strip and started by forming loops, connecting them together to create long, colorful chains. The variety of colors reminded us of the bright powders used during Holi celebrations. Once finished making the paper chains, half of our class went outside our classroom and decorated the stairs and entrance to the room. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Holi together, blending creativity with tradition. The activity not only brightened up the hallways but also brought us closer as a class, allowing us to share in the joy of the festival while making lasting memories. Holi truly came alive in our classroom, thanks to Miss Casey and our fun paper chain project! *Aceline P – 8SA*

The lesson was very informative and I loved learning about their culture as well as how they are so inclusive. I also enjoyed the paint aspect and the fact that a colour of paint represents something different, for example red dye symbolizes love; blue represents the Hindu god Krishna, and green stands for new beginnings. I also really enjoyed the event that took place after school especially because of the fact that we got free popcorn because that is one of the sacrifices they throw into the bonfire. I also enjoyed playing with the parachute because Holi is a festival of colours. *Chiamaka O – 8BC*





As always with each Year 12 Chaplaincy group, a smaller group attend CAFOD Young Leadership Training and fed this back to the rest of the team at school. This time we met in the Jesuit Centre with other schools to work on the next part of the program.



We had the chance to talk about how CAFOD works in different environments. We took part in different activities about how different projects work across the world and the costs and fundraising that is needed to support them. It was a chance for us to work together to put together plans for Lent and the rest of the year. We also shared the work we have done so far, hearing what other schools have done across the diocese.

Kayla K – Year 12



OSCAR ROMERO AWARD MASS



On Thursday 27th March, St George's Cathedral held their annual Mass to both honour the life of St Oscar Romero plus the opportunity for schools to be recognized by receiving the differing levels of the award.

Being able to attend the St Oscar Romero Mass was very warming and comforting as I sat around my peers and fellow scholars from other schools in harmony and union while we learnt about St Oscar Romero's life, celebrated it and became closer to God. All in communion. Currently, we have already received our first award (Participator), and are in the process of applying for our second award (Developer). Being a part of that crowd and sharing in celebrating the aspects of St Oscar Romero's life leaves me with no doubt that I would attend that mass again. Also we experienced meeting the Archbishop of our diocese and even taking a picture with him. I hope that we achieve our award for next year and I would be privileged if I was asked to collect it on behalf of our St Michael's community.

Kobby B-A – 9DA





LENT: ASH WEDNESDAY AND RECONCILIATION



Ash Wednesday fell within term time this year, meaning Year 12 Chaplaincy could once again deliver the Liturgy for the rest of the college. It was a great honour to be sharing this with fellow pupils and additionally, members of staff. It allowed Lent to begin in solemnity and for the Year 12s to showcase the liturgical side of their chaplaincy experience.



This year we all took part in presenting the liturgy. It was a chance to reflect on the start of Lent, share the true meaning of Ash Wednesday and distribute the Ashes. It was a lovely liturgy to take part in and we were able to share the message of the day and help people start Lent off as best they can. Different year groups and staff came throughout the morning to receive the Ashes and pledged to let go of sin and follow the gospel.

Azarai C – Year 12





LENT: 40 ACTS



As we returned to college following the February half term, Ms Corcoran led assemblies to mark the start of Lent – sharing the challenge of the 40 Acts.

40 Acts is a special way to mark each day of Lent, commissioned by the charity, Stewardship. Each day students and staff were encouraged to do something new, namely for or with others, as a good way to enrich their lives. The tasks are simple but effective, some of the most popular were learning how to say hello to a friend in their native language and lots of students learnt how to greet someone in sign language. The Young Salesians were asked to document their acts and share these to Miss Casey, helping them to live out the RUAH values they embody.

4 acts Youth wallchart

Sundays are rest or catch-up days

#generosity Find a friend for the 40acts challenge – start by sharing something you're grateful for today	#encouragement Surprise someone with a compliment	#provision Do you have a spare of something that you could give away to someone who would love it?	#connection Send a voice note, message or card to someone who needs to know they matter	#share Help someone by sharing something with them: your straightener, pens, or a packet of crisps	#language Learn to say hello to someone in their first language	#wonder Email your teacher/ youth leader to say thank you for all they do	#offerings Start saving spare change for round up saving on your bank app! for the rest of Lent to give to a charity at Easter
#blessing Offer to do a clearing up job for a member of staff at school	#support Say thank you every time someone does something for you today, no matter how small	#brew Offer to get a drink for a friend or fill their water bottle	#seen Leave your mobile phone in your bag during dinner and really chat with people	#bestow Add a food item to your local supermarket's collection box	#hospitality Leave fresh water or seeds out for the birds, or refill your pet's food/water bowl at home	#appreciation Send an email, WhatsApp, or a snap chat to someone to thank them for what they do for you	#equip Mend something that is broken. This could be saying 'sorry' to a friend or literally fixing something for someone
#feed Thank the person who gave you lunch today	#value Notice something an adult in school does today to help you and say thank you	#message Leave a note of encouragement for someone to surprise them	#kindness What are you good at? Could you use your talent to help or teach someone else?	#wisdom Ask two people who you consider to be wise to tell you their best piece of advice	#converse Learn how to say 'hello, how are you?' in sign language	#family Notice someone who is on their own and make sure to smile and say 'hello'	#care Tidy up for someone without being asked
#gratitude Write a mega-list of all the things you are grateful for. Place this somewhere in your home to remind you	#service Think or pray about ways in which you can serve others in practical ways using the talents that you have	#presence Share a skill or life hack with a friend or family member	#prayer Think of the 'best' thing you could give this Lent – time, funds or friendship – and give it generously	#champion Support a local business that is making a positive impact by buying something from them today	#neighbour Is there someone in your class or school you haven't talked to? Start a conversation and see where it leads	#nourish Share your lunch, or a snack, with a friend	#believe Share stories with friends of a time when you've been generous or have experienced generosity. Listen to their stories.
#coke Look for positives that happen today and think of ways to celebrate each one	#light Notice someone going through a tough time and think what you could do to make them smile	#welcome Invite someone to sit next to you at lunch today	#percentages Take time to chat to a neighbour or friend. Do they mention something you could offer to help with? Do it!	#love Tell someone how much you love them, then show them with little acts of love	#gifts Throw a packet of tissues in your bag so that you have one on hand the next time someone needs one	#time Have a proper chat! Phone (not message!) Granny, cousin or a friend you haven't spoken to in a while	#reflect Congrats on reaching 40! Share which challenges were your favourite



LENT: 40 ACTS



#Language: 40 acts

40 acts is a daily challenge: 40 generous actions delivered throughout Lent. Lent is usually about 'giving stuff up', isn't it? What if you could add something different and unique to the traditional? And if you are REALLY understanding the impact this could make, this could make you a great person. That's 40, acts of generosity! What if you could give up chocolate and give the money to your favourite charity?

Well, here's what I did. I chose to dedicate my self to learning how to say hello in someone else's language. I wanted to learn how to say hello in "Twi" (the Ghanaian language) because I have so many Ghanaian friends and I finally got it. "Ete sen" (pronounced Etey-Sen) is how to say hello in Twi. I can't wait to surprise my friends! I hope they are impressed!



#language!
- Chiamaka
Odinichukwu

There have been dozens of submissions and acts done each day. Many class teachers have been utilizing these as part of a lesson or activity or a simple reminder to their classes. Thank you to Chiamaka (8SA), Enara (8RU), Whitney (8VI), Amara (9BC) and Nancy (10DA) for the contributions included here, and well done to all who have completed an Act for Lent.

Acts I have completed!!

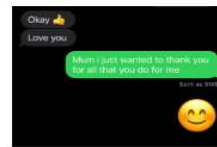
- Day5-I let my friends borrow my pens and highlighters for annotating our poems in english
- Day11-I helped my friend fill their water bottle in the morning before line up for form and then offered them some of my water when they drank theirs later in the day
- Day14-I refilled my pets water bottle and then helped my mum fill the water bowls for our pet birds
- Day17-I thanked the person who served me my lunch in school
- Day22-I learned how to say 'hello,how are you' in British sign language(and plan to use it more in my day to day and teach others!!)
- Day37-I told my friend how much i care about her and love them and then we spent time together and hugged for a bit

For Lent, I have done a few things from the wallchart and I am looking forward to doing more. For example, a few days ago, I filled up my friend's water bottle (11) which they appreciated a lot. Also, for the past few days, I have been surprising some friends and teachers with compliments (2) every day, from saying that they looked nice that day, or that their smile was heart-warming. On top of that, I have not only been helping my friends and teachers at school, but I have also been assisting my family at home and even some people from my church. Sometimes after school, I would do some chores and tidy up at home without being asked to (24), even if I had a lot of homework to do. At church, I decided to talk to someone in my choir that I have never spoken to before (30) and I eventually became friends with them.

#Language-Learn to say hello to someone in their language

I learnt how to say hello to Alaia in Spanish which is the language spoken in her country.

#Appreciation- send an email, Whatsapp, or a snap chat to someone to thank them for what they do for you



#Provision-Do you have anything spare of something that you could give away to someone who could love it

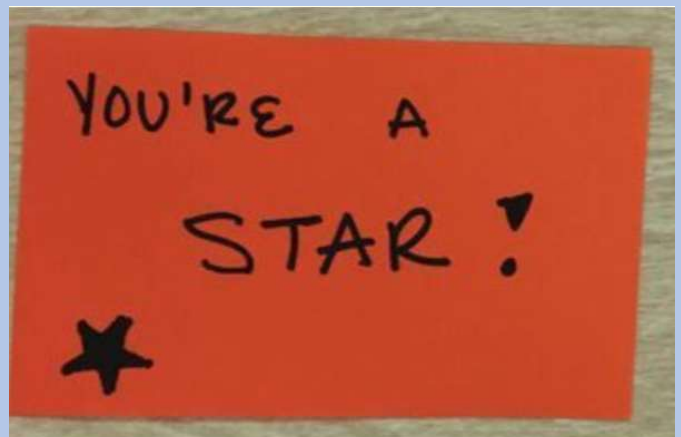
Gave my sister a pair of my heelys that I didn't need or wear as often as my other shoes because I knew she would appreciate them more than I did.

#Feed-Thank the person who gave you lunch today

I thanked the lunch ladies for my lunch and also thanked my mum for making my dinner.

#Converse-Learn how to say 'hello, how are you?' in sign language

I learnt how to say 'hello, how are you?' in sign language.





LENT: PRAYER IN THE CHAPEL



During Lent the Year 10 Young Salesians have been leading prayers and reflections for the rest of the school. It has been well attended, especially by younger members of the Young Salesians. As we will not be in school during Holy Week, the readings for the final week of term were inspired by Holy Week. Meelane (10DA) recently led prayers inspired by John's Gospel of Jesus washing the disciples feet. A reminder of the humility and sacrificial nature of Christ.



BOSCO FEAST DAY MASS

Friday 31st January 2025 saw the Feast day of St John Bosco, the patron of the young and the founder of the Salesian Order. Year 9 Bosco were in charge of the formation of the liturgy, sharing intercessions for peace, unity and that we may look out for people who are suffering. The Mass was well attended by other students across the school singing together our college hymn - All Are Welcome.





A WORD AND A PRAYER

As we head into the last part of Lent and move towards Holy Week, we notice the days are getting longer and lighter and the weather is getting warmer. It is a sign that we are getting closer to Easter which marks a time of renewal, both spiritually and in nature, with the arrival of spring. We are reminded that the core of the Easter message is the resurrection of Jesus providing an assurance that out of darkness comes light and hope for a better and brighter life, both now and in eternity.

An Easter Prayer

May the glory
and the promise
of this joyous time of year
bring peace
and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ,
Our Risen Saviour,
always be there by your side
to bless you
most abundantly a
and be your loving guide.

Ms. F. Corcoran - Principal

Holy Spirit, breathe into us
the spirit of hope and
anticipation. As we prepare
to celebrate the
resurrection, stir within us a
deep sense of joy and
expectation.

May the hope of Easter
transform our hearts, filling
us with peace, courage, and
unwavering faith. Help us to
share this hope with others,
bringing light to those who
dwell in darkness. Amen.

*Miss Casey
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

UPCOMING EVENTS

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are upcoming events and dates:

- Lenten Services led by Year 12 Chaplaincy teams
- Savio Charity Day
- End of term for all students and staff
- Palm Sunday – 13th April
- Holy Thursday – 17th April
- Good Friday – 18th April
- Easter Vigil – 19th April
- Easter Sunday – 20th April