

# LIVING OUT OUR FAITH

Dear St Mark's Community,

As I write this newsletter in the third week of Advent, I have been reflecting on the many joyful events that have taken place over the last half term. Our assemblies this week have focused on the theme of joy, particularly the joyful transforming deeds we see so clearly within our community. Our recent Mission of the Month centred on humility and the preferential option for the poor, values that have been lived out in inspiring ways.

One such example was the **St Mark's Christmas Card Competition**. Our talented students designed a wonderful selection of cards, raising over £500 for our school charity, In This Together. This charity provides vital support for students within our own community who are most in need, and proceeds from the **Advent Fête** were also directed to this charity. It was heartening to see so many charity ambassadors supporting the event and contributing to such a meaningful cause.

Our CAFOD "Skip Three Snacks... Make an Impact" campaign was another tremendous success. Through fasting, pledging and generous donations, our Charity Catholic Ambassadors helped raise an incredible £957.74 to support CAFOD's vital global work.

Our students' generosity was further evident in our Toy Drive, where donations of toys and games ensured that disadvantaged children would receive a gift on Christmas Day. These were presented to Hounslow Social Services this week, who expressed their sincere thanks for St Mark's continued generosity. We are immensely proud of our students for the difference they make through these charitable initiatives, and we thank you all for your support.

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to our Advent Carol Service. The theme, At This Table, was particularly fitting for our community. Through music, scripture, drama and reflection, we journeyed around the world to explore how different cultures prepare for the birth of Christ.

Another highlight was our Senior Citizens' Party organised by our Sixth Form students as part of their Faith in Action programme. The afternoon was filled with bingo, a raffle, singing, dancing and plenty of laughter, and our visitors had a wonderful time.

Beyond our festive events, we were delighted to host the BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow, where students in Years 7–10 participated in engaging sessions that explored future careers, job roles, and employability skills, and Year 7 watched a brilliant live theatre performance of Romeo and Juliet.

We also celebrated success at the Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony, where several of our students were recognised for their dedication, leadership and service to the school community. Congratulations also to Daniella De Oliveira Colimao (Y10), Cizela Costa (Y8) and Mark Fernandes (Y12), who have received Jack Petchey Outstanding Achiever Awards this term for their excellent service to the school and valuable contributions to our community. We are very proud of their achievements.

Our St Mark's Film Academy, in conjunction with Cine School, has had an exceptional term, producing a powerful film for the Just Small Change charity. Many students are on track to achieve their Level 1 filmmaking certification through the National Film and Television School. Their work will be premiered at Kingston University on 10th January, with plans next term for documentaries and submissions into the Children's International Film Festival!

Finally, our Tubmaster House Competition was a huge success with fantastic participation from students across all year groups. Big congratulations to Becket House for taking the victory!

As we approach the end of term, thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your families a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Ms Waugh-Lucas  
Headteacher



# KEY dates

- 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Inset day (no students in school)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Jan - Inset day (no students in school)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan - All students return to school
- 5<sup>th</sup> Feb - Year 13 Parents' Evening
- 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Break up for half term

## HOUSE LEADERBOARD

- 1st - More
- 2nd - Fisher
- 3rd - Pole

## Bedrock Winners

Congratulations to our winning  
Bedrock classes  
7CL, 8CL, 9A1

and our individual winners  
Y7 - Joel Gjeta (7FI)  
Y8 - Annia Mendes (7CA)  
Y9 - Patrice Ogem (9BE)



### Romeo and Juliet



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St Mark's is now on LinkedIn. Please connect your profile and follow our page.



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Spread the word about our Alumni Network and encourage past pupils to register via the [link](#) on our website.

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