

St Mark's Chaplaincy Newsletter

July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We end this term with great sadness in our hearts as we think of our beloved Brian and his family and friends. I ask you to hold them in your thoughts, prayers and minds at this difficult time.



Lord, we look up to you and receive from you

Your blessing

Your strength

Your most holy love.

In the darkest moments of our lives,

Let us remember that you are the light

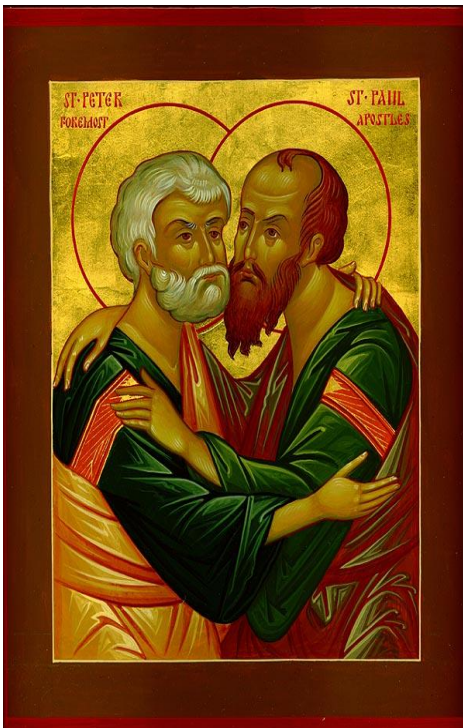
You are the hope

You are the courage we need.

Our ninth Chaplaincy Newsletter was shared with you in May as we were preparing for Pentecost. We do hope that you and your family had a blessed time.

As we returned to school after half-term, we held assemblies where we reflected on the major feast of Pentecost. Students and staff had the opportunity to experience a guided Pentecost meditation.

St Peter and Paul



On the solemnity of St Peter and St Paul on 29th June, we held special assemblies where we were reminded of the example of these saints regarded as pillars of the Church. We especially thank a Year 12 student Joel, from the Chaplaincy Team, who prepared the assembly and to all those Year 7 students who delivered it.

Year 9 Retreat

As we mentioned previously, Year 9 pupils participated in a Retreat, led by a team from RISE Theatre and the RE Department. Here we would like to share with you some of the positive feedback from the students.

"The retreat showed me how quick fixes in life don't count for long term. I also enjoyed working with my team."

"It reminded me of the role God plays in my life and that whenever I feel down or really stressed I can turn to God."

"It opened my eyes to the importance of God in our lives especially after hearing how God changed peoples lives."



"The retreat helped me to start doing good in my life like praying to God and improved my mental health."

"It was entertaining and captivating with the joyous mood from the visitors."

"Junior's story was very inspiring and really taught me on what God can do if you ask for his help."

"It really elevated the thought of working as a community/team inside of me."

"It was fun and inclusive."

"The presentations were very funny and it showed us example of the things we have to do in life."

Year 12 End of Year Liturgy



On Friday 15th July we celebrated the Year 12 liturgy which was based around the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed. Seeds are small - many of them are tiny - yet each one has such potential.

Jesus reminds us that, just like the seeds, we too must develop strong roots if we are to grow and flourish. The students had an opportunity to symbolically plant seeds during the Liturgy.

We believe St Mark's is a place where students can develop those strong roots and go on to great things.



Faith in Action

Teacher karaoke (Miss Jackson's FIA group)

On Tuesday 12th of July we were delighted to be able to share the talents of the St Mark's staff at the teacher and staff karaoke. The audience was absolutely thrilled with the performances and we were delighted to make more than £300 which will go to the Sparrow School in South Africa.

Basketball (Ms Heeney's FIA group)

The long awaited rematch of the teachers Vs 6th formers basketball took place on Thursday 14th of July. The teachers had been working on their form and they won 15-9! After two games in the last three years it's 1-1 and both sides are keen for the third match next year to determine which team are the true champion.

Finally, please remember if I can support you in any way do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is at the bottom of this letter or you can just ring the school and leave a message for Ivan.

I wish all of you a restful summer break.

Be assured of my constant prayers for you and your family,

Ivan Cizmarik

School Lay Chaplain

cizmariki@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk