

St Mark's Chaplaincy Newsletter

No 14 March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our previous Chaplaincy Newsletter was sent to you shortly before Christmas.

Our Fourteenth Chaplaincy Newsletter is shared with you in Holy Week as we enter into the most important days in the Church's year: the sacred Triduum.

The three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday invite us to meditate on the significance of the Last Supper and love and service, Jesus' Passion and wait in silence and prayer as Jesus is laid in the tomb.

All these will lead us to the joy of Christ's resurrection on Sunday Easter!

We do hope that you and your family have a blessed Holy Week.

Social outreach and charity work

The Catholic Children's Society (CCS) Christmas Gifts for Families



CCS provides Christmas gifts for children who are living in poverty and would otherwise go without at Christmas.

We are immensely grateful to CCS that 10 families who we nominated received gifts for Christmas!

Prayer & Worship

Christmas Liturgy and Masses



Year 7-10 gathered in Ss Michael and Martin Church on Thursday 21st December.

Fr Damian and Fr Ignatius, thank you for celebrating these masses with us.

Sixth Form Liturgy took place one week earlier on Friday 15th December in school.

It was a lovely service of light that reminded us to go out and take the light of Christ into the world.

School Ministries

Developing the Student Chaplaincy

During January and February, as a part of the developing the Chaplaincy in St Mark's, the Year 8 Chaplaincy team were meeting Year 7 students, form by form, for a fun lunchtime.

Year 7 students had an opportunity to learn more about the Chaplaincy and how they can help to serve our school community through different ministries: Altar Servers, Lectors, Caritas Ambassadors, Prayer Warriors, Poster & Notice Board Assistants, Retreat Assistants, Chapel Assistants, Prayer Resources Assistants.

The students' interest was very positive. We look forward to see them in action after Easter break!



Christmas Confession for Youth and Children

Our students were invited to come to the Christmas Confession for Youth & Children that took place on Friday 22nd December in Ss Michael and Martin Church.



Confession is the sacrament of the tenderness of God, his way of embracing us.
Pope Francis

**FRIDAY DEC 22nd, 5:00pm -6:30pm,
Ss Michael & Martin Church, Hounslow**

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSION
for
YOUTH & CHILDREN**

The poster features a watercolor-style illustration of the Nativity scene, showing Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus in a manger. The background is a light, textured grey with several golden starburst graphics scattered throughout. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the event details and title prominently displayed.

Pastoral Care

Anniversary Mass for Magdalena Szablinska

On Sunday 21st January it was ten years since our former student Magdalena passed away.

She studied at St Mark's from 2008 to 2014 and is dearly remembered in our school community.

Our school represented three teachers who attended Mass for Magdalena on 11th february in Immaculate Heart of Mary Botwell Church in Hayes. We received flowers and cards from Magdalena's family to mark her anniversary.

They were displayed with her photo in the chapel for a week for everyone who would like to commemorate Magda. We wish Magda's family many God's blessings.

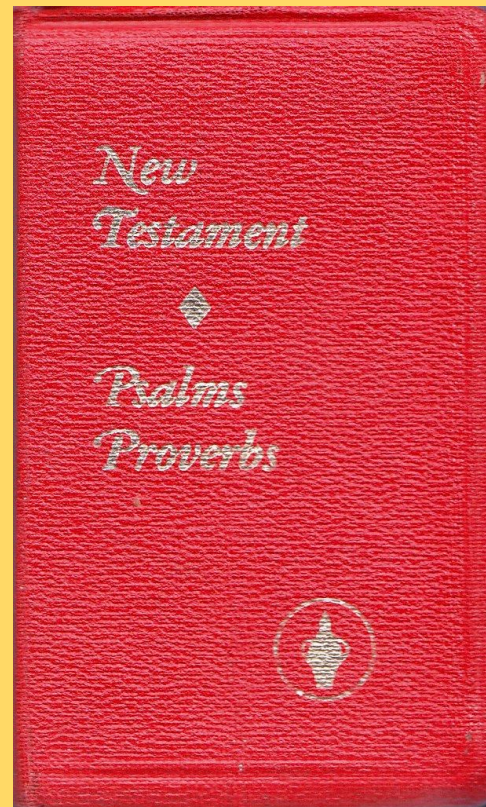


Encounter with the person of Jesus Christ

New Testament & Psalms for Year 7 & 8 Students

We are grateful to Neil Bourne who attended both Year assemblies and talked about the Scriptures and God's love for us.

As a gift, Year 7 & 8 students received New Testament & Psalms for free from Good News for Everyone! (formerly Gideons UK).



Year of Prayer

2024 has been designated as a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis in preparation for the Jubilee in 2025. In our school we had special assemblies led by Mrs McGinty and Ms Joyce to talk about prayer with focus on the Lord's Prayer. Students also heard their feedback from our recent prayer survey which revealed how important prayer is in the lives of our community.



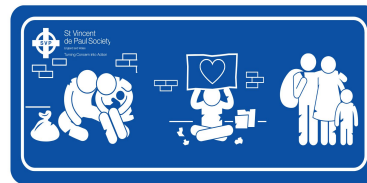
Young Vincentians Lenten Campaign

Our new formed Year 9 & 10 Youth SVP Team launched Young Vincentians Lenten Campaign called **Make Poverty a Priority.**

During Lent, Thursday Tutor times were dedicated to praying Stations of the Cross and reflect on how our school community can help those in need.

The stations offer points of prayer and reflection along Jesus' journey from his sentencing with Pilate until his death and resurrection. This is a moment to stop, pray and act.

The YSVP students visited different form rooms and took notes about student voice. After Easter break, the team will come up with a project based on the Lenten campaign on student voice!



Lent Journey

Prayer meetings with parents & carers

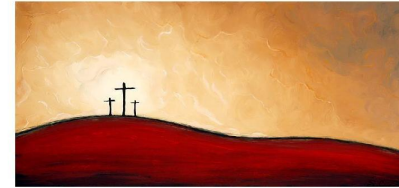
During Lent, we were delighted to pray with some parents who joined us for 15 minutes on Tuesday lunchtimes.

We asked God to prepare us for Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection and pray for our school community.

We look forward to continue to build relationship with parents through prayer meetings after Easter.

Lent Journey

Parents & Carers Prayer Meeting



Forgiven by Commission Colors

A time of prayer with and for the school community of St Mark's

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us this Lent:
Online (the link to join via Google Meet below)

Tuesday lunchtimes, 1.00–1.15pm

February 20th, February 27th,
March 5th, March 12th, March 19th, March 26th,

Link: <https://meet.google.com/ebx-kvwd-zr>

Email: gizmariki@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk for further information

Ss Michael and Martin Church Visit



Our Year 7&8 RE classes visited Ss Michael and Martin Church during Lent.

They were leading and praying Stations of the cross.

The objective was to pause and enter reflectively into the last moments of Jesus's journey of love, and to pray by imagining ourselves in Jerusalem with him.

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 and
be your loving guide.

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.

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

Ivan Cizmarik

May Christ filled your homes with peace and
joy of his resurrection. Happy Easter!

School Lay Chaplain

cizmariki@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk