

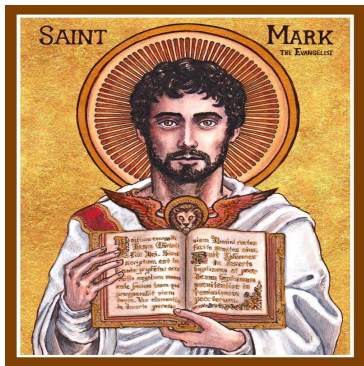
St Mark's Chaplaincy Newsletter

No 9 May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Prayer and Worship



At the start of this term we celebrated St Mark's Feast Day on Monday 25th April. We held assemblies where we reflected on the patron of our school and prayed for his intercessions. Our students received prayer cards.

We thank the students who entertained us with their amazing singing performances at lunchtime - Alisa, Kyesha and Kaelyn.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

On Friday 13th May, a special Rosary was said in the Chapel since it was the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The Rosary was said for the personal intentions of the staff and students and for peace in the world.

Joel from the Student Chaplaincy Team kindly prepared other resources on this Feast day that were shared with students during Tutor time.



Leavers' Liturgies

This term we held liturgical services for our Year 11 students and our Year 13 students as they finish school to prepare for their GCSE and A' Level exams. Leavers' liturgies are always special, beautiful and emotional occasions. These particular students have lived through such extraordinary times and we are so, so proud of them. I would like to ask you to keep our Year 11 and 13 leavers in your prayers.





Ascension Day Mass

Year 7 students and other students and staff were able to gather for mass to celebrate the feast of the Ascension on Thursday 26th May. We are grateful to Fr Austin and Fr Benny for celebrating Mass with us and to all students and members of staff who helped to make this such a lovely mass. It was a beautiful way to start the school day.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Encounter with the person of Jesus Christ

Year 9 Retreat



As a part of the pupils' spiritual development, all Year 9 pupils participated in a retreat in school. The day was led by a team from RISE Theatre - a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering exciting, original, transformative theatre.

The retreat day incorporated a rich variety of thought provoking drama, fun interactive sessions and a chance for students to reflect.

We are very grateful to the RISE team for giving our students a spiritually enriching experience.



Social outreach and charity work

Aid to the Church in Need **Prayer Initiative for Ukraine**

Our school has been supporting the people of Ukraine materially and spiritually since the start of the war. We want to continue doing so by responding to Pope Francis' call to pray "intensely" for peace in Ukraine and for an end to the "diabolical senselessness of violence".

The international charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has invited us to launch a prayer initiative for secondary schools across the UK. Each year, Aid to the Church in Need funds approximately 5,000 projects in more than 140 countries around the world, helping to support the Church in its mission, and bringing hope and solidarity to millions of people. The charity has already committed €1 million (more than £830,000) towards emergency aid to support the work of the Church in Ukraine and has an ongoing appeal to support their project partners working in Ukraine.



The prayer initiative is to encourage secondary school-aged students to pray for Ukraine. We were asked to produce a series of short videos of teenagers leading prayers; either prayers they have written or well-known/traditional prayers or a mixture of both.

We were delighted to be involved in this campaign to encourage young people to pray. Students from across all key stages were involved in this initiative and we are very proud of their dedication.



The Spirit came
and your Church was born,
in wind and fire
and words of power.

The Spirit came
blowing fear aside,
and in its place
weak hearts were stronger.

The Spirit came
as your word foretold,
with dreams and signs,
visions and wonders.

The Spirit came
and is here today,
to feed the hearts
of a world that hungers.



Here is a lovely prayer called *The Spirit came* that I would like to share with you and your loved ones as we approach the feast of Pentecost.

faithandworship.com

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 blessed and restful half-term break.
Be assured of my constant prayers for you and your family,

Ivan Cizmarik

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