

St Mark's Chaplaincy Newsletter

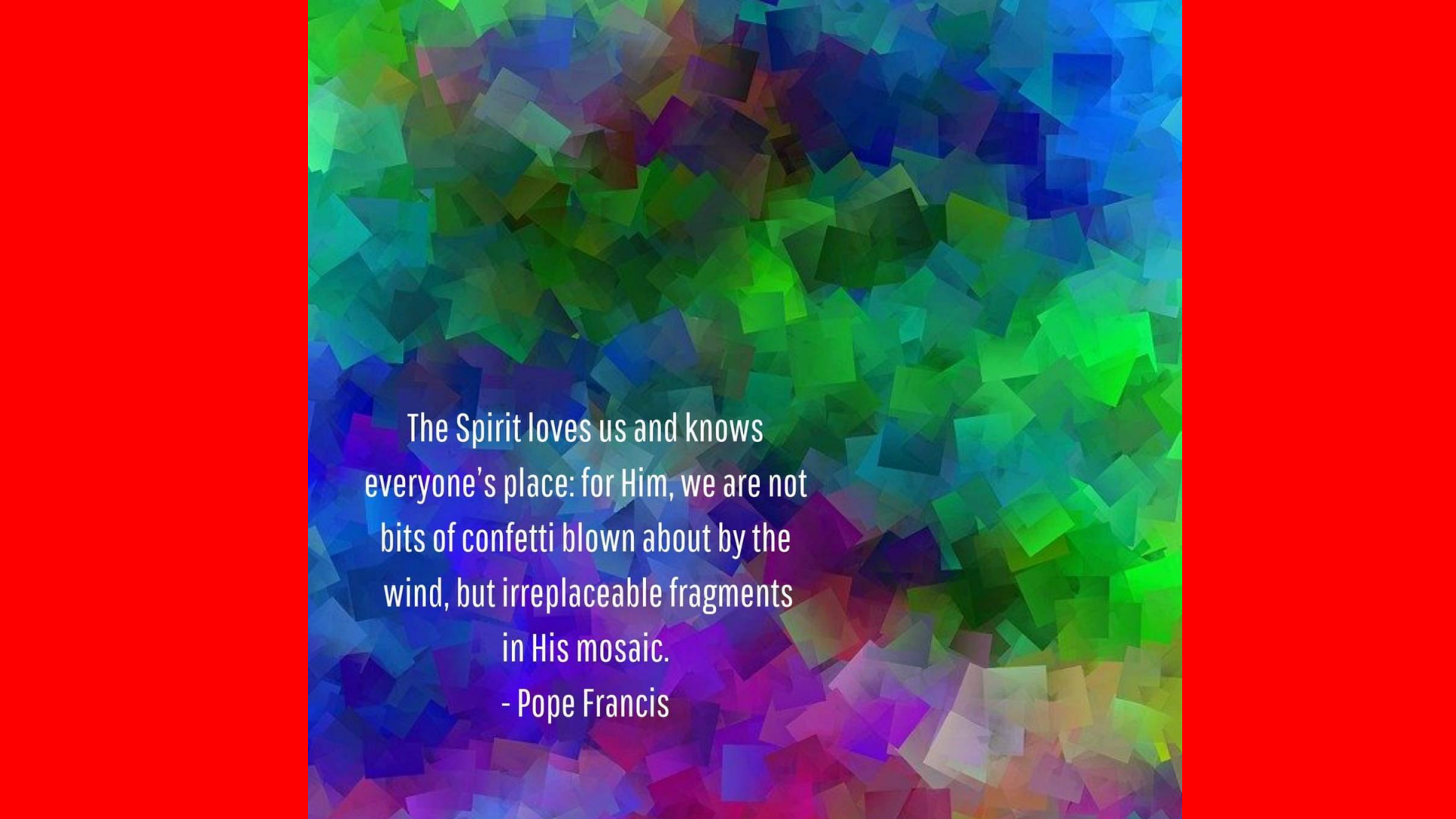
No 12 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter is coming to you as we approach the feast of Pentecost. In our assemblies this week we reflected on the fact that despite diversity, the Holy Spirit brings unity and harmony.

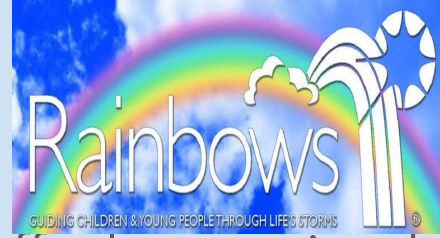
Like a microcosm of the world, we are a diverse community at St Mark's, but we know we are all God's beloved children. Pope Francis spoke poetically about this on Pentecost Sunday, in 2020:





The Spirit loves us and knows
everyone's place: for Him, we are not
bits of confetti blown about by the
wind, but irreplaceable fragments
in His mosaic.
- Pope Francis

Chaplaincy News



At St Mark's we are fortunate in having a number of staff who received the Rainbows Bereavement and Loss training, facilitated by the Catholic Children's Society. This was organised by Mrs Morillon and we are delighted that, after Easter, we were able to start running another bereavement peer support group, for some of our students. The group meets weekly, with two staff members, who lead the sessions.

For more information about Rainbow Bereavement Support see: [Rainbows Bereavement Support GB](#)



Year 10 Youth SVP Group

Our Youth SVP Group were delighted to be invited to attend the SVP Westminster Diocese Festival on Saturday March 25th. Four members of the group travelled to Euston with Ivan and Mrs Ferguson and found the event inspiring. The students were happy to help serve lunch to all the participants and honoured to be asked to be readers at mass. They are now keen to adapt the idea of winter Vinnie packs for homeless people, to create summer Vinnie packs.

SVP Westminster Diocese Festival



General Admission

St Aloysius R.C. Church, 20 Phoenix Road, London NW1 1TA, United Kingdom

Saturday, 25 March 2023 from 10:00 to 14:30 (GMT)

Free Order

Order information

Name





Charities

As shared with parents and carers, we have been running a fundraising campaign from Lent until the end of May to support our chosen charities: CAFOD; St Mark's In this Together Campaign and the great projects Ms Joyce is leading on and The Elysium Project in Chennai, India. THANK YOU for all your support, particularly during these difficult times. With your generosity our fundraising efforts (separate to the Faith in Action initiative) have so far raised £2,465.00. Some of this fundraising came through our participation in the Bag2School campaign.



Faith in Action

Our Year 12 students, through their Faith in Action have been busy organising events to raise funds for Sparrow Schools in South Africa and the other community events they run. The Staff vs 6th form basketball match was popular as was a whole school hide and seek; Krispy Kreme donut sale; Cinema night; Easter Egg hunt !

So far over £1000 has been raised through FIA initiatives.

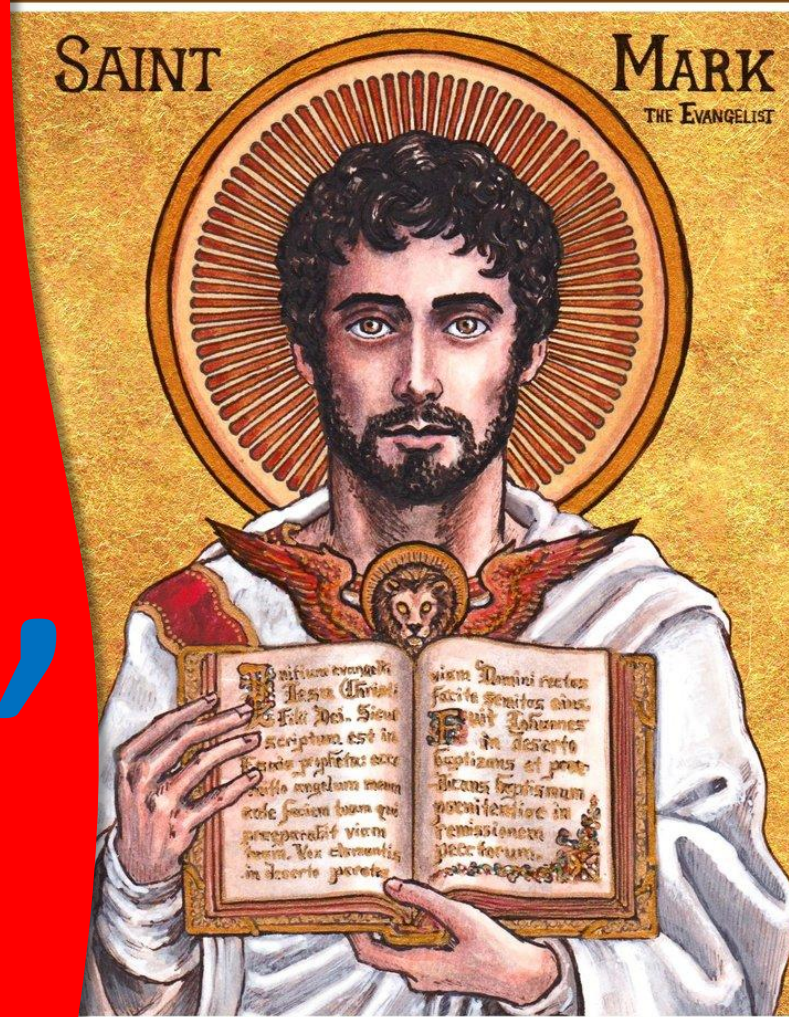
'The 6th formers have been incredibly enthusiastic and lower school students are keen to get involved. The 6th formers were especially delighted as they beat the teachers at basketball for the first time in a long time. The hide and seek was especially successful with more than 200 students taking part.' Ms Jackson

The FIA food drive and Sanitary items drive was also hugely successful. Thank you again - this was all donated to SsMichael and Martin SVP.



“
Go into all the world
and preach the
gospel to all
creation.”

Mark 16:15



St Mark's Feast Day

On Tuesday 25th April, we celebrated the feast day of the patron saint of our school. We started the day with a special assembly and later all students received a sweet treat. All students were entered in a special draw with a special prize, to thank them for their efforts with our charity fundraising. Trena from Year 9 was the lucky winner of a brand new ASUS Vivobook!

Alongside this draw, 30 students were selected to receive a Bible each, donated by the family of one of our Year 7 students: Grenil.

Thank you for your generosity Grenil.

Liturgies

We have been able to celebrate many beautiful masses and liturgies in recent times.

Years 7-10 gathered in Ss Michael and Martin Church on the 31st of March, as we broke up for our Easter holiday. We thank Fr Daniel and Fr David for celebrating those masses with us.

On Friday 12th May, we celebrated a special mass for our Year 11 students and held a liturgy for our Year 13 students as they finished school, to prepare for their GCSE and A Level exams. Leavers' liturgies are always special, beautiful, and emotional occasions.

Please keep our Year 11 and 13 leavers in your prayers.

Thank you to Fr Philip from
Our Lady of the Rosary,
Staines, for coming to
celebrate our Year 11 mass.
Fr Philip was last here at St
Mark's to celebrate the
Memorial Mass for Brian
Sasu.

Brian was very much a part
of this beautiful liturgy.





Ascension Day Mass

Year 7 students and other students and staff gathered at 8am for mass to celebrate the feast of the Ascension, on Thursday 18th May. We are grateful to Fr Mark from St Vincent de Paul Church, Osterley 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.

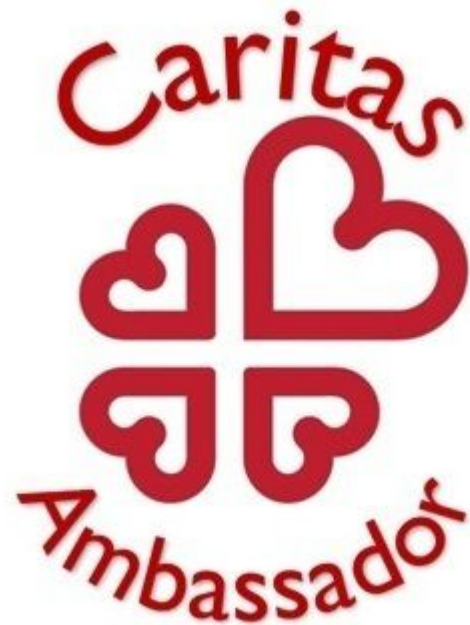
A huge thank you to Ms Jackson and the Liturgy Choir for enhancing all of these liturgies with the beautiful music.

Year 7 Caritas Ambassadors

We are delighted to have a group of twenty Year 7 students who have volunteered to be our first Caritas Ambassadors at St Mark's .

We look forward to attending a Caritas Schools Festival on Friday, 16th June in Westminster Cathedral. Our Year 7 students will have an opportunity to meet the students from other schools, learn more about the Caritas Ambassadors project and celebrate their achievements.

We are excited about the projects our Ambassadors will initiate in St Mark's.





As a part of their spiritual development, all Year 9 pupils participated in a retreat in school on Monday, 22nd May. The day was led by a team from RISE Theatre - a professional Christian theatre company with a passion for delivering exciting, original, transformative theatre - with support from the RE Department.

The retreat day incorporated a rich variety of thought provoking drama, fun interactive sessions and a chance for students to reflect. Special thanks to the Students Chaplaincy Team for helping to distribute the resources in the morning and tidying up after the retreat.

Well done Julian!

Congratulations to our Year 11 student Julian for taking part in a 5km swim earlier this month. The Swimathon Foundation organised the event and all money raised is donated to Marie Curie and Cancer research UK.

If you would like to support Julian's fundraising please go to:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/julian-piotrowski1?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=julian-piotrowski1&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=bd8018c3a2ca436c973f52463694c473



A prayer for Pentecost

Come Holy Spirit, you are harmony;
make us builders of unity.

Grant us the courage to go out of
ourselves, to love and help each other.

Amen

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

School Lay Chaplain

cizmariki@st-marks.hounslow.sch.uk