

St Mark's Chaplaincy Newsletter

March 2021

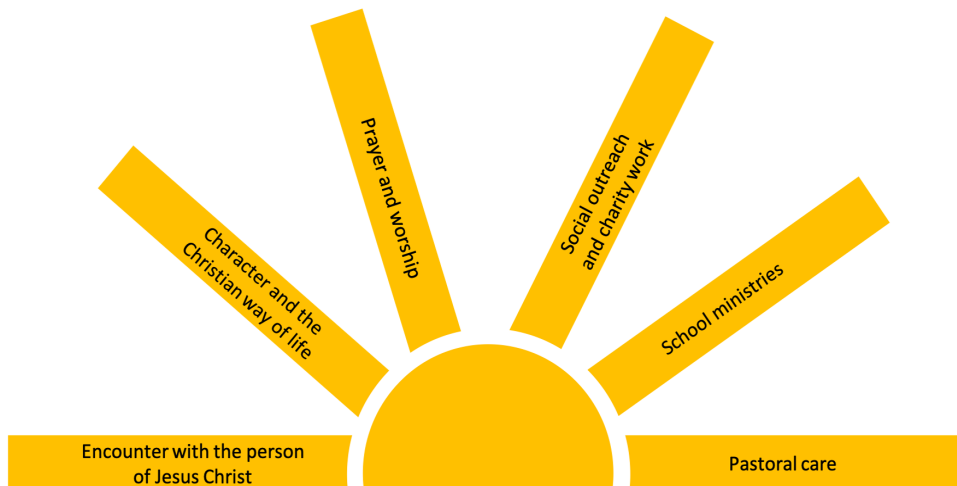
Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first Chaplaincy Newsletter was shared with you in February just before we started the season of Lent. We are now in Holy Week and coming up to the most important days in the Church's year: the Triduum (Three Days) beginning with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, on Maundy Thursday; Good Friday and Easter Sunday - with the principal service of the Church's Liturgical year being the Easter Vigil. We do hope that, despite the difficulties of the pandemic, you and your children will be able to mark these special days.



Holy Week

Our Chaplaincy provision at school is focused around six areas.



Encounter with the person of Jesus Christ

Our end of term liturgy, which sadly still had to be virtual, reflected on the events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday and leading up to the death of Jesus, on the cross on Good Friday. Students and staff were involved in readings, prayers and music reminding us of the sacrifice Jesus made for us and our call to be witnesses to the risen Jesus.

Social outreach and charity work

During this season of Lent, one of our Sixth Form students, Eva, asked if we could support the Cardinal Hume Centre's Big Bed Down Challenge, to raise money for the work of the CHC who support homeless young people and families experiencing homelessness.



We were delighted to have this opportunity to help, since our traditional ways of fundraising in school have been compromised this year.

We are very proud of all the members of our school community who got involved and gave up a night in their own beds to raise money for those who are in need of support. We are also very grateful to all the families, friends and supporters who have helped us raise valuable funds for this charity. At the time of writing we have managed to raise an amazing **£5,207.41**. Eva (pictured below) led the way, raising a brilliant £995.70. One of our younger students Oliver (also pictured below) raised £310.00.



Please have a look at the short video from the Cardinal Hume Centre that was shared in school <https://vimeo.com/523034508>.

If you would like to contribute you can still do so at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/StMarksBigBedDown>

School Ministries

We are starting to develop a range of ministries and roles that students may have ownership of : liturgical, service and hospitality. During this half-term we have reached out to Year 8 students and are delighted to welcome 12 students from Year 8 as our first students to take up these ministries. After Easter we will be meeting with them and also reaching out to students in Year 7 and inviting them to get involved.

Pastoral Care

We are very grateful to The Catholic Children's Society for training a number of staff as Rainbows Facilitators so that, from September, we will be able to run the Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme for students in our school who have experienced a significant loss in their lives.

More information about Rainbows can be found at: <https://rainbowsgb.org/about/>

Diocesan Mass for Schools

On Friday 26th March a Diocesan Mass for Schools was celebrated by Fr Chris Vipers in the Westminster Cathedral Crypt. It is possible to access the recorded Mass using the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkxsXind5DY>

Finally here is the beautiful prayer of Self Offering, by St Ignatius of Loyola, that we shared with students during our end of term liturgy.

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,

my memory, my understanding,

and my entire will,

All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.

To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace,

that is enough for me.

If I can support you in any way please 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 Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

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

Ivan Cizmarik

School Lay Chaplain

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