

St Mark's Chaplaincy Newsletter

May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our second Chaplaincy Newsletter was shared with you in March as we were preparing for the Triduum, the most important days in the Church's year, which culminated with the celebration of Easter Sunday. We do hope that you and your family had a blessed time during these most holy days.

Since returning to school we have celebrated two other important feasts: the feast day of Saint Mark, patron of our school and the Ascension. We had special assemblies on both of these days.



Pentecost

A week ago we celebrated the great feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

Hearts ablaze

Beautiful Lord, may we say "yes" to you so that the Spirit in our hearts will once again be set ablaze.

Spirit of Wisdom, guide our actions so they tell of God's love.

Spirit of Truth, open our eyes to see the world as it really is.

Spirit of Power, enthuse us to work for justice throughout the world.

Spirit of Love, inspire us to respect the dignity of each person.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts. Come, Holy Spirit, fill us. Come, Holy Spirit. Come.

Stephen Davies/CAFOD

This week we are holding special liturgical services for our Year 11 students and our Year 13 students as they finish school.. I would like to ask you to keep our Year 11 and 13 leavers and our newly confirmed students in your prayers. This lovely prayer has been adapted from one by Helen Crawford and Raymond Friel.

Lord of friendship,
Who accompanied the disciples
On the road to Emmaus,
We give into your hands our leavers and newly confirmed students.
Give them the comfort of your presence,
Help them to grow in understanding of your ways
And to know that you are with them, even when they do not recognise you.
Remind them, from time to time, of the values they have learned in this school,
The memories of their years here, the friendships formed, the lessons learned,
the laughter, the tears, the struggles, the triumphs and the knowledge gained.
Bless them as they seek to discover the kind of person you want them to be,
The path in life you wish them to take,
The plans you have for them, for their welfare and not for harm,
The contribution they can make to the world
To make it more just, more kind, more compassionate.
Amen

Social outreach and charity work

India has been facing a devastating second wave of Covid-19 and we invited members of our school community to participate in helping by donating to CAFOD or the Red Cross. Thank you to those of you who sent donations into school. To donate online please see links below:

[Donation to the CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal](#)

https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/global-coronavirus-appeal?c_name=Global%20Coronavirus%20Appeal&c_source=BRC%20Blog&c_medium=Internal&c_creative=Donate%20Landing_Story%20blog%20India%20epicentre%20of%20the%20pandemic&c_code=175149&adg=BRC%20Site

We have been remembering in our prayers all members of our community who have family and friends in India.

We are also thinking of our friends from the Elysiom charity in Chennai, South India. Some of our students and teachers had planned a trip to visit those in the Elysiom community this summer. Unfortunately, due to covid this had to be cancelled. However, we can support the Elysiom community who work with children, young people and women from disadvantaged communities, empowering them to make their own dreams and ambitions come true.

Here's the link for Elysiom!

[ELYSIOM - Supporting Children Impacted By COVID-19](https://www.elysiom.org/)

Pastoral Care

After half-term we will be launching an additional pastoral support programme for our students that will begin in September 2021. We will be offering weekly peer support groups for our students who have experienced a significant loss or painful experience. The organisation behind the programme is called RAINBOWS. At secondary level, the groups are called Spectrum.

<https://rainbowsqb.org/>

When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. If a parent or sibling dies, a divorce or separation happens, or some other painful loss occurs, not only do the parents grieve, the children do also. Children and young people may find it extremely difficult to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age and inexperience.

The Spectrum programme is a peer support programme which provides young people with a trusted adult and a group of their peers with whom they can work through their grief, build a stronger sense of self-esteem, and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

Please look out for the letters Mrs Morillon will be sending out in June.

National Day of Prayer for our Schools and Young People.

Monday 24th May was the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, which was established by Pope Francis in 2018 and is celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost. On this day we were invited to take part in the May 2021 Rosary Mission across the British Isles.

Our school community prayed a decade of the Rosary for young people, their families and our school.

Bishop Marcus Stock is the Chair of the Catholic Education Service:

I am pleased to learn that many Catholic schools throughout the country, with the support of their Bishops, will unite in praying the Holy Rosary as part of the Rosary Day of Intercession for our Young People and the Mission of our Catholic Schools on Monday, 24th May. I pray that through the prayers of Mary, Mother of the Church, our hearts will be filled with the Holy Spirit and that the flame of God's love will burn strongly within us. I warmly extend my blessing to all those participating in this nationwide day of prayer for our schools and young people.

I do hope that the Rosary Mission will bring great spiritual fruits.

With every blessing

+ Marcus



School Ministries and Leadership opportunities

From September, we are keen to have Sixth Form students involved in school ministry leadership and hope they will work alongside us with our younger students.

In addition Catholic Voices has partnered with the Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry to launch a brand new project designed to raise up the next generation of Catholic leaders.

This is open to students from Year 11 upwards, however there are only 20 places available. The deadline for the application is 31st July 2021. If any of our school students are interested please contact me about sponsorship. The details are below:

<https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/rise-up>



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 and blessed half-term break.

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

Ivan Cizmarik
School Lay Chaplain

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