

# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

7th March 2025



The Jubilee Icon Visits All Saints

**"During Lent,  
let us find  
concrete  
ways to  
overcome  
our  
indifference."  
Pope Francis**

As we journey through Lent, the All Saints community has embraced this sacred season with deep reflection and action. On the 6th March, **Ash Wednesday**, students reverently participated in services across the day, marking the beginning of this time of renewal with prayer, scripture, and the receiving of ashes. The atmosphere across the school was one of quiet contemplation, as we were reminded of our call to "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

Lent is also a time for generosity, and we have launched our '**Lent-Tin**' food drive, encouraging students and staff to donate canned food for local food banks. This simple act of giving allows us to live out our faith in service to others, ensuring that those in need within our wider community receive support during this important season. Every donation is a reflection of our commitment to love our neighbour and care for the most vulnerable.

A particularly special moment for our school is the visit of the **Jubilee Icon**, commissioned by the **Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**. This beautiful symbol of faith and unity has been displayed alongside our **Jubilee Doors** and in our Chapel, offering students and staff an opportunity for prayer and reflection. As we continue our Lenten journey, may this time be one of spiritual renewal, charity, and hope for all.

# Ash Wednesday



On Wednesday 6th March, all students were invited to participate in Ash Wednesday services, marking the beginning of Lent.



We were very pleased to welcome Father George Smulski from the Fransiscan Community at Woodford, and Father Kris from La Salette, Rainham to lead us in prayer.



The Gospel reading (Mt 6:1-6, 16-18) reminds us of the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Jesus encourages us to maintain a cheerful and humble disposition when going about these acts.

The use of ashes to mark a time of repentance and turning back to God originates in the Old Testament, where the people of Israel would cover themselves in ashes as a sign of sorrow for their sins.



For Catholics and many other Christian denominations, we continue this practice. A priest will burn and bless the palm leaves used on Palm Sunday in the previous year, and these ashes are then used to make a continuous link from one Lent to the next.

The ashes are then marked on the forehead, in the sign of the cross, with the words "Repent and believe in the Gospel".

Thank you to our priests, our readers and in particular our site team for helping us to run the day smoothly and in the reverent manner fitting to the season.

# Jubilee Icon Visits All Saints



We have been greatly honoured to be asked to host the official Jubilee Icon, commissioned by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in partnership with CAFOD, between the 6th and 7th of March.

This beautiful and thought-provoking icon is a powerful symbol of hope, faith, and justice, reminding us of the call to care for our global family and work towards a fairer world. The icon's presence in our school has been an opportunity for reflection and prayer as we stand in solidarity with those affected by poverty and injustice



The Icon was moved to the chapel for our Friday morning Mass, and our CAFOD young leaders and other students had the opportunity to pray with the icon at breaktime on Friday. Everyone has commented on the beauty of the piece and been fascinated to learn about it's origins.



A big thank you to Chris Driscoll for arranging this privilege for our school in the Year of Jubilee.



# ASSEMBLY FOCUS

w/c 10th February  
The Story of Joseph

In the week of our school musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, the Society of St Joseph prepared and delivered a wonderful assembly so that students could get to know the character Joseph from the Old Testament. They spoke about the challenges he faced and overcame, as well as the compassion he showed to his brothers who had treated him badly. They used Joseph as an example for us all in overcoming challenges and treating others with mercy.



w/c 24th February  
The Power of Prayer

The school chaplains explained the importance of praying from our hearts. Everyone watched a clip from *The Chosen*, as Jesus teaches his disciples to pray the Lord's Prayer. Students were challenged to pray meaningfully during the Lenten season.



w/c 3rd March  
Personal Heroines

Marking Women's World Day of Prayer, Miss Ellis led an assembly reflecting on the great contribution women make to society and spoke about injustices women face. She challenged all students to treat women with dignity and to encourage them to be ambitious for their lives.



# Chaplaincy Timetable Lent 2025

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 8.10am		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Mass
Breaktime	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer
Lunchtime 12.40-1.10pm	Rosary	Play and Pray	Eucharistic Adoration	The Chosen	Stations of the Cross

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 8.10am		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Mass
Breaktime	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer	Quiet Prayer
Lunchtime 12.40 - 1.10pm	Rosary	Play and Pray	Eucharistic Adoration	The Chosen	Stations of the Cross

## Reconciliation (confession) opportunities in Lent

Year 11, 12 & 13

Thursday 13th March

Year 9 & 10

Monday 17th March

Year 7 & 8

Thursday 3rd April

## Columban Media Competition

Our congratulations go to Favour Eze in Year 9 who came 1st runner up in the National Jubilee Art Competition run by the Columban Media organisation! Well done Favour!

