

# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

16th February 2024



**“Lent is a time of truth. Christians, called by the Church to prayer, penance, fasting and self-sacrifice, place themselves before God and recognize themselves; they rediscover themselves.” —St. John Paul II**

We began our lenten observance on Wednesday 14th February with Ash Wednesday Liturgies for all students. Joined by Father John Tuohy, students had the opportunity to receive ashes on their heads in the sign of the cross. This tradition can be traced back to the Old Testament, where the Israelites would cover themselves in ashes as a sign of mourning and repentance.

We will continue to meditate on the suffering and death of Christ throughout the season of Lent, looking at both what we can do as a community to turn back to God, and how we can ease the sufferings of others through our charitable works.

As you will see, students have begun to make Lenten pledges of prayer, fasting and almsgiving within their RE lessons and there are many activities planned between now and the Easter holidays to help All Saints to make this our best Lent ever.



Our excellent student readers from lower and upper school Ash Wednesday Liturgies.

## ASSEMBLY FOCUS - THEME OF THE WEEK

### Made Clean (week of 12th February)

The Chaplains led our assembly in the final week, with a focus on Jesus healing of the man with leprosy in Mark's Gospel. Students were encouraged to see that Jesus is concerned to heal even the internal wounds that we suffer, restoring us to live life to the full. We spoke about the restoration of dignity, for ourselves in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (students will have the opportunity to go to confession at school during Lent), and restoring the dignity of others, through our words, actions and charitable activities.

What did you notice?



- ❖ Jesus gives the leper his full attention.
- ❖ He "is moved with love and compassion": He stretches out his hand and touches the leper. He does not fear him.
- ❖ In cleansing the leper, Jesus not only cures him of his disease but also heals him and changes every aspect of his life for better by helping him find hope and meaning.

LENT and the Restoration of Dignity

RECONCILIATION



ACTS OF CHARITY





# YEAR 7 FUNDRAISING

A huge well done to Oyinlola & Caylle in year 7 who had the ingenious idea of selling handmade bookmarks to raise funds for their year group charity, CAFOD. All the designs are custom made and showcase their amazing artistic talents.



## RE FOCUS - OUR LENTEN PLEDGES

In our RE lessons we have been learning about the season of Lent and ways in which we can use these 40 days and nights to prepare ourselves well for Holy Week and Easter.

Students learned about the three pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Each student then had the opportunity to make three pledges this Lent to help them to grow closer to Christ.

Some of our pledges are displayed in our main school foyer. Situated in a very central location in our school, this serves as a good reminder for staff and students of the purpose of this season.

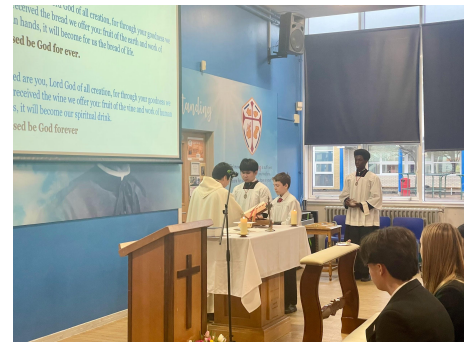




# ST JOHN BOSCO HOUSE FEAST DAY MASS

On Friday 2nd February, Bosco House celebrated their feast day. This was a particularly special Mass because it fell on the Feast of the Presentation, sometimes known as Candlemas. Father Joseph began the liturgy by blessing the candles that will be used in the Chapel throughout the year. He explained also that we have the challenge to be like the wax of a candle, the platform and fuel that allows the light of Christ to burn.

Students from Bosco House participated in the Mass, reading and altar serving. After Mass, head of House, Mr Page, spoke about John Bosco's dream, 200 years ago this year, in which the young Bosco new his vocation would be to work with young boys, providing spiritual formation and education. After Mass, the students were treated to cakes, doughnuts and cookies!



## YEAR 9 CHAPEL VISITS

On Ash Wednesday, 9P visited the Chapel with Miss Bateman as a fitting way to close off their most recent RE module, learning about the role of Mary in the Catholic Church, and the Marian prayers. Students all had the opportunity to experience praying the Rosary - they meditated on the Glorious Mysteries and reflected on their own prayer intentions.

During this lesson, they were also introduced to the stations of the cross (which was fitting for the beginning of Lent). Students led the stations, learning about the different images and what this might look like in a bigger church.



## PRAYER FOR LENT

All lessons at All Saints begin in prayer. During the season of Lent, we pray this prayer of St Francis of Assisi:

*"We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world."*

Another prayer for this time, which you might like to pray at home is;

*This Lent, may I stand in solidarity today with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we be united in your love, and may I work to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen*

## 11C Raises Money for Bakhita House

Well done to form IIC who organised a Valentines Day cake sale on the 13th February (cleverly before the start of Lent!) raising £95 for their year group charity, Bakhita House, a safe house for women who have been trafficked or exploited.



## COMING UP AFTER HALF TERM.....

- More charity events
- Year 11 Eucharistic Adoration
- Stations of the Cross
- Sacrament of Reconciliation