



# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

8th March 2024



**“My whole strength lies in prayer and sacrifice; these are my invincible arms; they can move hearts far better than words.” St. Therese of Lisieux**

Our Lenten observance continues at All Saints, with examples of the three pillars: prayer, fasting and almsgiving, taking place across the school.

Students from years seven to nine are fundraising for their respective charities within their RE lessons, undertaking a reflective Lent walk, and journeying with Christ through his passion and death in the Stations of the Cross.

Collectively, every form is gathering tinned food so that we can help to restock our local St Vincent de Paul and parish food banks over the Easter holidays.

Our assembly programme is helping to ground the students in the key tenets of our Christian faith, so that these good works are undertaken with the spirit of the good news, with themes of reconciliation and forgiveness as our main point of focus this fortnight.



# ASSEMBLY FOCUS

## Repent and Believe in the Gospel (week of 26th February)

Mr Pauro led this assembly, giving us an opportunity to reflect on the choices we make in life and the bridge that Christ gives us to return back to God when we have not made good choices.

We looked at the different vices and their opposing virtues, asking God to give us the grace to seek holiness and become saints.



## What do we mean by 'Repent and believe the Good News'?

"The time has come," Jesus said.

"The kingdom of God has come near.

Repent and believe the good news!"



'Repent' is to make up for our poor choices, our sin, our turning away from a Loving God

Jesus offers us a WAKE UP, a correction to go back to God

A God that offers us the 'Good news' of eternal love



## Forgiveness (week of 4th March)

Mr Page's assembly this week focussed on the theme of forgiveness. Inspired by John 20:23, students learned about the period of Apartheid in South Africa and the life of Nelson Mandela. Upon his release from prison, it was Mandela's choice to forgive

## Forgiveness

"As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." Nelson Mandela

"Forgiveness liberates the soul. It removes fear. That is why it is such a powerful weapon." Nelson Mandela

Rather than seek revenge Mandela aimed to cooperate with his opponents to work together for a better future.

On the Cross, we recall Jesus' words to God...

"Forgive them Father for they know not what they do..."

Forgiveness is liberation and powerful, it changed South Africa and Jesus' message changes the world today



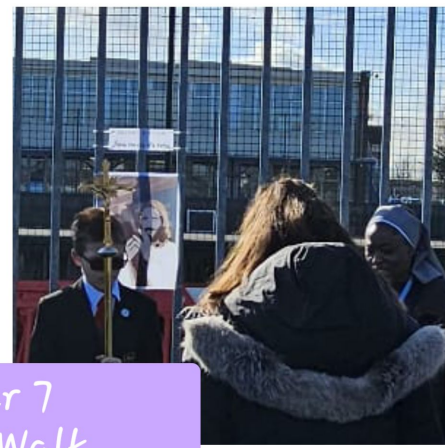
his persecutors was what led him to true freedom. This is just one example of someone adopting Christ's example of radical forgiveness, demonstrating what a difference this could make to the state of our world.



# RE FOCUS - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Having learned about the three pillars of Lent; Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, years 7 to 9 have taken up the call to pray the Stations of the Cross and to give alms by supporting their year group charities this Lent.

Year 7 undertook the CAFOD Big Lent Walk, stopping at the stations of the cross around the field to reflect on the meaning for this journey. The sun was shining and everyone had a very prayerful experience out in the fresh air! Students were encouraged to bring a small donation for CAFOD. Along with other fundraising events, they are going to make a big difference this Lent!



*Year 7  
Lent Walk  
&  
Stations of the Cross*



**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development



*Year 8  
Stations of the Cross*



Year 8 students gathered to pray the Stations of the Cross in the Quad. Along with the Chaplains, they each took turns to read the reflections and think about their own lenten journey. Following this, there was a collection for their Year Group Charity: Mary's Meals.



# Diary Dates

## Liturgies and Events in School

Friday 8th March  
8.10am - Holy Mass (St John Henry Newman Chapel)  
P1 - St Patrick House Feast Day Mass

Tuesday 12th March  
Sacrament of Reconciliation - Fr Henry Mobela (St Bede's, Chadwell Heath)

Friday 15th March  
8.10am - Holy Mass (St John Henry Newman Chapel)  
P2 - Year 9 Mass for Lent

Monday 18th March  
Sacrament of Reconciliation - Fr. Chris (La Salette, Rainham) & Fr. Adam (St Peter's, Dagenham)

Friday 22nd March  
8.10am - Holy Mass (St John Henry Newman Chapel)  
P1 - St Catherine House Feast Day Mass

## Liturgical Calendar

10th March - Laetare Sunday (4th Sunday of Lent)  
Gospel: John 3:14-21  
*"God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved."*

17th March - 5th Sunday of Lent  
Gospel: John 12:20-33  
*"If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest."*

19th March - Feast of St Joseph

24th March - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
Gospel: Mark 11:1-10  
*"Blessing on him who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

## 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*