



CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

April / May 2024



**“But do not forget, that all the saints cannot endear you to Christ as much as you can yourself. It is entirely up to you!”
St Cajetan**

We return from the Easter holidays but remain very much in the joy of Eastertide at school, as we await the great feasts of the Ascension (9th May) and Pentecost (19th May).

In this season, students are readying themselves spiritually for the upcoming exams: our tradition at All Saints is to bless and distribute Miraculous Medals to every year 11 student. You can read more about the history of this medal, given by Our Lady to St Catherine Laboure on the next page.

We were delighted to be joined by Father Paschal Uche of Chelmsford parish, who celebrated Mass for year 11 on the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. He spoke to the students about the great faith of Mother Mary, a model and spiritual mother all Christians, guiding us into deeper relationship with her Son. Year 11 students read and served the Mass and the whole year group were profoundly reverent.

YEAR 11 MASS OF PREPARATION

We took the opportunity during the year 11 Mass to have blessed the miraculous medals, which are distributed to all year 11 students before the start of their exams.



The Front Side - On the front of the Miraculous Medal, Mary stands on a globe, representing the earth, with a crushed snake under her feet. This image represents Mary's role as "Queen of Heaven and Earth". The snake represents Satan, who was defeated by Mary's obedience to God. The rays coming from her hands symbolize the graces Mary gives to those who ask her. The year 1830 commemorates the year that the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Catherine Laboure.

The Reverse Side - On the reverse side of the Miraculous Medal is a cross and the letter "M". The cross represents Christ's sacrifice for our salvation, while the bar under the cross stands for the Earth. The "M" stands for "Mary" and her true devotion both to Jesus and to her children on Earth. The two hearts are the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The entire image is surrounded by twelve stars. The stars can represent both the twelve Apostles and the verse from the Book of Revelation, "a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars" (Revelation 12:1).



ASSEMBLY FOCUS

I am the Good Shepherd (w/c 22nd April)

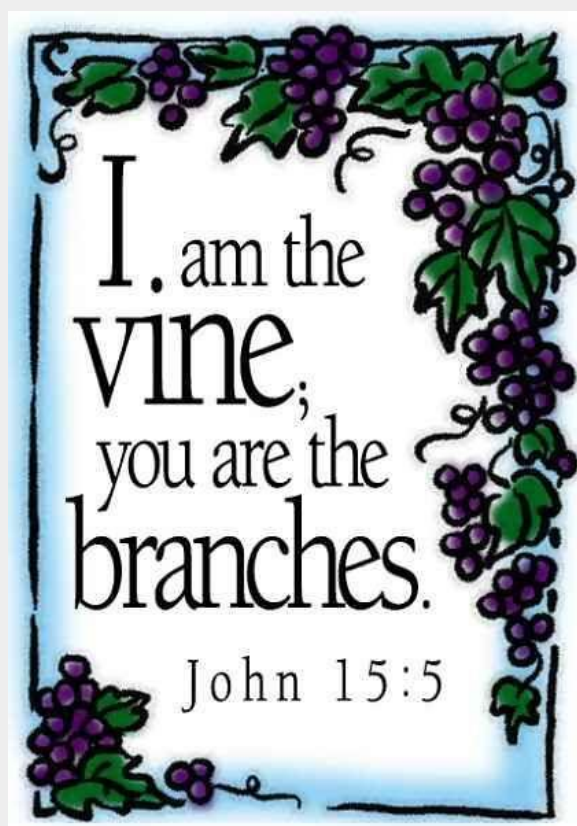
Mrs McCoy led our assembly, centred around Good Shepherd Sunday. We thought about the sacrifices we can make to be the good shepherd for the people around us.



We particularly focussed on the different elements of Catholic Social Teaching to affect a change on our school community and on those who need our help. Mrs McCoy challenged us to think about how we might sacrifice something of ourselves to benefit others.

Bearing Fruit w/c 29th April

Ms Ellis led this weeks assembly, where we looked at John 15, Jesus is the true vine, and we are the branches. Ms Ellis challenged us to think about how we can remain rooted in Christ, individually and as a Christian community. We thought about the grape vine and the intertwined branches to symbolise that we are all 'One in Christ' and as such we are connected and support each other as a community.



Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 5th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gospel: John 15:9-17

"A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.."

Thursday 9th May - The Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

"He was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place.."

Sunday 12th May - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gospel: John 17:11-19

"That they may be one like us!"

Sunday 19th May - Pentecost

Gospel: John 20:19-23

"As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit."

Ascension Day Mass Times

Thursday 9th May

8.15am - All Saints School Chapel

St Peter's, Dagenham

9am, 7.30pm

Holy Family, Dagenham

9.30am, 7pm

St Vincent de Paul, Becontree

9am, 7.30pm

St Thomas More, Barking

9.30am, 7.30pm

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Many congratulations to the students from Goodmayes Parish who were confirmed last weekend. Many students will be receiving this sacrament at Pentecost. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit!

Heavenly Father, God of power and of love. We pray for all the All Saints students who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love and may they come to know you as the one true God who loves them without limit. May their hearts welcome you gladly; May their ears hear your voice in the scriptures; May their eyes see you in all things; And may they proclaim your glory as they walk in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

