



AllSaints

# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

2024/25 - VOLUME 3



## MISSION WEEK SPECIAL!

In the last week of half term, the whole All Saints Community participated in our school Mission. The theme of the week was “One in Christ”, which forms part of our school’s mission statement, taken from St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, where he describes the members of the Church as being like parts of the body. Each part is different, in looks and in function, but each part is also integral to the full and proper functioning of the body.

The point of a school mission is for the whole community to come together to revisit our values and to think about how we journey deeper into relationship with Christ, understand our place and value in the All Saints Community and work to be the person God has created us to be.

We held a series of workshops throughout the week, led by some fantastic guest speakers and we concluded the week with the school-wide celebration of our feast day Mass. The participation and reverence of our students in these liturgies was a testament to the success of the week; it was clear that they had really reflected deeply on their personal faith journey by their prayerful approach to the Mass.

The work for the All Saints community does not stop here. We are rapidly approaching a year of Jubilee in the Church. In 2025 Pope Francis has selected the theme ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. This will be an opportunity throughout the year for everyone at All Saints to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. Building upon the success of our mission week, there will be lots of opportunities in school and in our local parishes to obtain special graces, which assist us on our journey towards sainthood!

# Confessions & Adoration

On Wednesday and Thursday mornings we were joined by Father Jean-Claude from Leigh on Sea and Father Kris from Rainham, who kindly heard confessions from a large number of students. At the same time, we held Eucharistic Adoration in our beautiful chapel, which allowed the students and staff to examine their consciences, say their penance and spend time in quiet prayer in front of the Blessed Sacraments.

It is a real gift to have Christ truly present in our school in the Chapel, as well as to have His merciful love made known through the ministry of our priests.



## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING WITH CAFOD & CARITAS

On Wednesday morning we also hosted Sian from Caritas, Brentwood, and a team of CAFOD volunteers, who ran a workshop with year 7 to get them thinking about why it is important as Christians to put our faith into action and to stand in solidarity with our neighbours who are suffering. Since CAFOD is the charity designated to Year 7 this year, to have volunteers who work closely with CAFOD, who could speak about the humanitarian work they are doing in developing countries, was a real blessing. The workshop included lots of fun activities, and a challenge for groups to work together to think about how they might fundraise this year, designing some brilliant posters. We are now looking forward to seeing how Year 7 use this helpful workshop to live out their faith in our school community, and to support the work of such an important charity.



# ONE HOPE PROJECT



On Tuesday, we were thrilled to welcome the amazing One Hope Project, a praise and worship group with a heart for evangelisation, who have been part of the headlining group for FLAME at Wembley arena.

Joe, Lydia and Sean led workshops with years 8, 10 and 11. They taught new worship music, played games (which even the staff enjoyed!) and gave their own personal faith testimonies.



Just before lunch, they spent some time with our year 11 GCSE music students, encouraging them with their composition work.



At the end of the school day, around 60 All Saints Students voluntarily stayed behind for an hours Praise and Worship. This was a really special time for all involved, coming together to praise Jesus in song.

Many of the students have been asking when we can invite One Hope in again.

# VOCATIONS WORKSHOP



On Monday we held a vocations workshop with year 9, who are covering the topic of vocations, both religious and to married life, in their RE curriculum this year. The day began with an introduction to our guests, who each spoke of their own vocations story; Sister Bora, Amy and Will Lambert and Father Paschal. Each of them had unique stories, but listened to God's voice in discerning what state in life they were being called to. After break, students had the opportunity to ask questions of our guests, including what family members thought of their particular vocations, what the religious felt about a life of celibacy and how the couple are navigating starting a family.



Sofia in 9M writes: "Year 9 had a vocation workshop where we had Sister Bora (Our School nun), a married couple (Will and Amy) and Father Paschal came in to speak to us about how God called them. This was really fitting as in RE we were learning about vocations and God's calling. It was really interesting as we learned about their different stories and how they got to where they are now. For example Will initially thought God wanted for him to be a priest, but discerned eventually was not his journey. He is now happily married to Amy. I learned a lot about vocations and how we all have a different journey and God has a plan for us. Listening to their stories felt inspiring as at the time I had no idea what vocations were and how they would plan out for me but listening to them gave me some assurance."

# OUR FEAST DAY MASS

On Friday we concluded our Mission Week with two celebrations of Holy Mass in St Francis Hall. Thanks to a fantastic effort from our site team, our choir and our altar servers, we created a space that was almost unrecognisable from what is usually used for PE lessons and examinations!

We were delighted to be joined by our local priests, Father Kris and Father Jean-Laurent, who led us in two wonderful eucharistic celebrations.

There were so many highlights to this Mass, it is impossible to name them all, but it is important to acknowledge those who went above and beyond. Firstly, our altar servers used their competency to use incense at the Mass, which filled the space with a wonderful fragrance. Thank you servers!

Secondly, the student participation in the Mass, particularly from our readers, was superb. Our bidding prayers were translated into a variety of languages spoken in our community, so as to emphasise both diversity and unity in the body of Christ in our school. Thank you to the eight students who read in their home languages!

The music of the liturgy was beautifully and reverently played. Thank you to our wonderful choir, Jeremiah on drums, Caitlin on guitar and Mrs McCoy for the piano arrangement and accompaniment.

Finally, we were delighted to have Chioma and Ines of Year 13 commissioned as Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. The girls had received recommendations from their Parish Priests and permission from Bishop Alan to undertake this important ministry.

The day concluded with a very large delivery of doughnuts from Sainsburys for all to enjoy!



**AllSaints**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL