

CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

FEBRUARY 2023 - VOLUME 4



REPENT, AND BELIEVE IN THE GOOD NEWS!

MARK 14:15

We return to school on Monday 20th February and begin our preparations for our Ash Wednesday liturgies on the 22nd February.

As usual we will gather together as lower school and upper school communities to receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder that we are called to repentance, to amend our ways and follow the path God has set before us.

The ashes come from burnt palms from the previous year's **Palm Sunday Mass**. Palms are a living plant, and a symbol of victory and triumph, but they are burned to dust and become a symbol of sorrow and repentance.

We can trace the use of ashes back to the Old Testament. When Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh, the king covered himself in sackcloth and ashes and ordered the people to do the same (Jonah 3:6-9). Ashes and scratchy clothes were a way for people to be humble before God and show that they were willing to make a big change in their lives.

This Lent, we will be challenging our students to conform their hearts and minds more closely to God; to turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our new applications to the Society of St Joseph met with existing members this week

THE SOCIETY OF ST JOSEPH WELCOMES NEW APPLICANTS

Our long-serving Year 10 members of the Society of St Joseph met this week with our new applicants to discuss the opportunities for growing in faith and serving our school community, with those students who have worked hard this term to submit an application to join.

Younger students had the chance to ask questions and better understand the commitment involved. The existing team form our servers and readers for Mass, represent our school at Catholic Events in the Diocese and encourage their peers to deepen their relationship with Christ and carry out His mission.

After half-term, each new applicant will be presented with a blessed St Joseph Medal, which they can wear proudly on their school blazer, and a prayer card to keep with them to remind them of the life of service lived by our patron, St Joseph.

They have committed themselves to participate in many of the chaplaincy activities throughout Lent. After this preliminary period, they will be presented with their red-ties around the Feast of St Joseph the Worker - a great honour indeed!



Our theme for the first week back at school is Reconciliation.

Understanding that we need to be reconciled to others and to God if we truly want to be Holy is a big challenge, but God does not ask us to do this without supernatural help. Accessing the Sacraments, particularly Confession and the Holy Eucharist, provide the graces we need to persevere in our pursuit of sanctity.

Our students are fortunate to have these opportunities throughout Lent - there is Mass every Friday and we hope to be able to offer confessions on multiple occasions before we reach Holy Week.

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

St Polycarp - 23rd February

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.

At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155.

St David - 1st March

St David, Dewi Sant, was a leading figure and monk in the early Welsh Church who lived in this area in the sixth century. He founded a monastic community here living a simple, austere life in the Celtic monastic tradition which connected the people of Wales with Ireland, Cornwall, France and the Scottish Isles.

His last words to his followers, still repeated to this day, were "Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things you have seen me do".

Ss Perpetua and Felicity - 7th March

In an attempt to slow the growth of Christianity in Africa, Roman Emperor Septimius Severus forbid subjects of the Roman Empire to convert. If they had converted and refused to renounce their faith, they were put to death. In 203 A.D., five catechumens preparing for baptism were arrested in the Roman city of Carthage (modern-day Tunisia). Among those catechumens were Sts Perpetua and Felicity. They were heroic young women and mothers who stood firm in their faith until the very end.



Flame Trip - Saturday 4th March

There are still tickets available for FLAME- the largest Catholic Youth Event in the Country, taking place at Wembley Arena!

If your child would like to join us on Saturday 4th March, letters can be collected from Sister Bora or Mrs McCormick in the Chaplaincy Office.

We will be out for the whole day, travelling by coach from school to Wembley Arena, sitting with Bishop Alan and other Catholic schools from the Diocese of Brentwood.

This trip is for students in Year 9 - Year 13 and costs £20 for ticket and travel. Please do let us know if you have any questions.



Join us on Saturday 4 March

Pray and Play Club

I became a part of Pray and Play (on Tuesdays) to become a better person and be connected to my faith/God. I come to Mass on Fridays and it made me realise that a lot of people want to come and be more connected to/with our Lord which made me think that compared to how small our school is the faith is way larger and is growing bigger everyday. What makes me motivated to come to Pray and Play is NOT because I get a reward it's just simply to be kind and loving around others. Another thing is, my heart feels free and feels like I have done something good and it makes me happy and joyful. Whenever I come out of the Chapel I feel like God has heard me and has listened to what I have said/done. I think that if you have the chance to come to Chapel you should go and use that chance for later in your lives it might not be there.

'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.' -Ecclesiastes 3:11

By Tia Matulyte in 7 Patrick

POPE FRANCIS' TOP 10 TIPS FOR LENT

Every year Catholics try to answer the age old question: What should I do for Lent? Well, who better to pick for as your Lenten spiritual director than Pope Francis? He has some great ideas for you! Here are 10 of his best tips:

1. GET RID OF THE LAZY ADDICTION TO EVIL

"[Lent] is a 'powerful' season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us."

- General Audience, March 5, 2014

2. DO SOMETHING THAT HURTS

"Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." - Lenten Message, 2014

3. DON'T REMAIN INDIFFERENT

"Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation." - Lenten Message, 2015

4. PRAY: MAKE OUR HEARTS LIKE YOURS!

"During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference." - Lenten Message, 2015

5. TAKE PART IN THE SACRAMENTS

"Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ." - Lenten Message, 2015

6. PRAYER

"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God's boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering." - Homily, March 5, 2014

7. FASTING

"We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth 'satisfies' us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security, and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him." - Homily, March 5, 2014

8. ALMSGIVING

"Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others." - Homily, March 5, 2014

9. HELP THE POOR

"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing." - Lenten Message, 2014

10. EVANGELIZE

"The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness." - Lenten Message, 2014

SPOTLIGHT ON RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

At All Saints Catholic School we are committed to promoting the personal and social development and health and wellbeing of all the students within our community. We believe that high quality Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is a fundamental part of this.

There is an opportunity for parents to engage with the teaching and deepen the experience for your child by logging on to our provider's parent portal, where you can see exactly what your child will be learning in RSE.

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal

School Username: opp-allsaints-8
School Password: rse-parent-white

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

Sunday 19th February - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"When anyone obeys what Christ has said, God's love comes to perfection in him."

Wednesday 22nd February - Ash Wednesday

"Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord."

Sunday 26th February - 1st Sunday of Lent

"Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.."

Sunday 5th March - 2nd Sunday of Lent

"From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'"

In the Chapel - Lent 2023

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning - 8.10am	Silent Prayer	Silent Prayer	Silent Prayer	Silent Prayer	Mass
Breaktime	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains
Lunchtime 1pm	Silent Prayer	Play & Pray	Stations of the Cross (Lent)	Silent Prayer	Divine Mercy Chaplet
WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Morning - 8.10am	Silent Prayer	Silent Prayer	Silent Prayer	Silent Prayer	Mass
Breaktime	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains	Silent Prayer/ Chat with Chaplains
Lunchtime 1pm	Silent Prayer	Bible Study	Stations of the Cross (Lent)	Silent Prayer	Rosary