



Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2022

December 2021

Reconciliation Service

In preparation for the holy Season of Christmas, pupils were invited to take part in a reconciliation service. It was an opportunity for all to come before God and ask for forgiveness for the mistakes we have made and look forward to a fresh start in the year ahead.



Year 8 Advent Mass



Year 8 had their first Mass of the year in December 2021. Special thanks to all of the volunteer readers and Fr. Stephen who made the Mass a wonderful opportunity for worship! Well done to the RE department in particular; Mrs Castle played piano, Mrs S Thomas played guitar and Ms Parsons and Mrs Ball sang!

January 2022

Feast of the Epiphany

WE GATHER

Let us all now pause and have a few moments of stillness and reverence as we light our tutor group candle.



We gather today to reflect on the Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity).

All students reflected on the Feast of the Epiphany during Morning Collective Worship. During the Epiphany, Catholics remember the Magi arriving at the stable to worship the infant Jesus. Students were asked to reflect on the revelations they have had in their life and how these moments have helped them.

SVP group



The SVP group has been working hard to create a more loving and Christ centred community. In February we raised £50 in a day for the Zimbabwe medical centre charity (1000 Hearts)

We are also working towards the CAFOD LiveSimply award! Our task is to work towards a more sustainable world as well as showing love for our neighbour. We have been growing tomato plants and flowers that we can give to people in our community because 1) it is a gift (showing love) 2) it is a plant

(reduces CO2) and 3) it produces fruit (sustainability).

The SVP group has also been hard at work creating Easter cards for some elderly and housebound people in our community. We wanted them to know that they are in our thoughts throughout the year. Finally, a special thanks to Marie Yates and Joan Wood, our

lovely contacts at Our Lady Queen of Peace who have continued to give us support and encouragement this year.

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Feast Day

On the 27th of January we celebrated the Feast Day of Blessed Edward Oldcorne with Year 10. Our school chaplain, Fr Stephen led the Mass and we had volunteer readers leading the students in worship. Special thanks to Mrs S Thomas, Mrs K Thomas and Mrs Ball for leading the music.



Ash Wednesday

All classes in Key Stage 3 took part in Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday the 2nd March. Students in KS4 who were unable to join the services were invited to receive ashes at break time- it was humbling to see the amount of students lining up during their break to receive ashes and hear the words, ***'repent, turn away from sin and know that you are loved'***.



Special thanks to our wonderful students for reading the prayers during the service.



Students were encouraged to take part in a day of fasting, by choosing the soup and bread roll option for their lunch.

Pupil Reception

You might have noticed that Pupil Reception is dressed for Lent! Students are aware that the colours used across the school reflect the Liturgical Calendar (Church Year). Purple is the colour used to reflect times of repentance i.e. Advent and Lent



Mass is back!

After nearly two years, Mass is back on a Friday lunchtime! It is wonderful to be able to gather as a community to reflect, sing and worship together.





Lenten Chapel Liturgies

Every Monday Morning, staff and students have been welcomed into the Chapel to spend some time reflecting on their Lenten journeys. They have asked themselves questions such as, 'have I done enough for others?', 'what can I do to be better?', 'have I shown gratitude for all that I have?'



Lenten Fundraising

This year is the first time since Lent 2019 that students have been able to fundraise. Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. Blessed Edward Oldcorne has always been filled with students willing to give up their time to help others and this year was no different!



Students organised sponsored silences, Guess the Name of the Panda, How Many Sweets in the (huge) Tub, doughnut and cookie sales every week in the RE department, Staff Car Washes, Easter Egg Raffles, Talent Shows and much more!





Our wonderful SLT have also been getting in Lenten spirit and been 'giving' up their time to polish the students' shoes! They have been showing what it means to be a servant to others, just like Jesus was!



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

On the 18th of March Staff and students were invited to spend some time in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. RE classes were welcomed into the Chapel to spend some quiet time out with God on a busy Friday.





DAY OF ADORATION BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Friday 18th March 2022

RE CLASSES CHAPEL ROTA

R.E. teachers visit the chapel with their teaching groups to reflect upon the set readings and the nature of vocation

TIME	RE CLASS	PREFECTS
9.15-9.40	<i>Monstrance Exposition</i> 8A1 (LJ)	Bartosz & Mia
9.40-10.10	8A2 (EC)	
10.10-10.40	8B1 (SI)	Julia, Kesia & Coral
10.40-11.10	8B4 (SG)	
BREAK	Mr. McCormack, Leroy & Max	
11.35-12.05	9A4 (SG)	Ronan & Jacob
12.05-12.35	9A1 (AP) <i>Fr. Stephen - Benediction</i>	

Chaplaincy prefects will be present in the chapel at all times throughout the day

A.M.D.G - For the Greater Glory of God



VOCATIONS DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 18th March 2022

Today as a college we are praying for the vocations of all those in the Church.

This is a special occasion for reflecting on the vocation to follow Christ and to follow him in the priesthood and the consecrated life.

Let us take the time today to reflect on the different ways people contribute to the life of the Church, remembering that God made us each unique and each with free will to make our own choices.

Let us think carefully about the direction our lives are taking and how we can give more in the service of others.

As we do this we take the opportunity to gaze upon the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance on the altar.



'SOME DEFINITE SERVICE'

God has created me to do some definite service.

God has committed some work to me which is not committed to another.

I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, But I shall be told it in the next.

I have a part in this great work,

I am a link in the chain, a bond of connection between persons.

God has not created me for naught.

I shall do good, I shall do God's work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep God's commandments and serve the Lord in my calling.

Therefore I will trust my Lord.

Whatever, wherever I am, can never be thrown away.

I ask not to see. I ask not to know. I ask simply to be used.

A.M.D.G - For the Greater Glory of God



The Thousand Hearts Campaign

As a school we pledged to raise £10,000 to help with the building of a medical centre in Zimbabwe. On 23d March the Zimbabwean singers came into school to join in two liturgies of thanksgiving for our fundraising for the medical centre: for the Thousand Hearts campaign. They came in 2018 and they raised the roof with their gospel singing and songs from Zimbabwe. The majority of our Lenten fundraising will be going towards this worthy cause.

Student-Led Stations of the Cross

During the Season of Lent, our pupils have been taken to the Chapel during their RE lessons to follow the Stations of the Cross. It has been refreshing to have some time out for reflection on what the Season of Lent is all about. It is wonderful to see so many classes using the Chapel once again!

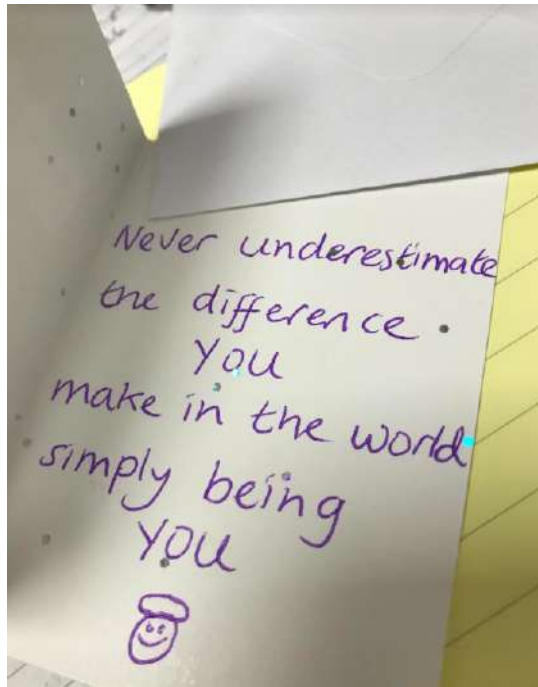


Reconciliation Services

In preparation for Easter, pupils were invited to take part in reconciliation service on the 8th April. It was an opportunity for all to come before God and ask for forgiveness for the mistakes we have made and receive forgiveness for the year ahead.

Secret Saints

This year 43 staff volunteered to take part in secret saints! This is an initiative set up by Mr McCormack in which teachers are given a colleague's name and do small acts of kindness to show them that they are valued and appreciated. Here are some of the things that have been received over the 6 weeks of Lent:



Ms Burton said that this is her first experience of Secret Saints and to receive 'unexpected boosts' throughout the day is 'really heartwarming'.



Year 7 Retreat to Alton Castle

For the first time ever the RE department ran a retreat for Y7 students from the 21st-23rd March. Thirty nine students were keen to get away from their parents and school for 2 nights, they enjoyed a day at Alton Towers with their friends and spent some time getting to think about their relationship with God, their family and their peers. Well done to Mr James, Ms Parsons, Mr Jessop and Mr Bradburn for running a successful trip!



“The trip to Alton castle was amazing, I loved all the staff. They were so nice, I loved how there were always fun activities and things to do.” Lily U, Y7.

“Our trip to Alton Towers was great from start to finish. We did loads of fun and exhilarating activities (one of them was archery, my personal favourite). We also learnt a lot about the catholic church and went to mass in a beautiful church. It was an amazing experience. If I could I would do it again and I would advise if anyone else has the opportunity they should do it.” Alfie O, Y7



“Alton Castle was very enjoyable because of the fun activities that we did. ‘Low ropes’ was very enjoyable particularly because it was a team building activity and this meant we could work with people we wouldn’t have worked with otherwise. Trekking was nice as we got to see this huge rock and once we had arrived at the rock we could calmly listen to nature and the Gospel they read to us there.” Myar A, Y7



“Alton castle is an amazing place to visit. They greet you with respect and let you know what is going to happen throughout the trip. It is a very historic place that you learn all about throughout the days you have there. All the days are full of activities that involve teamwork and trust in your group, you learn loads of new stuff along the way. The rooms were clean and had great views. They give you free time to go do sports outside or spend time in your dorm. They let you in God’s presence whilst praying before and after dinner and also treat you with a mass before you leave which is very inviting.” Ellie B, Y7

An Easter Blessing from Father Stephen

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring! Our spirits are lifted by the new life we see bursting forth in the fields, the hedgerows and in our gardens.

For Christians Spring is a sign of the new life we celebrate at Easter.

**May the Resurrection of Our Lord fill us with new peace
and joy this Easter and throughout the year.
May God bless you all – Fr. Stephen**

