



**Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College**



# **CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER**

**Autumn Term 2022**

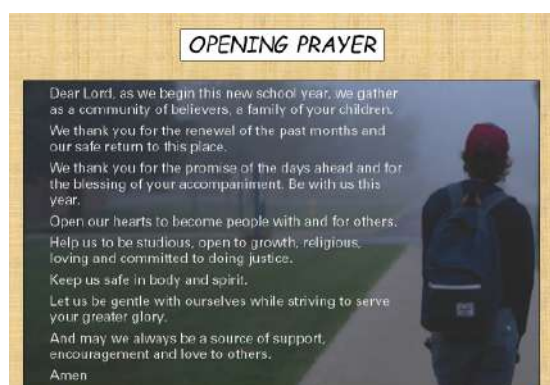
## Staff Training Day

On the staff training day, staff began the new year by reflecting on the summer holidays spent with family and friends and the new academic year. We reflected on the Gospel reading about Jesus on the road to Emmaus, asking God to be with us on our journey through life.

## Our new PICCL

At the end of the last academic year Mr McCormack retired as deputy head. Mrs Thomas is our new Person in Charge of the Catholic Life of the School (PICCL). We are really pleased that Mr McCormack hasn't left us completely and will be coming into school every Friday to organise our weekly Mass in the chapel.

## Welcome back Liturgy



Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 were welcomed back to the new academic year by a Welcome Back Liturgy during tutor time. We were able to reflect on the blessings over the summer holiday and asked God's continued blessing on our school community. We prayed for the new staff and students joining our community as well as asking God to

help us to live out the college virtues and to be people of good character.

## Year 7 Welcome Mass

Year 7 celebrated their first Mass as part of the Blessed Edward Oldcorne community in October 2022. This was an opportunity for all students to listen to the word of God and receive Holy Communion or the Eucharist. Fr Stephen reminded us about how special our community is and what a blessing it is to be a member of Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College.

## Staff Prayer

Each week staff meet on a Thursday morning to join in prayer. We reflect on the readings of the day as well as sharing personal prayers. Each week a different member of staff leads the prayer. We offer prayer intentions each week.

## Friday Masses



We started to celebrate Mass again on Friday lunchtimes. The chapel was full for our first Mass of the year. Well done to our Year 7 students who came to read in the Mass. It was fantastic to see them participate in their first 3 days at our college. We would like to say a big thank you to Father Stephen for coming into college each week to celebrate Mass with us.



It has been lovely to see so many students celebrate Mass together each week. Students from Year 7 to Year 11 take an active part in the Mass each week with students volunteering to read the first reading and Psalm, as well as write and read the Bidding Prayers. The chapel is always full. The Catholic Life chaplains and Altar Servers have done a wonderful job of helping to set up for Mass each week.

All staff and students are reminded each week that all members of our community are welcome each week to celebrate Mass.

## Remember Queen Elizabeth II



we have spent a lot of time in College reflecting on the life of Queen Elizabeth II. In his assembly, Mr McClarey shared with students all of the historic events that have happened during her 70 year reign. We have been reminded that throughout everything she remained the one constant for our country. We have been reminded of her amazing

service she has given to our country throughout her 70 year reign. She worked 40-50 hour weeks and even worked up to the last week of her life at 96 years old.

"When I was 21, I pledged my life to the service of our people and I asked for God's help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgement, I do not regret, or retract, one word of it." Queen Elizabeth II

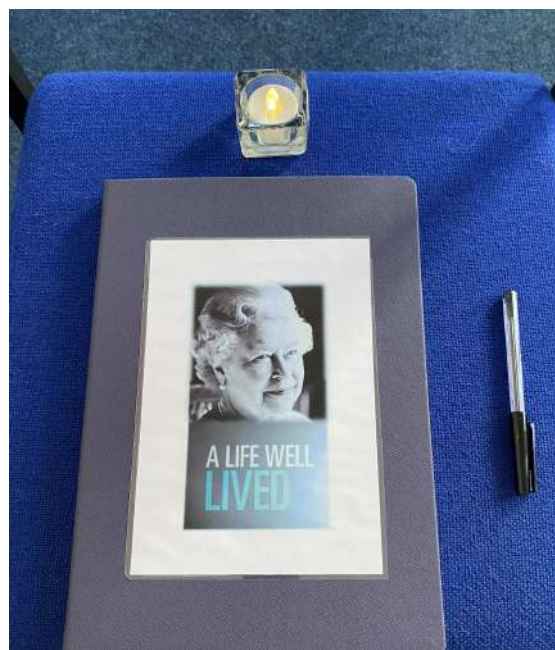
During our Tutor Time Collective Act of Worship we have been able to reflect on the life of Queen Elizabeth II. During her 70 year reign, Queen Elizabeth II met 5 Popes of the Catholic Church. As Head of the Church of England she was a role model for interfaith dialogue. Queen Elizabeth II reminded us constantly about how important her faith was to her:

"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian Gospel."

Queen Elizabeth II also showed us what it means to be a person of good character, reminding us that:

"For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. ...This love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach."

Students have been able to sign a Book of Condolences to show their respect to Queen Elizabeth II and her family.



## SVP

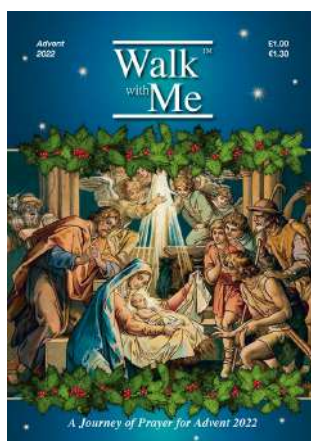


This term SVP has been working really hard. In the first half term they met to discuss how they can help with Open Evening. Members of the SVP group supported the RE department on Open Evening. They were real ambassadors for the College explaining the importance of SVP in our

College but also informing parents and prospective students about the RE curriculum. They also discussed how they can promote SVP. The SVP group has continued its links with the local SVP group with Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

The SVP group also took a leading role in collecting and collating the gifts for the Worcester Young Carers Christmas boxes. As a school we collected gifts for local young carers.

## Prayer Boards



Each classroom has a prayer board. This is a focal point during the daily Collective Act of Worship. The prayer board is updated regularly following the Liturgical Year. Each RE teacher also has a booklet that helps us to reflect on the lives of saints throughout the year. Members of staff and tutor groups not only display key information about the Liturgical Year and Catholic Life of the College, but also include personal items to help them to reflect and pray.

## Tutor Time Collective Act of Worship and Assembly

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

College Prayer

God our Father,  
You filled Blessed Edward Oldcorne  
with the strength and courage to be a  
witness to Christ,  
and in doing so he became a martyr.  
Grant us a share in that same strength,  
that we may daily take up our cross  
and follow you.  
Amen.

Blessed Edward Oldcorne - Pray for us

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

**THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

**CYCLE OF PRAYER**

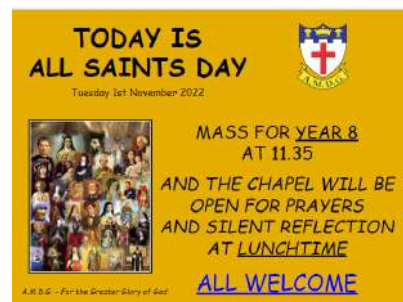
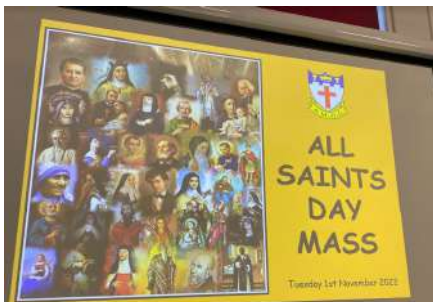
Please pray for the following intentions:

Openness to the Word of God,  
Migrants and Refugees and  
Expectant Mothers.

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

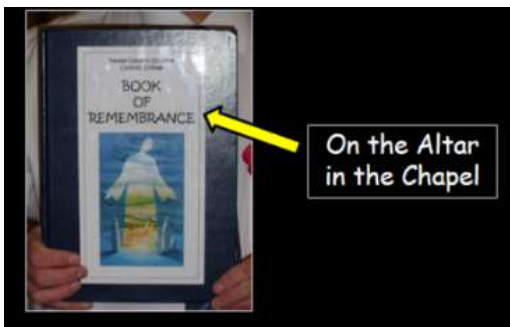
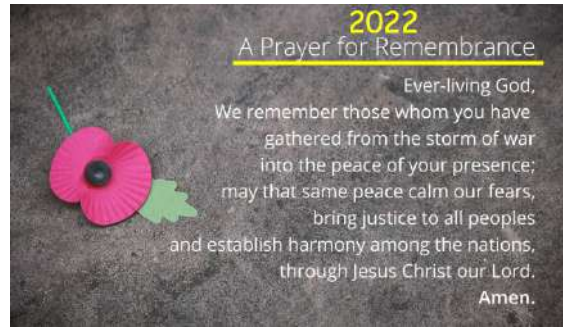
During the daily Collective Act of Worship each tutor group joins together in prayer. The prayers follow the Cycle of Prayer for the Liturgical Year. Each tutor group writes their own prayer intentions which are shared during the Collective Act of Worship. There is also the opportunity to reflect on the College virtues and how we can become people of good character. During the daily Collective Act of Worship students reflect on the life of Jesus, the lives of saints and historical events.

## All Saints Day Mass



Year 8 students celebrated All Saints Day Mass. The Mass was an opportunity to pray to the saints asking for their intercessions for us. Students were reminded that we should aim to live our lives like a saint, the goal set by Pope Benedict.

## Month of Remembrance



On 11th November at 11am we fell silent to remember all those who have given their lives during war. We listened to the Last Post and joined together in a Prayer for Remembrance. During the Remembrance Day assembly, Mr Jessop (Head of History) reminded us that those who have died in war are not just a number. He shared the stories of some of those who have died in war. These were people researched by the students who went on the Battlefields trip.

Throughout the month of November all members of the community were invited to record the names of a loved one they have lost in the Book of Remembrance. Each week in the Mass the names of those were offered up.

## St Bernadette Relics



In October, the relics of St Bernadette were welcomed into St Chad's Cathedral. Mr James and Mrs Guppy took a group of students to St Chad's Cathedral. Although they arrived before the relics, this was an opportunity for students to think about the importance of the visions of

Mary experienced by Bernadette in Lourdes as they toured the Cathedral. This was a really

important opportunity. As a school community we regularly go on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

## Class Masses

Year 7 have prepared and led their own Masses this half term. Students wrote Bidding prayers and created artwork to offer up during the Mass. Each class chose their own theme by exploring the readings of the day. Thank you to Fr Stephen for coming to college so regularly to celebrate Mass with us.

## The Season of Advent



During the Season of Advent throughout school the liturgical colour purple was present. The colour purple tells us this is a season of repentance. It is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus by thinking about the kind of people we are. The Nativity Scene was on display in the chapel and in the school foyer.

## Advent Liturgies



Each Monday throughout Advent



we began the school day with a candlelit Advent Liturgy. We joined together in the chapel and reflected on the theme of each week leading up to Christmas. We ended the service in song, singing Christmas Carols together.

## Reconciliation Services



Mr McCormack and Mrs Thomas led our Reconciliation Services. Students were encouraged to think about times they haven't always been people of good character in their thoughts, words and actions; the times we have hurt others; the times we haven't been kind to others; the times we have not shown respect to our parents. At the end of the services all members of the community were invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with our parish priests.

## Carol Service



On Thursday 15th December we celebrated our annual Christmas Carol Service. The choir shone as they led the carols. Year 11 students sang a new song composed by Mr Bryant and the staff choir sang to songs;

Listening to the readings and reflecting on the words of the carols are an important reminder of the real meaning of

Christmas - that God became human and was born in a manger, beginning his life on earth in a humble way. It was wonderful to be able to come together with parents and members of our community for the first time in three years for this special event.

## Outreach

Throughout the month of Advent we supported local and international communities.



Staff and students donated food that was given to vulnerable members of our local community.

£1000 raised for Father Hudson's Care, who support elderly people and people with dementia, disabled adults and refugees new to this area, parents who struggle to look after their families and children in need of foster carers.



In the lead up to the end of term, students from our SVP group have been helping organise and pack hampers for our Christmas appeal. Students have been bringing in items such as chocolates, gifts and toiletries that will be given to Young Carers in and around Worcester.

We have been blown away by people's generosity and support.



Staff and students raised £1237.99 by wearing non-uniform and Christmassy jumpers, for the [Worcestershire Ambassadors Foodbank Appeal](#), so they can provide a food parcel over Christmas to feed those individuals and families in need.





Zimbabwe Medical Centre Campaign Update: This year we were able to donate money towards their Christmas party for the disabled children of the village and surrounding areas. We also have contributed towards the cost of taxing the lorry that will be used to transport medical supplies to and from the medical centre. We filled the lorry with clothing and supplies here in England for the people of Nyandoro who are struggling more than



ever with the cost of living, and shipped it across to Zimbabwe.

