

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2023

Catholic Life Student Council

In February a student Chaplaincy group met to discuss and explore the different ways in which more students could become more involved in the Catholic Life of the school. We looked at what 'Catholic Life' in our college actually means, considering how it permeates not only Tutor Time, RE, worship and prayer, but also across the curriculum and in how we treat one another. We talked about some of the barriers to student involvement and how we might overcome these. The solutions discussed will be explored further and where possible introduced over the coming month. Some of the ideas included greater debate in lessons and form time, the introduction of different music and music genres, greater advertising and signposting of important events and activities involving Catholic Life. We will continue to meet on a termly basis and seek to involve more students over time.

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Shrine Visit

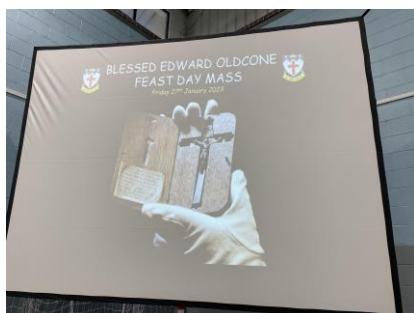


On Friday 27th January we celebrated the feast of our college patron, Blessed Edward Oldcorne. There were two Masses in school for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

In the afternoon, teachers and students from Blessed Edwards came together with students and the Head teacher from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, and parishioners from St George's and Our Lady Queen of Peace, at the place where Blessed Edward was martyred. This is marked by a small shrine on the top of Red Hill, Worcester. It was a wonderful liturgy led by Canon Brian McGinley, who also blessed the shrine with holy water. The group remembered the great sacrifice Blessed Edward made in 1606 in prayer and song.



Blessed Edward Oldcorne Feast Day



On January 27th 1606 Fr. Edward Oldcorne was captured and arrested at Hindlip Hall and in recognition our whole school community was able to celebrate the life of our school patron with two Masses for KS3 and KS4 proudly embracing the fact that we are the only school in the whole world called Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College.

Our 2023 Masses marked 417 years since the death of Blessed Edward Oldcorne and we were blessed with our wonderful choir, readers and altar servers all of whom enriched the services.



We are grateful to our college Chaplain Fr. Stephen and our Catholic Life Governor, Canon Brian McGinley for leading the services.

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Friday 27th January 6 students represented Blessed Edward Oldcorne College at the Holocaust Memorial Day Service at the Guildhall. The theme this year was Ordinary People and the service reminded us that it was ordinary people who were the victims, the perpetrators, the witnesses, the by-standers and the rescuers. Four Year 8 boys read a story about an ordinary man called Anton who helped save the lives of six Jews by hiding them for a year. Dr Mindu Hornick, a Holocaust survivor, told us her story about how ordinary people were involved in her persecution and how ordinary people gave her food and showed kindness to her. Revd Catherine Lack finished the service quoting Psalm 34 which reminds us to turn from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it.



In the week leading up to Holocaust Memorial Day each year group reflected on the theme 'Ordinary People' during the assembly Collective Act of Worship. Students thought about what life was like for Jewish people before the start of World War II and how they lived ordinary lives. They were people with family and friends, hopes and dreams, jobs, children who went to school. They also reflected on how ordinary people are still affected by genocides in the 21st Century.

School Foyer



Our school foyer always reminds us of the importance of the Liturgical Year. During the Season of Lent we were reminded that we are called to fast, pray and give alms. As we entered the Season of Easter we were reminded that Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin and defeated the power of death when he rose from the dead.

Secret Saints

Staff become secret saints during the Season of Lent. A secret saint looks after another member of staff secretly! It is an opportunity for us to get to know someone and find ways to look after them.



This could be buying a small gift to leave in their pigeon hole or simply making a cup of tea for them. Secret Saints gives us the opportunity to make someone else feel loved and special.



Stations of the Cross Liturgies

RE classes visited the chapel during Lent for the Stations of the Cross liturgy. Students reflected on the journey that Jesus took to his cross and the great sacrifice he made out of love for us. During the liturgy students were given an opportunity to reflect on their own lives, looking to courage and strength that Jesus had to help us when we are finding things difficult.

The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to death

There you stand before the crowd after being beaten. You never deny yourself, yet humbly accept the punishment given to you by those who had witnessed your miracles. It's easy to look at this scene now and think, 'How could they have accused you and condemned you to death? All you did was love every person you met.' Yet they are not alone in their condemnation of you.

Pause

How often do I ignore you at school in the person no one wants to talk to? How often do my words condemn you in the way that I speak about others? It was not only the Jews and Pontius Pilate who condemned you, but I stand next to them shouting just as loud, 'Crucify Him!'

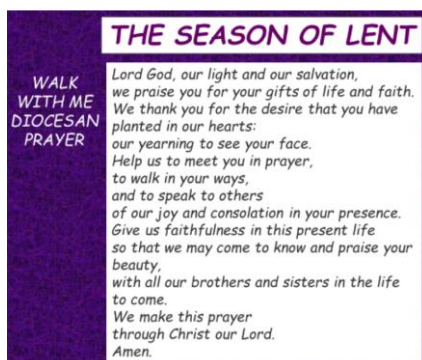
Pause

Jesus, forgive me for the ways in which I condemn and pierce others with my words and actions. Help me to love like you and to learn from your example.

Lenten Chapel Liturgies



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Each Monday morning during Lent staff and students gathered in the chapel for a Lenten Liturgy. The Liturgy helped us to focus on the key themes of Lent: fasting, praying and giving alms. They also helped us to reflect on the actions and messages of Jesus that important during Lent. During each Liturgy we prayed the Walk With Me Diocesan prayer together.

Lent Fast Day



On Friday 3rd March staff and students were encouraged to take part in the CAFOD Lent Fast Day by just having a bowl of soup for lunch and giving the money they would normally spend on lunch to one of our charity fundraisers.



Students were also given the opportunity to fast each Friday during Lent.

Day of Prayer for Vocations and Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

BLISSED BERNARDINI LITURGICAL CATHOLIC COLLEGE

DAY OF ADORATION BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday 17th March 2023

CHAPEL ROTA - RE CLASSES

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
9.20 - 9.40	Monksman Expositum 9A1 (EJ)	Abel Jellat - 7J & Abeyona Jolly - 7J
9.45 - 10.05	9A2 (AP)	
10.15 - 10.35	10A2 (GA)	Abigail Inghy - 7J & Dylan Walker - 7J
10.40 - 11.00	10A3 (EC)	
BREAK	Mr McCormack & Chaplaincy Prefects	
11.40 - 12.00	9B4 (SZ)	Bella Willis - 7L & Cenna Davies - 7L
12.05 - 12.25	9B1 (GA)	
12.35 - 12.55	9B5 (AP) Fr. Stephen - Benediction	Tristan Lord - 7J & Chloe Bell - 7J

Friday Lunchtime Mass - 1.30

Chaplaincy prefects are present in the chapel at all times throughout the day
A.H.B. - For the Director of God

Each year during the Season of Lent students have the opportunity to pray for vocations before the Blessed Sacrament. This year on Friday 17th March RE classes reflected on the importance of vocations to the priesthood as well as considering how they can discern their own vocations. Students reflected on the words of John Henry Newman thinking about how God has called each of us to some work.



Sacrament of Reconciliation



Students spent time reflecting on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the things in their lives that they are sorry for. Following the Reconciliation Services students have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from one of our three College Chaplain priests.

Fundraising throughout the Season of Lent



Throughout the Season of Lent our community has been supporting the following charities: Fr. Hudson's Care, CAFOD, Turkey/Syria Earthquake relief and St. David's Medical Centre in Zimbabwe.



fully involved in fundraising. The photos below show

Mr McCormack set the example of service to others during the Season of Lent by offering a free shoe shine to students.

This encouraged students to see the importance of serving others in their daily lives. Students were



the range of activities that students planned to support out Lenten Charities.



Easter Services



On the last day of the term students prepared spiritually for Holy Week and Easter through our Easter Services. Students spent time thinking about the events of the last week of Jesus' life and his suffering, death and resurrection. The Service was an

opportunity to reflect on the humanity and divinity of Jesus by thinking about his prayer to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane as well as his death, when the Roman Soldier said this man really was the Son of God. Students were reminded that in the Catholic Church Easter is not just one day but a Season.


LET US PRAY

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery.

Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole church throughout the world.

Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die and to rise again.

Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life. **Amen.**



Friday Masses



We would like to say a big thank you to our College Chaplain Fr Stephen for celebrating Mass with us each Friday at lunch time. It has been fantastic to see so many students join us each week for Mass. Thank you to the students who volunteer to read each week. We have readers representing different RE classes each week.

Class Masses

Our class Masses have continued this term with Year 8 preparing and leading the Masses. Students spend time in class reflecting on the readings of the day to pick a theme for their Mass. They then write Prayers of Intercession and create their own prayer intentions to offer up during the Mass. Students pick the music, altar serve and create artwork to present the theme of the Mass.

Staff Prayer

Every Thursday morning staff have the opportunity to meet and pray together in the chapel. Over the term we have reflected on the

Youth SVP

Each Thursday the Youth SVP group meets with Mrs Castle. This term they have collected Easter Eggs for the Feed the Hungry Campaign that one of the SVP members has been involved in. The Youth SVP also planned a bake sale to raise money for our Lenten Charity fundraiser.

Lourdes Launch

This year we have re-launched our pilgrimage to Lourdes for May 2024. We are very much looking forward to travelling to Lourdes to visit the site where Mary, the Mother of Jesus, appeared to the 12 year old girl Bernadette. If any students are interested in going on the pilgrimage to Lourdes please speak to Miss Parsons or Mrs Thomas.



Refugee Workshop



A selection of year 10 students had an amazing opportunity to attend a workshop run by the University of Worcester on the refugee experience at the Hive. Students partook in a series of activities to help them understand the reality of what refugees go through, from what it would be like to leave their home in a rush to the diet refugees are given in temporary camps. We also learned that there are a lot of young people that make up the refugee population and that some people can live in refugee camps for 18 years! Students found the experience to be very enlightening and will be sharing their experience with their fellow pupils in year 10.

Ramadan



During the month of Ramadan our Muslim students who are fasting are able to take part in daily prayers during break and lunch. We are very proud of all of our students who have fasted during Ramadan. They are great role models and witnesses to their faith.

Mr Tota's Charity Bike Ride



Mr Tota has given us an update on his charity bike ride:

"I left from the shrine of Blessed Edward Oldcorne, Red Hill, Worcester on my sponsored cycling pilgrimage to St Winifred's Well in Holywel on Wednesday 5th April. This is in support of Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College in Worcester who are raising £10,00 to build the Nyandoro Medical Centre in Zimbabwe. I arrived back at the shrine on Saturday 8th April after completing the 300 mile round trip. The extra miles were because I got lost in the Welsh hills.

I would like to thank and ask God's blessing on everyone who prayed for me and gave generous donations to this worthy cause. Up-to-date I have raised £2,100 for the Nyandoro Medical Centre.

However, my JustGiving page is still up and running and I can still receive donations should you wish to kindly give.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/francis-tota-2?utm_term=wddgQ8Rqj&fbclid=IwAR25wLEEct_cArgLAZWYzLv5QE-Jv4GEcj1YrZ6x7p1aIQIgfYc5jVg0XwE