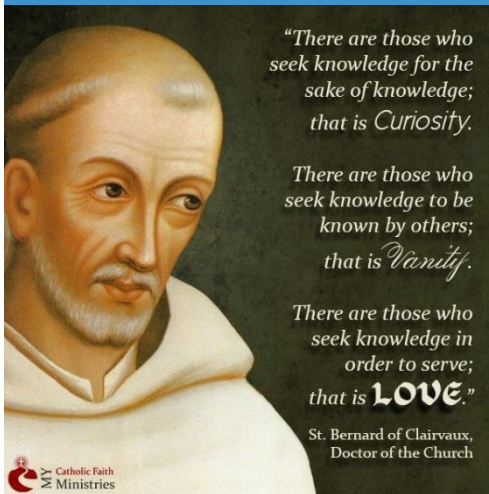


# Chaplaincy News

THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Saint John Henry Newman said: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught [*nothing*]. I shall do good, I shall do His work."



## LOOKING BACK TO ADVENT

2022 closed with the Advent Services which were led by the Sixth Form, Years 11, 10 and 9.

A lovely tradition at St Bernard's is when students gather on the Wooden staircase each Friday and light an Advent candle, sing '*Light the Candle*' and recite passages from the Gospel which relate to Advent.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT

February/March is a busy period for the Religious Life of the School as we anticipate the various events to mark Lent: reconciliation services and fund-raising for our Lenten Charities.

## FORM MASSES

Beginning in Lent, many of the Form Masses will be celebrated in our beautiful School Chapel. These Masses will be celebrated by diocesan priests, and every so often in St Helen's Church, as we continue to maintain our link with the St Helen's parish community.

## SHROVE TUESDAY

An exciting day much anticipated by all Forms; organised by the RS Department in conjunction with PE. Crepes are on the menu for Break and Lunch, and weather, notwithstanding, student form groups wear costumes and run delightful 'Pancake Races' with lots of encouragement from their cheerleaders.



## LENT

We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday. Students participate in two Ash Wednesday Services in the Bernadine Hall, at 11:30 am and 2:15 pm. Our priests this year will be Fr Alex and Fr Selvini.

## FORM RECONCILIATION SERVICES

These will be held in the Chapel and will be led and organised by the Sixth Form Liturgy House Captains during Registration. It is a peaceful and reverent way to begin each day during Lent. In anticipation of your moving services, thank you Liturgy Captains.

## THE YEAR OF SERVICE

### Working Towards...

Chaplaincy is hoping to put together House Masses with the Year of Service as a theme. With the cooperation of the PE Department (*thank you Ms Clarke!*) these will be held in the Bernadine Hall and will run on a Rota system after Easter. There are still some logistics to iron out, and as soon as these are in place, we will put out a notice on student and staff participation. The current thinking is to start the Mass at 8:50 with a 9:30 conclusion, thereby using up only a small portion of Period 1. It is hoped that the various Tutors will attend this Mass with their Forms, unless you are occupied elsewhere with a Period 1 lesson.

Monday: Year 7  
Tuesday: Year 8

Wednesday: Year 9  
Thursday: Year 10



Our students will once again be participating in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. Students will walk with Teachers/Form Tutors during

Lunch to the Seafront from St Bernard's to raise funds for CAFOD charitable Giving. This initiative, according to CAFOD:

*is to help families around the world to cope with the climate crisis. Communities are losing their loved ones, their homes, their crops, through no fault of their own. The people we serve are determined to adapt and they need your help now to get the tools and training they tell us they need*



**ST VINCENT'S CENTRE**  
Southend-On-Sea

Our YOUNG VINCENTIANS are being commissioned by Deacon Richard Cerson for their participation in the Young Vincentian's group. These energetic and enthusiastic students will begin their charity drive during Lent and will continue through the rest of the year, collecting non-perishable food and other seasonal items to fill the big **CHARITY BOX** which is located at the bottom of the wooden staircase.

All donations will be gratefully accepted. If your larder has a few items that you can put in the box, drop them off at any time. Parents, a perfect opportunity will present itself when you drop your daughter at school!

CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) is the official agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for domestic social action.

CSAN comprises over 40 Catholic charities and a growing number of Caritas Dioceses who work across England and Wales, providing support to families and children living in poverty, prisoners, victims of crime, refugees, older people, disabled people and travellers.

CSAN members are supported and drawn together into a mutually beneficial network by a small, dedicated national team based in London. This focuses on the strengthening, development and support of social action and social justice work in Catholic charities and Dioceses, and also on enabling the voice of their collective concerns to be raised with decision makers through CSAN's policy and advocacy work.

Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, CSAN works with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in England and Wales. [Source: Caritas.org]



Caritas has developed a Lenten Calendar for a daily contribution of one small useful item. These items will go into the SVP **CHARITY BOX** for donation to the homeless and vulnerable in Southend. All Forms will participate in this initiative.

## READING AND ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, at 6 pm Fr Paul Fox celebrated a **Commissioning Mass** which was attended by students and their parents at St Helen's Church. This Mass was to celebrate and honour our students who give so much of their time and energy to the Religious Life of the School, and to thank their parents for their support and encouragement for their daughter's endeavours. Fr Paul gave an inspiring Homily and blessed the badges, as he commissioned the students in these Ministries.



Whole School Religious Events	Future Dates
31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2023 Passion Masses for all year groups in the Bernadine Hall. We will have some important visitors from the Brentwood Diocese, including Bishop Alan.	21 <sup>st</sup> February - Pancake Races 22 <sup>nd</sup> February Ash Wednesday Services 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2023 - Mass of the Ascension

## Form Focus 8R – Ms Flaherty & Mrs Lebeter

Here is how 8R answered the question:  
*What does the Religious Life of the School mean to you?*

...it means sharing a prayer every morning to help prepare us for the day; having Mass/Assemblies to help bring us all together as a School.

...the prayer before every lesson calms us all down and is a very good way to start off a lesson.

...coming together as a group like when we say the morning prayer and the Angelus. Also doing activities like the Harvest banner. We formed a group to make it.

...we participate in Masses, say the Angelus every Friday during Period 2. The Masses help us to remember what Christ did for us and how much he sacrificed.

...it gives us time to honour God. For example, we take part in Mass, Assemblies and pray each morning and therefore reflect.

...it means helping others when in need; being kind to everyone; respecting the environment

...treat others how you want to be treated and *LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU*

*There were many more lovely comments, too numerous to add here. But, thank you 8R - What a special contribution you have made to this Newsletter.*

*Thanks to Ms Flaherty and Mrs Lebeter.*

## Year 7 Retreat 2023

Through the month of February and some days in March, Year 7 will be making their Annual Retreat to Walsingham House, Abbotswick, a Centre for day and weekend retreats. The grounds are very lovely and the students should have an opportunity to spend some time outdoors.

At Walsingham House the Retreat Leaders, some past students of St Bernard's, will spend a day with each Year 7 Form doing various activities connected to Gospel values. Year 7 will attend these retreats with their Form Tutor and have a wonderful day out.