

ROOTED IN FAITH

catholic salesian life and mission bulletin



NOVEMBER 2024

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The month of remembrance is a significant time for many around the world, offering an opportunity to honour and commemorate those who have sacrificed their lives for the greater good. It is a time to reflect on the courage and dedication of individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice for others' freedom and well-being. In the Christian tradition, this period is marked by **All Saints' Day** and **All Souls' Day**, celebrated on November 1st and 2nd, respectively. These days provide believers with a chance to pray for the souls of the departed, seeking to deepen their connection with Christ and find solace in the promise of eternal life. As we remember the fallen, it's also a chance to extend compassion and support to their families, acknowledging their loss and expressing gratitude for the lives that shaped our present.

DEATH - WHERE IS THY STING?



Death, as one of life's profound mysteries, affects all individuals, regardless of background or belief. For Catholics, death is not seen as an end but a transition, given the belief in the resurrection of Christ. This belief offers hope and comfort, suggesting that death is a passage to eternal life with God. The resurrection of Jesus is a cornerstone of Catholic faith, symbolizing victory over death and the promise of eternal life for believers. This hope can provide solace during times of grief, reinforcing the idea that death is part of a divine plan.

Dealing with personal grief is a deeply individual journey, but there are various ways that can help. Catholics might find comfort in prayer, seeking solace in the quiet conversation with God, and participating in the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, which reaffirms the promise of eternal life. Engaging with a supportive community, whether it be a church group or loved ones, can provide a network of empathy and understanding. Additionally, seeking guidance from spiritual leaders or counselors can aid in processing emotions and finding peace. Embracing the memory of the deceased through rituals, such as lighting candles or offering masses in their name, can also foster a sense of ongoing connection and honour their legacy.



Thursday, 24th October was a momentous day for Thornleigh, marking the commissioning of new student leaders in a ceremony that resonated with significance and community spirit. The event, attended by parents, staff, and students, was woven into the fabric of a special Mass, with Fr Steven delivering a thought-provoking homily that encouraged the leaders to lead by example. This call to action set the tone for the proceedings, highlighting the importance of integrity and responsibility in leadership. Mr. Fitzsimons had the honor of officially commissioning the leaders, while Fr Saju served as the main celebrant of the Eucharist, adding a spiritual depth to the occasion. More than 30 student leaders took the oath, affirming their commitment to serve their peers and school with dedication and enthusiasm. This ceremony not only celebrated the beginning of their leadership journey but also underscored the values and ethos that Thornleigh holds dear.

LEADERSHIP



PARISH LINKS

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME



The Confirmation Programme for St. Joseph's Deanery promises to be a transformative journey for over 60 candidates who gathered at Thornleigh Chapel on October 3, 2024. Over the course of eight months, these young individuals will engage in spiritual preparation, guided by the supportive community of Thornleigh School and local parishes. This period will be rich with opportunities for growth, reflection, and learning as they deepen their understanding of their faith. The culmination of their efforts will be celebrated on June 12, 2025, when Bishop John will anoint them in the sacrament of Confirmation, affirming their commitment to their spiritual path. This significant milestone marks not only a personal achievement for the candidates but also strengthens the bonds within their faith community, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Holy Father has declared that 2025 will be designated as a Year of Jubilee, a significant event that occurs every 25 years. The theme for this Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope," emphasizing a message of hope for a world grappling with the ramifications of war, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee commenced during Advent 2023, marking the initiation of a year dedicated to prayer. The Bishops' Conference will develop resources to support this preparatory year, focusing on the Our Father and providing insights on the significance of Jubilee within the Catholic Church.

These resources will be accessible to parishes, priests, religious communities, and laypeople, serving as guidance as we prepare for this pivotal year in the life of the Church.

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>



LOCAL PARISHES MASS TIMING

Parish of Corpus Christi
(St John the Evangelist, St Columba's, & St Brendan's)
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 5pm Vigil Mass (SB)
Sundays - 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)

Parish of Blessed Dominic Barberi
(St Teresa's, St Osmund's)
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 5pm Vigil Mass (SO)
Sundays - 9.30am Mass (St) 11am Mass (SO)

St Cuthbert
(St Joseph's and St Thomas of Canterbury)
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm Vigil Mass (ST)
Sundays - 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (ST)

St. Edmund and St. Patrick Catholic Parish
Mass Timing: Sundays - 10am Mass (SP) 11.30am Mass (SP)

The Holy Infant and St Anthony Parish
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Sundays - 10am Mass



SALESIAN NEWS SALESIAN WORK IN GREECE

The announcement by Fr. Alfred Maravilla, General Councillor for the Missions, marks an exciting new chapter for the Salesians as they establish their newest mission in Greece, emphasizing a continued commitment to their mission in Europe. This development, highlighted by the establishment of the first Salesian community taking pastoral responsibilities in the parish of Pagos on Santorini, and youth ministry duties across Syros, Santorini, and Crete, signifies a strategic expansion into new territories. The move underscores the Congregation's dedication not only to maintaining its existing presences but also to nurturing new opportunities for growth and outreach within Europe. Fr. Maravilla's personal reflection on this initiative stresses the importance of dreaming about and realizing new possibilities, showcasing the dynamic and forward-thinking spirit of the Salesians as they embark on this new endeavor.

GREECE



In October, as the Year 7 students acclimatized to secondary school, the RE Department and Chaplaincy organized a mini-retreat and visit to Thornleigh Salesians House. This mini-retreat emphasized on mental well-being and the Salesian ethos of RUAH - Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour - principles that underpin the school's daily life.

During the visit to Thornleigh House, students explored the origins of the Salesian community that has thrived for nearly a century in educating young people through their ministry. Fr. Michael guided them through the history of Thornleigh, interweaving his personal experiences and reflections. Additionally, the Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit Don Bosco Publications and the Head Office of the Salesians of Don Bosco charity in the UK.





RE Curriculum Updates



In RE this term students at KS3 continued to follow the new Religious Education Curriculum directory and are studying the topic 'Prophecy & Promise'. In this topic students are exploring different scripture both from the Old and New Testament and making links to how this is relevant in their lives today. Throughout this topic students will explore the lives of prophets including both biblical and modern day prophets as well as how they can make a difference in the world today.



In year 10 students are continuing with Catholic Christianity and are focusing on Catholic practices. In year 11 students will be beginning the final paper where they study Judaism. As we prepare for Advent students in KS4 will also have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.

In Sixth form our students continue with their Core RE studies where they are exploring what it means to say that life is holy and the importance and value of life.

CHAPLAINCY

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERFAITH WEEK	10th November - 17th November 2024
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Sunday 10th November 2024 Parents/ Carers are welcome @11am
SAVIO RETREAT	Monday 11th - Friday 15th Nov 2024
RED WEDNESDAY	Wednesday 20th November 2024
PENSIONER'S PARTY	Thursday 12th December 2024
BOSCEP CAROL SERVICE	Monday 16th December 2024
CAROL SERVICE	Wednesday 18th December 2024 Parents/ Carers are welcome @6pm
CHRISTMAS MASS	Tuesday 24th December 2024 Parents/ Carers are welcome @7pm

flame 2025

Flame 2025 is a Catholic youth event that will take place on Saturday 15th March, 2025 at Wembley Arena. The event is open to young people from secondary school through to university age. The theme for Flame 2025 is "Unstoppable: Fan the Flame of Hope". Thornleigh will be there to participate in the event.



FORM PATRON SAINT

Carlo Acutis (May 3, 1991 – October 12, 2006) was an Italian web designer renowned for his documentation of Eucharistic miracles and approved Marian apparitions, which he catalogued on a website he created prior to his death from leukemia. Acutis was distinguished by his **cheerful disposition, exceptional computer skills, and profound devotion to the Eucharist**, which became a central theme throughout his life.

He was beatified by Pope Francis on October 10, 2020. Following the confirmation of a second miracle attributed to Acutis's intercession in May 2024, Pope Francis approved the continuation of the canonization process in July 2024. The date for his canonization has yet to be announced.



Form Patron Saints

ACUTIS
BAHKITA
GORETTI
DEVEREUX
ZATTI

KOLBE
TERESE
SAVIO
LAURA
OSCAR



Bl Acutis - Form Patron for Alpha

"All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies."





Thornleigh Personal and Spiritual Development

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



The new week begins with Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel, offering a serene moment to pray and reflect in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord. This sacred time allows staff to pause and center themselves before the busyness of the week takes hold. It's an opportunity to seek spiritual nourishment, express gratitude, and find peace amidst the chaos of daily life.

EVERY MONDAY
8.15 AM
 CHAPEL

STAFF MORNING REFLECTION



Growing together rooted in faith is more than just a shared experience; it's a profound journey that binds individuals through a common spiritual foundation. The staff morning reflection serves as an essential space where team members can come together, listen to inspired stories, share personal reflections, and engage in prayer. It's a beautiful way to ensure that work is not just about productivity, but also about nurturing the soul and supporting one another through life's challenges.

EVERY MONDAY
8.30 AM
 CHAPEL

PASTORAL SHARING



Every week, students from each year group have the opportunity to participate in pastoral sharing or personal development assemblies at the start of each weekday, from Monday through Friday. These assemblies are thoughtfully organized by the Personal Development team, which is dedicated to fostering a supportive and growth-oriented environment.

EVERY MONDAY
8.40 AM
 CHAPEL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



Every week, students gather for the afternoon Celebration of the Word, an event that brings the entire school community together. These assemblies are meticulously planned and prepared in advance by various departments and form groups, with the support of the staff and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Each SLT member plays a crucial role in leading the assembly, bringing the program to life with engaging animations and thoughtful presentations.

MON, TUE, WED
12.35 PM - 1.35PM
 CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY MASS



At Thornleigh, the Eucharist stands as the heart and pinnacle of our community's spiritual life. Every week, we hold a special midweek Mass that invites both staff and students to gather in unity, reflecting on their faith and offering personal intentions and prayers.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
8.00 AM
 CHAPEL

THURSDAY MASS



At Thornleigh, the practice of praying together and deepening one's faith is seamlessly woven into daily life. The Eucharist, a central part of this spiritual journey, is celebrated with active participation from all members. Each form, or group, takes turns engaging in various roles such as reading scriptures, offering bidding prayers, and presenting the offertory.

EVERY THURSDAY
12.35 PM OR 1.05 PM
 CHAPEL

FRIDAY SACRED TIME



"Sacred Time" on Fridays is a wonderful initiative that allows the entire school to pause and engage in moments of silence, reflection, and prayer. This dedicated period not only fosters a sense of calm and mindfulness among students and staff but also provides a unique opportunity for personal and collective growth. During this time, a prepared reflection is offered to guide thoughts and meditations, ensuring a shared experience across the school.

EVERY FRIDAY
FORM TIME
 FORM ROOMS

GIFT LEADERSHIP TEAM



Gift Leaders serve a pivotal role in fostering the Catholic ethos within the school community. They actively engage in leading liturgies, ensuring that religious services are meaningful and inclusive for all students. Additionally, they take the helm in organizing and conducting assemblies, creating opportunities for reflection, celebration, and community bonding. Their efforts extend to charity drives, where they inspire and mobilize the school to participate in acts of kindness and generosity, embodying the principles of Catholic social teaching.

FRIDAY
2.35 PM - 3.05PM
 CHAPLAINCY

CAFOD LEADERS



The Young Leadership Programme, exclusively available to Year 12 students, offers a unique opportunity to be specially trained by CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). Through this program, participants will develop essential leadership skills, empowering them to become the Charity Leaders within their school. These young leaders will play a pivotal role in promoting and supporting various charitable causes, fostering a spirit of compassion and social responsibility among their peers.

EVERY THURSDAY
8.15 AM
 CHAPLAINCY

CHAPLAINCY CLUB



On Mondays, students have a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate, and grow in a supportive and engaging environment. Hosted by the Salesian Volunteers, this weekly gathering is open to all students and offers a mix of little tasks, fun games, and interactive activities designed to foster camaraderie and personal development.

EVERY MONDAY
3.15 PM
 CHAPLAINCY

FAITH IN ACTION



The Faith in Action Award is a commendable initiative designed to recognize and celebrate young individuals who demonstrate a profound commitment to serving others within their local and broader communities. This award not only acknowledges their selfless contributions but also encourages them to grow spiritually through their acts of service and sharing. By participating in various projects and outreach programmes, these young people embody the true essence of faith in action, fostering a sense of compassion, empathy, and social responsibility.

ONCE A WEEK
DURING RE LESSON
 RE DEPARTMENT

ST FRANCIS ASSISI CLUB



Caring for every creature on Earth is a noble pursuit, and students have a unique opportunity to experience this through looking after guinea pigs. This activity not only teaches responsibility and empathy but also serves as a calming and therapeutic experience. The hands-on experience of feeding and nurturing guinea pigs can foster a deeper appreciation for all living beings and highlight the importance of compassion and stewardship in our daily lives.

EVERYDAY
MORNING BREAK & LUNCH BREAK
 ST FRANCIS GARDEN

YOUTH SVP



The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has set a commendable vision to inspire young people through the transformational experience of volunteering and leadership. By engaging in meaningful service, young individuals are provided with opportunities to develop their skills, build confidence, and make a positive impact on their communities. SVP creates a life-changing, safe, and supportive environment where these emerging leaders can flourish.

EVERY THURSDAY
8.15 AM
 RE DEPARTMENT



"It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved."