

# ROOTED IN FAITH

catholic salesian life and mission bulletin



DECEMBER 2024

 @thornleigh

[www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk](http://www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk)

@tsc\_re



## STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Once upon a time, many years ago, there lived a girl named Mary and Joseph in the town of Nazareth. One day an angel called Gabriel appeared and said to Mary and Joseph that they will soon give birth to the saviour who will save their people from all sins. She said to name him Jesus as he will be God's son. Joseph wakes up the next morning and gets married to Mary with keeping her dignity intact.

Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem, a city far away from Nazareth. It took them several days to reach Bethlehem. Mary was about to give birth to a baby and they did not have any place to rest, so they decided to stay in a barn, a place where sheep and cows lived. They lived in the barn for the whole night and that night Jesus was born. Jesus did not have any crib but he was laid on a manger immediately after his birth. Manger is a place from where animals eat hay.

The shepherds of Bethlehem saw an angel on the outskirts of the city, they were surprised to see the angel. The angel told them about the birth of their Messiah who was lying the manger in the barn. The shepherds immediately rushed to the barn, they were surprised and happy the family.

This is how Jesus – the Son of God was born and we happily celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Jesus.



### Some Advent & Christmas Activities

- Crib Making (Nativity Scene)
- Advent Wreath Making
- DIY Christmas Cards
- Christmas Cookie Baking
- Christmas Caroling
- Advent Calendar Countdown
- Christmas Movie Days
- Christmas Crafts
- Christmas Tree Decorations
- Christmas Playlist
- Organise a Secret Santa
- Attend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Mass, and so on.



## Advent

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.



The season of Advent is a profound and meaningful time in the Christian calendar, offering a chance for school community to come together in anticipation of Christmas. This period, which spans the four weeks before Christmas, is an opportunity to cultivate values such as patience, hope, and spiritual readiness among students, teachers, and families. Engaging in activities like lighting the Advent wreath, participating in community charity projects, and sharing stories of hope and joy can deepen the understanding of Advent themes. These shared experiences not only honour an important religious tradition but also strengthen the bonds within the community, fostering a sense of unity and anticipation. As Advent leads us toward Christmas, it reminds us to reflect on the light and love that guide us through challenges, inviting us to **nurture hope and extend peace** to those around us. This season encourages us to embrace the spirit of giving and gratitude, supporting each other with kindness and understanding. **May this time fill your homes with joy, your hearts with hope, and your lives with peace.** As we enter the new year, let us carry forward these gifts, continuing our journey as a community united in hope and peace.

*Warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas  
and a hopeful New Year.*

**advent - journey into hope & peace**





# PARISH LINKS

## CELEBRATE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR PARISH CHURCH

### Parish of Corpus Christi

(St John the Evangelist, St Columba's, & St Brendan's)

Christmas Vigil - 4pm (SB), 6pm (SJ)

Christmas Day - 9.30am (SJ), 11am (SB)

### Parish of Blessed Dominic Barberi

(St Teresa's, St Osmund's)

Christmas Vigil - 5pm (ST), 11.45pm Carol Singing & Mass (SO)

Christmas Day - 9am (ST), 11am (SO)

### St Cuthbert

(St Joseph's & St Thomas of Canterbury)

Christmas Vigil - 5.30pm (SJ), 8pm (ST)

Christmas Day - 9.30am (SJ) 11.15am (ST)

### St. Patrick Catholic Parish

Christmas Vigil - 6pm Mass

Christmas Day - 10.30am

### The Holy Infant & St Anthony Parish

Christmas Vigil - 7.30pm

Christmas Day - 10am

The Bolton Catholic community warmly invites everyone to join in the celebration of Christmas across its various parishes, embracing the spirit of unity and joy. This festive season offers a wonderful opportunity for families, young and old alike, to come together in reflection and gratitude for the birth of Jesus Christ. Each parish in Bolton hosts unique services and events, designed to foster a sense of belonging and spiritual renewal. Whether you are a lifelong member of the church or a curious newcomer, you are welcome to participate in the heartwarming traditions and festivities. Let this Christmas be a time of joy, peace, and togetherness, as we gather to celebrate the profound message of love and hope that the season embodies.

### 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

#### NEW SAINT TO THE SALESIAN FAMILY SR MARIA TRONCATTI FMA

Blessed Maria Troncatti's journey to sainthood is a testament to her unwavering dedication and faith. Born in 1883 in Italy, she embraced her religious calling after being inspired by the Salesian Bulletin, joining the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in 1908. Her early years were marked by service during World War I, where she honed her skills in healthcare as a Red Cross nurse. A life-changing vow to the Virgin Mary during a flood led her to dedicate her life to missionary work, eventually bringing her to Ecuador in 1922. There, she immersed herself in the challenging mission of evangelizing the Shuar people. Known as the "doctor of the jungle," she made significant contributions to healthcare and education, empowering women and fostering community reconciliation.

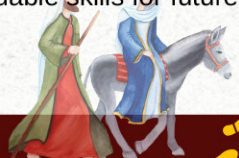


Her selfless efforts in Macas and other villages were driven by a deep love and commitment to human dignity and spiritual growth. Maria's legacy continues to inspire, as her canonization process advances, following the recognition of a miracle attributed to her intercession. Her life remains a beacon of faith, resilience, and service to others.



# SAVIO

The Savio Retreat for Year 7 students during the week starting November 11th was a remarkable experience, fostering reflective learning and personal growth. Divided into two groups, the young participants were encouraged to contemplate the concept of building bridges - both in their personal lives and in their interactions with others. This metaphor served as a guiding principle throughout the retreat, inspiring students to forge positive connections and maintain constructive relationships. Through a variety of themes and activities, the retreat emphasized self-discovery and mutual understanding, allowing students to better know themselves and each other. This enriching experience not only strengthened bonds among the students but also equipped them with valuable skills for future interactions.



advent - journey into hope & peace



# RE Curriculum Updates



Happy Feast of Immaculate Conception on 8th December

This half term our year 11 students completed their first assessment in the hall covering four topics that they will be examined on in the summer. Our students showed great resilience and hard work both in the lead up to and during their assessment.

As we move into December and into the season of Advent our students have been preparing for their reconciliation service. All students in years 10 & 11 will have the opportunity to receive the sacraments of reconciliation as part of their work in RE.



<b>PENSIONER'S PARTY</b>	Thursday 12th December 2024
<b>BOSCEP CAROL SERVICE</b>	Monday 16th December 2024
<b>CAROL SERVICE</b>	Wednesday 18th December 2024 Parents/ Carers are welcome @6pm
<b>CHRISTMAS MASS</b>	Tuesday 24th December 2024 Parents/ Carers are welcome @7pm
<b>MISSION WEEK 2025</b>	Monday 27th - Friday 31st January 2025

Born in Olgossa in the Darfur region of southern Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate*. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. Two years later, he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona), where she assisted her religious community through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and welcoming visitors at the door. She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

The first steps toward her beatification began in 1959. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized eight years later.

FORM PATRON SAINT



Remembrance Sunday



RED Wednesday



Family Fast Day

**BI BAHKITA - Form Patron for Beta**  
"The whole of my life has been God's gift."



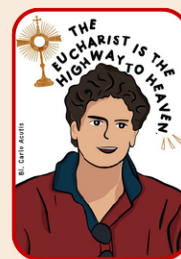
## flame 2025

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".

**Confirmation candidates and Thornleigh students who would like participate in the event please contact Chaplaincy.**



<https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>



The London-born teenager nicknamed "God's influencer" for his online skills will be made a saint on 27th April 2025. Carlo Acutis, who died of leukaemia in 2006 at the age of 15, will be the first millennial - a person born in the early 1980s to late 1990s - to be canonised by the Catholic church. The teenager has also been labelled "the patron saint of the internet" for his work recording miracles online and running websites for Catholic organisations.





# 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 - 1.35 PM  
 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 - 3.05 PM  
 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  
1.05 PM  
 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  
1.05 PM  
 RE DEPARTMENT



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