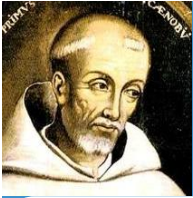


Chaplaincy News

THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



If you should see a starving man standing with mouth open to the wind, inhaling draughts of air as if in hope of gratifying his hunger, you would think him lunatic. But it is no less foolish to imagine that the soul can be satisfied with worldly things which only inflate it without feeding it.
(St Bernard of Clairvaux)

Year of Mercy

Pope Francis says this on mercy: With our eyes fixed on Jesus and his merciful gaze, we appreciate the love of the most Holy Trinity. Everything in Him speaks of mercy. Nothing in Him is devoid of compassion.

(Pope Francis. *Misericordiae Vultus* 8)



FIRST HALF TERM

Year 7 had their Harvest Mass and St Bernard's marked Family Fast Day with a Soup & Roll lunch. Through parent donations and soup & roll, we donated £1,246.00 – Thank you to our Parents/Carers for their generosity!

FORM MASSES

These have continued since the start of the year and we began with Year 11. We will next move on to the next form group, which is Year 7. What is noteworthy here is that students read, serve and prepare for these Masses with the help of the Liturgy Prefect, the Chaplain and Tutors. These all help by spending a Registration period in the Chapel in preparation for the Masses.

SOME GOOD NEWS! YOUTH CHAPLAINCY

St Bernard's now has a **Youth Chaplaincy Team** which includes all Liturgy Prefects, Altar Servers and Readers. This group of students will, over the next few months, begin to manage, under the guidance of the Chaplain, the various Liturgical and non-Liturgical religious events which take place in the School and Chapel. Some of these are:

- Leading Morning Prayer
- Rosary
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Playing a role in whole-school Masses
- Organizing and implementing charity events
- Preparing the Chapel for Advent and Lent

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Chaplaincy calendar has several events coming up soon (see below). These are:

- **Advent Services** which will be celebrated during the Season. These will be led by the Youth Chaplaincy Team.
- **Confessions** in the Chapel on Tuesday at 2:15 pm during Advent.
- **Voluntary Mass** in the Chapel to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, for all Mothers in the St Bernard's Family, on 8th December at 8:45 am.
- **School Carol Service** 20th December.

WORKING TOWARDS

- **House Masses** in January 2024.
- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in January 2024



Safe Steps-The Dove Project

St Bernard's will once again be undertaking a Toy Drive

for children and mothers who are victims of domestic abuse.

Form year groups will be asked to collect toys and gifts to be distributed on Christmas day to the residents of *Safe Steps* to make this day special despite their personal circumstances. We would like to start collecting these gifts as soon as possible so it is not asking too much of our St Bernard's families as Christmas draws nearer. A letter has been sent to Parents/Carers letting them know of these events.

Below is the breakdown of gifts per year group:

Year 7.....Babies
Year 8.....Toddlers
Year 9.....Adolescents
Years 10 & 11.....Early Teens
Years 12 & 13.....Mums

Also think about lotions, perfumes and things Mums like!!



ST VINCENT'S CENTRE
Southend-On-Sea

Food Bank

We now have a permanent Food Bank set-up for St Vincent's Centre Kindness Kitchen.

This is located outside the Library, and we will be collecting food every two weeks. This will be taken over to the **Kindness Kitchen** for feeding the hungry and in many cases, homeless people who populate some of the streets in Southend and surrounding places. Just a reminder: non-perishable food stuffs and toiletries are very much appreciated. It is hoped that by the end of the school year, the box will be over-flowing.

Christmas Hampers

Letters have been sent to Parents/Carers for donations for St Vincent's Christmas Hampers. Please check the list for items needed. All donations to St Vincent's Centre by 5th December.

Sister Focus

Sisters at St Bernard's who are following in the tradition of 'giving back' and part of our **Youth Chaplaincy Team**. Always willing to help and put themselves forward, **ChiChi (9F)** and **Ifunanya (11M) Okoli** and **Keavy (11M)** and **Aisling Dodd (8M)** are active and enthusiastic members of our Youth Chaplaincy Team. They contribute in their own ways to the Religious Life of the School. ChiChi, Ifanauya and Keavy as part of the Reading Ministry and Aisling, the Altar Serving Ministry. A credit to both the School and their parents, these students, like all the members of the Youth Chaplaincy Team, can be counted upon to live out our School's motto, and put into practice the message of serving others. Thank you ChiChi, Ifunanya, Keavy and Aisling, you are super stars!

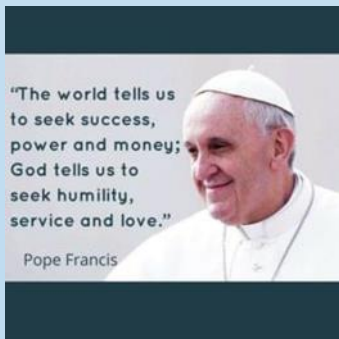


Advent Services

On 30th November at 1: 30 pm we have our first Advent Service. This year, students from Year 11M are organizing these events -- a truly unique St Bernard's experience. Students from all year groups meet on the wooden staircase and read passages from the Gospel and sing verses of the sweet hymn "Light the Advent Candle" written by American Roman Catholic folk-musician, Mary Lucille (Mary Lu) Walker (1926-2012). This will be followed by Advent Week 2 and 3 on succeeding Fridays. All students and Staff are welcome to attend.



*“Centred on Christ, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, our vision for the nations of England and Wales is of a civilization of **love, solidarity and justice**, where the dignity of every human being is respected and upheld; where every person can flourish and live in peace and freedom as part of one human family; where there is no exclusion, discrimination, or de-humanising poverty; where the voices of the women, men and children in the most vulnerable situations are listened to, discerned, and inform action; where everyone is encouraged to contribute to the common good.”*



The ACN is hosting their first Annual **#ACN Red Wednesday** Schools' Masses. Celebrant is Mgr. Timothy Menezes from the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

St Bernard's will be joining with Schools across the Birmingham Diocese and ACN member schools to pray for persecuted Christians and those in pastoral need.

All schools participating in this event will have a unique opportunity for learn about the **#ACN Red Wednesday Challenge**. This will be an ideal time to link everyone's prayers, and learn about those people supported by ACN and how the Schools in England Wales can fundraise to support them in their times of extreme need.

Live Streaming: 11:00-12:00 (Venue TBA) Make this ACN #RedWednesday the biggest and best yet as you **#breakthesilence** on Christian persecution and become a voice for the voiceless.

Seven Catholic Social Teaching Principles

Creation & Environment

Peace

The Common Good

Option for the Poor

Solidarity

Workers Dignity & Rights

Dignity of the Hman Person

Wednesday	01/11/2023	All Saints Solemnity	11:30 AM	Fr Selvini	BH1
			2:15 PM	Fr Paul	BH1
Friday	30/11/23	Advent Service 1	1:30 PM	No Priest	Wooden Staircase
Friday	8/12/2023	Voluntary Mass - Immaculate Conception	8:45 AM	Fr Selvini	Chapel
Friday	08/12/2023	Advent Service 2	1:30 PM	No Priest	Wooden Staircase
Friday	15/12/2023	Advent Service 3	1:30 PM	No Priest	Wooden Staircase
Wednesday	20/12/2023	School Carol Service		No priest	BH1