

## Chaplaincy Bulletin – Issue 12

**“Living and learning together as a Catholic community in Christ: religion, reason and kindness are at the heart of our ethos through education.”**

**Year 8 Retreat** – From Wednesday 8th of June to Friday 10th June, 30 year 8 students will have the opportunity to travel to St. Vincent’s Centre, Whitstable for a residential retreat. The students are given an opportunity to take time out from the routine pressures of everyday life to reflect on themselves, their relationship with others and their relationship with God.

The programme includes large and small group work, discussion, prayer, liturgy, communal games, social time and outings to the seaside and bowling. A full list of students and accompanying staff will be sent out nearer the time.

**Good Samaritan Mass** – We have been invited by Archbishop Peter Smith to the inaugural ‘Good Samaritan’ Mass, which relates to a new initiative of the Diocesan Education Commission and the Catholic Children’s Society. It is the intention to gather pupils and staff from Catholic Secondary Schools across the Diocese together on Tuesday 26th April at 11am at St. George’s Cathedral. The focus, particularly poignant during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, will be to celebrate the kindness and generosity that our students show in giving to different charitable causes. The chaplain will accompany some students to represent our college at this Mass.

**Chaplaincy Display board** – The display board has been changed again to represent the season of Lent. Please encourage students to have a look at the board and reflect on their own Lenten journey.

**Reconciliation Services** – Every Lent we are encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and so at St. Michael’s we ensure that every student has that opportunity. Every Thursday in Lent we have between 7-10 priests in the hall for our reconciliation services. We feel that this is a perfect opportunity to experience God as our merciful Father and receive his forgiveness. Last week year 9 plus two year 11 classes were in the service and feedback from both students and clergy was very positive. Year 10 are the final year group to take part on Thursday.

**Self Esteem Workshops** – The college identified a group of year 7 students who they thought would benefit from attending some workshops on self esteem. Our school nurse runs these sessions and the chaplain assists. The feedback from students has been very positive as it helps them to develop techniques, and challenges the way they view themselves and those around them. We will have one final session after half term.

**24 Hours with the Lord** – To tie in with “24 hours with the Lord” where churches around the world prayed with the Pope with Adoration for 24 hours, We had Adoration/Lightfever in our chapel over lunch time on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. It was a beautiful experience with quite a few students taking time out of their busy day to sit and spend time with the Lord and to light a candle for their special intentions. Our next Lightfever will be Friday 22nd April.

**Mercy Prayer** – To help mark the year of Mercy, our chaplaincy team wrote a mercy prayer which was used in the reconciliation services. This was then given out to most students as they left. There are more copies available if any students missed out.

