## Chaplaincy Bulletin – Issue 1



- Reconciliation Services The services are going well and there has been a positive response from priests and students. We had as many as 10 priests who came and celebrated with us. The next services will be Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March Year 9 and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March Year 13 &11
- **Easter Assembly** There will be an Easter assembly on the last day of term similar to the style at Christmas. This year we will be focusing on Modern day Suffering. More details to follow.
- Good Shepherd Mass On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 9 students will represent St. Michael's College at the "Good Shepherd" Mass at Westminster Cathedral. This has been organised by the Catholic Children's Society. PWE and CGA will accompany them.
- Friday Morning Mass As always, Mass will be celebrated at 8am in our chapel every Friday morning. 8RU will be helping to prepare the Mass for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- Lightfever Once a month we hold a special prayer time in the chapel. Students and staff are invited to come and pray and light a candle in front of "The Blessed Sacrament" (Jesus). The next Lightfever is 20<sup>th</sup> March All staff and students are welcome. 12.30 1.15pm
- Assemblies This week is Science and Engineering week. The Science department will be leading assemblies in the hall. CME will be leading assemblies for the week before Easter.
- Chaplaincy Team meeting The chaplaincy team meet every Monday after school. They are made up of students from Year 13, 10, 9, 8 &7. At the moment they are focussing on helping to promote Mass and Lightfever as well as helping with displays and assemblies.
- **Break time Mass group** The chaplaincy team are available in the chapel every Friday break time to stamp the reward cards that they created for Mass goers. They also hand out sweets to those who have attended and chat informally and answer any questions.
- Friday Choir Fridays after school has now been devoted to choir rehearsal. This choir is working towards the Easter service.
- Chaplaincy Board The board outside the double doors to music is the designated chaplaincy board. On here we have notices and reflections which change regularly. At the moment the display is focussed on Lent and fasting and forgiveness. This will change after Easter to a message of Hope and New Life.
- VIDES VIDES is a Salesian based youth group for students in year 7 & 8. It is held on a Friday after school and led by the chaplaincy team. This will start after Easter. More details to follow.

## Flame 2 – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015

"The Flame is lit!" St Michael's were lucky enough to have been able to be represented by a group of 18 students along with the chaplain to Flame 2 - the largest National Catholic Youth event of 2015, which took place in the SSE Arena, Wembley.

The arena was filled with 8,000 young people from across the country, receiving faith-filled inspiration from world class speakers, including Cardinal Luis Tagle from Manila, Philippines; Baroness Sheila Hollins; Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP; and David Wells. A highlight for many of the students was being able to witness bursts of input from a range of different faith-inspired talks, Francisca (Year 10) said that these "moments of silence throughout really helped me to reflect upon the day's themes."

Having these talks interspersed with world class drama and music; and worship being led by double Grammy award winning Matt Redman and his band created an atmosphere full of joy which was perfectly complimented by a time of Adoration towards the end of the day led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols – Daniel (Year 13) was particularly inspired by this as he said, "Charismatic worship and Adoration were new experiences for me that I'm surprised I enjoyed, and want to do more of."

All students were filled with joy in a way that the school has never seen before; they were full of songs, laughter and choral chatter on the train home, a concluding statement from Monica (Year 13) confirms this: "It was such an amazing faith-centred day, being around so many other joyful Catholic young people really just made it great!"

Steve (Year 10) "In one word: brilliant. The worship and music was the best part."

## 8HE Mass – Friday 13th March 2015

This week mass was prepared by 8HE. The chaplaincy team worked with the form tutors and a selection of students who helped out by reading, writing their own bidding prayers, bringing up the offertory and selecting the hymns sung. Each week the team help to assist pupils in organising the different roles for everyone, set up the chapel, and are on hand to practice with students to make them more confident readers and help them understand what the celebration of Mass means. The team also go round to form groups weekly to promote Mass and other chaplaincy events As well as handing out the "Wednesday Word" to all of year 7.

## **Preparation for reconciliation**

The RE Dept and Chaplain have been working together to prepare the students for the celebration of reconciliation that happens on a Thursday. In the RE lessons the students were free to ask questions and share their thoughts and concerns about the sacrament. This has had a profound effect as clergy have commented on how well the students have behaved and how reverently they have approached the services.