







Chaplaincy Bulletin – Issue 38


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




-  **Lenten reconciliation services** – every student in the college has had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation from one of our local priests to prepare them well for the rest of Lent and for Easter. (see pictures below)
-  **Lenten services in Dockhead Church** – on the last day of term (5th April)– Canon Alan and Father Jim led Lenten services for varied year groups in his Church. The theme was “service” and there were readings, reflections and hymns including “servant king”, “were you there” and the “Don Bosco” hymn. (see pictures below)
-  **Friday Morning Mass** – As always, Mass is celebrated at 8am in our chapel every Friday morning. The most recent Masses were led by 9RU, 10RU, 11RU, 7BC, 8BC and 9BC. Fathers Keith and Mark have led these Masses for us and we continue to be very grateful for their support of this important sacrament
-  **Good Samaritan Mass** – A group of our students represented the college at the ‘Good Samaritan’ Mass, which relates to an initiative of the Diocesan Education Commission and the Catholic Children’s Society. There was a special Mass of pupils and staff from Catholic Secondary Schools across the Diocese together on Wednesday 1st May at St. George’s Cathedral. It was a beautiful Mass led by Archbishop Peter Smith and included Taizé style sung responses, reflective hymns, readings-including the parable of the Good Samaritan and intercessions. Each school presented a cheque to support the work of the Southwark “crisis fund”. George Sweeney (year 7) said that he had enjoyed the Mass because “there were so many different things happening, including the processions and different kinds of music” (see pictures below)
-  **CAFOD Lenten Fast Day** – We raised £142.40 at lunchtime on the 15th of March for this worthy charity. This year the theme was “give it up” and CAFOD will use this money to support short and


long-term projects in the world's poorest countries.

 **“Significance 2”** This event took place at St Thomas More Catholic Church on Saturday 27th of April and ten of our students attended. It was a youth event with a taste of “flame” and included music, dance, drama, talks, adoration, food, friendship and reconciliation. The event also featured the St Thomas the Apostle College gospel choir and the St Thomas More Catholic Church Youth Band. Golddust in year 10 really enjoyed the event and she said that “I was initially very keen on going due to the many advertisement of the youth event I had seen: Both in church and outside church. I was greeted by many young people as well as beautiful singing, from choirs and different ministries. The atmosphere was certainly set for youth as well as young adults. We also had the pleasure from hearing a poem that was said in Flame in Wimbledon as well as, a motivational speaker who gave us the chance to understand truly what is like to be a follower of Christ and how knowing that, it impacted his life. The session was then ended with a very peaceful service in which there was more angelic voices which allowed us to feel the presence of God around us. To my amazement there was also prizes that were given to us for the completion of a quiz however, I did not win. Moreover, I would definitely recommend this for other students who are seeking the comfort of God in an atmosphere where other youths are there for similar reasons.”

 **May Devotions**-May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary refers to special Marian devotions held in the Catholic Church during the month of May honouring the Virgin Mary as "the Queen of May". These services may take place inside or outside. A "May Crowning" is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs in the month of May. Prayers will take place in the chapel on a Tuesday and Thursday breaktime led by Mr Kelly.

 **House competitions**-there was a Science inter-house rock competition on the 15th of March and inter-house rounders competition on the 28th of March and we have had the Mazzarello charity week (4th-8th) and Savio charity week (25th-29th March). There is an inter house Geography quiz planned next. There is also an upcoming inter-house computer competition, an inter-house voice competition and an inter-house rowing competition.

All houses are competing to raise money for our charities and of course to win the overall star prize of a trip to Thorpe Park in Chertsey on the 18th of July.

 **Year 8 Retreat** – From Wednesday April 24th to 26th, 30 year 8 students travelled to St. Vincent's Centre, Whitstable for a residential retreat. The students were given the 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 Whitstable seaside and bowling. The feedback from the year 8 students was very positive and they all seemed to have taken advantage of a break from their normal routine and from the hustle and bustle of city and college life!

Bailey French said “the retreat was fun and was action packed”

Joel Sabu said he “enjoyed the peace and quiet of Kent and the small group activities”

(see pictures below)

Lenten reconciliation services February-April 2019

Every Lent we are encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and so at St. Michael's we ensure that every single student has that opportunity.

Every Thursday in Lent we have between 5-6 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. Feedback from both students and clergy was very positive.

We are very grateful to **Sister Catherine from Dock head Convent, Father Chris from Precious Blood parish, Father Gerald from Vauxhall, Father Mark from La Salette parish, Father Victor from Adler Street parish and Father Keith from Poplar parish in East London.**

We have also been supported by **Father Graham from St Peter's and the Guardian Angels, Father David Weatherley from St George's Cathedral and Father David O'Malley the Salesian priest co-ordinator.**

We are very grateful for their support over the last 6 weeks.



Lenten services in Dockhead Church



Year 8 retreat at Whitstable April 24th to 26th



Good Samaritan Mass at St George's Cathedral 1st May

