



# St Michael's Catholic College

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**Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran**

**Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed**

**Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I hope that you had a very happy and holy Christmas. 2020 is The Year of the Word! This means we will be focussing even more on scripture here at St Michael's. *Scripture is at the centre of everything we do. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. We use the Bible to show us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.*

We are having this particular focus now because 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. So, during the year, we will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word with an exciting new Scripture initiative. It's an opportunity to enrich our current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to 'The God who Speaks' in our community.

Throughout 2020 there will be a range of events, activities and resources to participate in all around the College. There will be three themes: celebrating, living and sharing in God's word. Our Masses, assemblies, retreats, House events, Lenten services, Bible group, Rosary group, Faith in Action group, tutor time, Senior Citizens Christmas party and many other activities will focus heavily on this theme. Staff, parents and Governors will also be invited to join in. Take a look below to see how your son / daughter / yourself can get even more involved with our different monthly foci that will explore our three themes. Other opportunities will arise as the year progresses and if you have any thoughts on activities you would like to facilitate, do see Mr Kelly or any member of the Senior Leadership Team in the first instance.

<b>January</b>	<p>13<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January - Design a slide template that we can use throughout the year to mark The Year of the Word. The slide must have the following features: St Michael's logo; The Year of the Word and any appropriate images / text that shows we are responding to "The God who Speaks" here at St Michael's. The winning slide will be used in all assemblies / Masses / Celebrations for the rest of this important year – Mr Kelly (SLT) will share further details.</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> Jan World Youth Day at Home residential trip with Salesian Schools- Students participating will be reflecting on St Matthew's Gospel.</p>
<b>February</b>	<p>1<sup>st</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Feb School Prayer House competition – students will be encouraged to reflect on scripture and Salesian values to create a school prayer. Ms Casey (RE) will share details</p> <p>24 Feb – 8 March (Fairtrade Fortnight). The Faith in Action group will run some Fairtrade cake sales and pop up hot chocolate stands. Come and reflect on scripture with the group so that you better understand why we live God's word in this way. Following this launch, there will be a small pop up stand at each parents evening selling light Fairtrade refreshments with scripture reflections available in the Chapel for families – Mr Kelly (RE) will share further details.</p> <p>26 Feb – 9 April (Lent) Reflections on St Matthew's Gospel– Ms Hagan and the KS4 Bible Study group will share further details.</p>



<b>March</b>	Lenten reflections in form time – Ms Caden and the Chaplaincy group will share further details. 6 <sup>th</sup> March Year 8 in school retreat – Year 8 students will be given opportunities by guest speakers to reflect on scripture and how it can have a positive impact on their lives. See Mr Kelly (SLT) for further details.
<b>April</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> April Lenten services at Holy Trinity Church Dockhead for all students and staff. Students will be invited to prepare for Easter by listening to readings from St Matthew’s Gospel and reflecting on how they can be inspired by Jesus to be the light who leads. Lenten reflections in form time – Ms Caden and the Chaplaincy group will share further details.
<b>May</b>	Rosary reflections – Mr Kelly (RE) and the Chaplaincy group will share further details.
<b>June</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> June Year 8 Residential retreat to Whitstable - students participating will be given opportunities to participate in daily reflections on scripture. See Ms Caden for further details. 15-21 June (Refugee Week). The Faith in Action group will invite you to join in a number of Simple Acts during this week. Come and reflect on scripture with the group so that you better understand why we live God’s word in this way - see Mr Kelly (RE).
<b>July</b>	The Big lunch time Debates ‘Does Scripture matter?’ After months of reflecting on our three themes; celebrating, living and sharing God's word – what is the real significance of scripture in your life? What difference has it / can it make to you? Come along and reflect on some big questions ahead of your summer holiday break! – see Ms Casey (RE) and Mr Ferguson (Science) for further details.
<b>August</b>	Family holiday activity: visit the National Gallery in person or on line and discover how many paintings focus on the Bible and Bible stories.
<b>September</b>	World Gifts information shared with students in assemblies and parents at curriculum evenings (for the incredibly early Christmas shoppers – suitable for all budgets!). There will be an opportunity to reflect on scripture to help us better understand ethical shopping decisions we make – see Ms Faherty for further details.
<b>October</b>	Rosary reflections – Mr Kelly (RE) and the Chaplaincy group will share more information about his. St Michael’s College “The Year of the Word” Christmas Card competition – Mr Lomax will share further details.
<b>November</b>	World Gifts information shared with Governors (Faith in Action group – Mr Kelly will share further details).
<b>December</b>	Advent reflections on St Matthew’s Gospel – Ms Caden/Ms Hagan and the Chaplaincy group will share further details.

We look forward to celebrating this significant year with all in our community at St Michael’s. If you would like to discuss any of the above, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

*SPShaw*

PP Ms. K Faherty  
Vice Principal

