

**St Michael's Catholic College**

**Llewellyn Street  
London SE16 4UN**

**Tel: 020 7237 6432**

**www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk  
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk**

# **THE LINK**

**Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College**

**Issue 180 – 15th December 2020**

## **Head Girl, Head Boy and Deputies Appointed**



The process was particularly long and difficult this year with many applications that were very hard to separate in terms of quality.

After an exhaustive selection process, St Michael's Deputy Head Boy and Girl (Jake and Lauren) have now been chosen, pictured below with the Head Boy and Girl (Rodrigo and Tasnim).



## **Record number of Cambridge and Oxford interviews for St. Michael's sixth formers**

This year the following students from Year 13 at St. Michael's secured interviews for colleges at Cambridge and Oxford: Rodrigo, Christian and Tasnim (History and Politics, Natural Sciences and HSPS: all at St. John's College, Cambridge) Magdalene (Law at Lady Margaret Hall, Cambridge) Natalia (Law at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge) Alessandra (Architecture at Pembroke College, Cambridge) and Bless (History at Keble College, Oxford). Interviewing starts in the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December: we wish them all very well!

## **Christmas Lunch**



Despite the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves, St Michaels staff and students have as usual found ways to celebrate Christmas. We hope that you enjoy the photographs as much as we did the occasion:

Students enjoying their festive Christmas dinner on Tuesday:





### Christmas Hampers for our Local Senior Citizens



The hampers were made with the help of Mr Kelly, Ms Hagan, the Year 12 Chaplain's , the Year 8 Faith in Action team and Year 7's each December, we as a community invite Senior Citizens and throw a party. On the 20th of December last year over eighty of our local Senior Citizens were treated to an evening of fine food, drink, free raffle



prizes, good chat and a chance to have a dance or two and to watch a student led production of "Peter Pan". This year, we did



something different. We created bespoke hampers, with the support of the school, teachers and staff all came together in solidarity to raise money for the hampers. With the money raised, the Chaplains and Year 8 Faith in Action team spent the afternoon packing all the goods, the Year 12's the took extra care in wrapping all baskets. The Year 7's wrote personalized



messages to each individual who will receive a hamper making it a well thought about gift. We hope that this hamper brings those who receive it 'Joy and Comfort' this Christmas.

### Christmas Doors

The annual House Christmas door competition – as you can see, there was no shortage of Christmas spirit and creativity. Here are the door winners for each Year:

#### Year 7



#### Year 9



#### Year 8

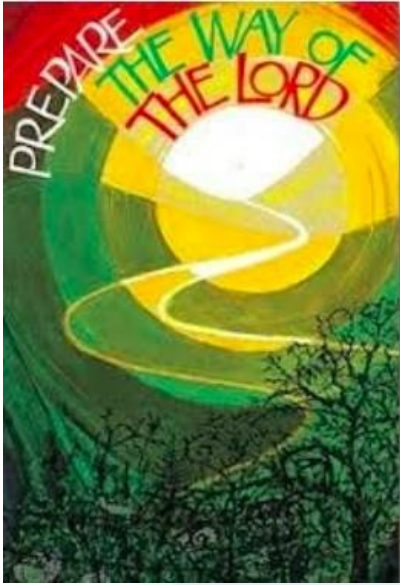


#### Year 10





### Chaplain's Corner



As we enter the final week into term, we also begin the third week of advent. This year our theme for Advent is 'Joy and Comfort'.

A camino through advent:

Well we are over halfway through our Camino, and the danger is that we can get so caught up with December 25th that we could miss out on the beauty that these next couple of weeks will bring us. Yes, there is shopping to be done, cards to be sent and gifts to be wrapped, but our Advent Camino is that chance to give something back to the Lord and to each other.

Remember to send in prayer requests and they will be included in our daily Mass. If you have a spare moment, please remember the Salesian family in your own prayers and ask that others may follow in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello—we certainly need that generosity.

In the Gospel today, once again John the Baptist is front and centre but, as always, he is pointing beyond himself to the person of Jesus: “He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light...he was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light” (Jn 1:7–8).

In John's great 'Prologue' we see a wonderful piece of poetry that echoes the beauty of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. John presents the Messiah as the LIGHT: “a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower” (Jn 1:5).

In these dark, cold nights, the Christmas tree lights are a welcome distraction and should point to a deeper reality of faith: the light of Christ will make a difference, the light of Christ will see us through these times of hardship.

A global pandemic has brought a universal darkness as we have experienced, lockdown, shielding, unemployment, failure, pain and death. However, the experience of these past few months has also highlighted the light of the NHS, the care and consideration of family and friends and the lengths that some people have gone to keep in touch. Social distancing does not mean we have to be distant; we need not ignore each other or use it as an excuse to erase people from our lives.

Today the priests come to John to demand: “Who are you?” (Jn 1:19). John is open and tells them plainly that he is not the Christ: “the Word made flesh’ (Jn 1:14). In a conversation like the one Jesus had with his disciples when he asked the question: “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (Matt 16:13), the Jerusalem group need to know who John is. John again sees himself as the: “voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight path for the Lord’ (Jn 1:23); we all those need people in our lives who can cut through the drama and the problems and give us clear and straight guidance. The faith leader wants to create problems where there are none: John is using water merely as a symbol of repentance, a ritual cleansing. The Messiah, the one John is preparing the way for, has the power and strength of the Holy Spirit to move us all forward.

As we reflect today, we can think of those we have met who pointed us towards Jesus; I think of my parents and family, I give thanks for those fellow Salesians who have given me an unselfish example of real care for the young. I praise God for the countless young people I've met over the years who have helped me to come closer to God. I am grateful to those families who have accepted me as another hungry guest at their home table; I appreciate those friends who have become part of our extended Salesian family and continue that inspirational mission and outreach to the young. God will come to you in the most unexpected ways this week; unexpected people, young or old, will help you to discover God's Will for you.

As a Salesian of Don Bosco, I thank those young people who pointed the way—and still do.

Be alert this week to see, hear and fully experience the wonder that God is calling you to share

**We can pray, as we light the third candle:**

**Thanks be to you, my lord, Jesus Christ, For all the benefits that you have given me; For all the pains and insults you have borne for me. O, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, May I know you more clearly; Love you more dearly; And follow you more nearly day by day.**

### Safeguarding

**Important Notice from the Safeguarding Officer - there is a copy of our Safeguarding Policy on the College Website. A hard copy of this is available in the College Office.**



Contacting the College - Direct parents access to college via email  
[contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto:contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk) For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 EXTN. 708

