

St Michael's Catholic College

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THE LINK

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

Issue 185- 14 May 2021

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021

For our Politics lesson our class was going to practice passing an Act of Parliament. We decided to debate the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill of 2021 because its controversial reduction in our rights to protest has seen demonstrations in London and Bristol as well as lively debates in the Commons and Lords.

Each member of the class took on a key role ranging from pro-government Backbenchers and Chief Whips in the House of Commons to opposition Lords. I took on the role of "Chantel the First by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of her other Realms and

Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

On the early morning of the 20th of April 2021 my Parliament passed the new bill presented by the Home Secretary, allowing the police to have more powers to act accordingly to peaceful protest if it causes serious disruption to the public. My Government instructed me to say that this Bill will give more security and safety for members of the public while still enabling freedom of speech and protest.

My Prime Minister defended the Bill across other members of Parliament arguing that if this Bill is made into a legislation it will protect communities and respect communities within and when a protest is going on. The Prime Minister did highlight that the reasoning for this Bill is because of the response to police calls for more power due to peaceful protest carried out by groups such as the Extinction Rebellion, which has seen activists glue themselves to trains and the grounds around Parliament square.

The concerns of the Leader of the Opposition from the Labour party were outlined that the new Bill would propose a threat to individuals right to freedom and speech and criticized that deciding whether a protest is "too noisy" is objective and imposing start and finish times of protest is again threatening the right to protest and freedom of speech.

Despite these arguments put to the House of Commons in the first and second stage, members voted in favour for the Bill showing the Conservatives large majority at work. The Bill then went through to the Committee stage for an in-depth cross-party examination and then returned to the Commons for a third reading. The House of Lords wanted to amend a few details established in the Bill as the defining the term "too noisy" as too vague and therefore giving the police far more power to close protests than perhaps was intended. My Lords decided this meant the Bill was lacking. The Conservatives have no majority in the Lords so the Bill was rejected and sent back to the House of Commons to review and take note of their most wise and informed criticism. The Prime minister responded by altering a few points highlighted by the House of Lords and again the Bill was passed through the committee stage and a third reading within the House of Lords. The Prime Minister's concessions were welcomed by Cross Benchers who voted with the Government allowing the Bill to come closer to becoming an Act.

My royal assent

As Queen I thanked Parliament for their consistent effort in their works and as Head of the Church I consented for the Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 to be made into legislation with immediate effect. **Chantel. T, Year 12**



King's Scholars

A massive thank you to the Widening participation department at King's College London for providing a number of King's scholars in Year 8 and 9 with Acer Tablets to support them with their learning.

The college has worked in partnership with King's for a number of years now and although, due to Covid restrictions, we have been unable to do a number of our usual activities, we look forward to being able to reintroduce the scheme fully from September.

Advanced Notices;

**Year 13 End of Year service and buffet
2.15pm Tuesday 25th May**

**Year 11 End of Year service and buffet
2.15pm Thursday 27th May**

Staff inset day Friday 28th May

**Festival of School and College Arts; on the
28th May**

**Half Term Sports Club Tuesday 1st June –
Friday 4th June**

**Sixth form induction days Tuesday 8th June
– Thursday 9th June**

Year 11 Sports Day – Friday 11th June

Year 7 and 10 Sports Day 1st July (Onsite)

Year 8 and 9 Sports Day 2nd July (Onsite)

Arts day 13th July



SMCCC vs COLA

On 11th May St Michael's Football team played against COLA.

Unfortunately, we lost 5-4, but it was a very impressive performance by the SMCC boys, especially because a lot of them over the last year have taken part in very little physical activity.

These were the Goal scorers:

Seamus M. x2

David K. 1

Elechi I. 1



Chaplain's Corner

Reflection is in dedication to Mary:

A Short History and Practice

May devotions to Mary began in the 13th century, but there is little information to know how it was celebrated. In its present form, the practice of May devotions to Mary originated within the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in the 18th century under Father Latomia of their Roman College.

The image of Mary wearing a gold crown appears in early Eastern and Western iconography, drawing inspiration from the Coronation of Mary as understood in Catholic biblical tradition based on the passage from [Revelation 12:1](#). Some churches and families participate in a special May Crowning celebration. One reason the devotion has come to extend over the entire month is the abundance of Marian feast days in May:

[Mary, Queen of Apostles](#) (Saturday before Pentecost – May 14th, this year), Our Lady of Fatima (May 13), Mary Help of Christians (May 24), and the Visitation (May 31).

Mary in May Today

Seeking Peace- Pope Paul VI's encyclical was especially concerned with peace, invoking the "intercession and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen of Peace". Amid ongoing persecutions and violence in many areas of the world, turning to Christ through Mary is an important way to pray that May becomes a month of peace.

Honouring the Family- Mary receives an important role in Pope Francis' recent Exhortation [Amoris Laetitia](#), 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family'. He states, "Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth". Pope Francis goes on to say, "The treasury of Mary's heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families". Pope Francis reminds us that by honouring Mary, we honour Jesus and our families.

There is no lack of reasons to stay close to Mary this month, and throughout our lives. Find ways to honour her with your words and actions by seeking new ways to bring about mercy and peace through our churches into our hurting world.

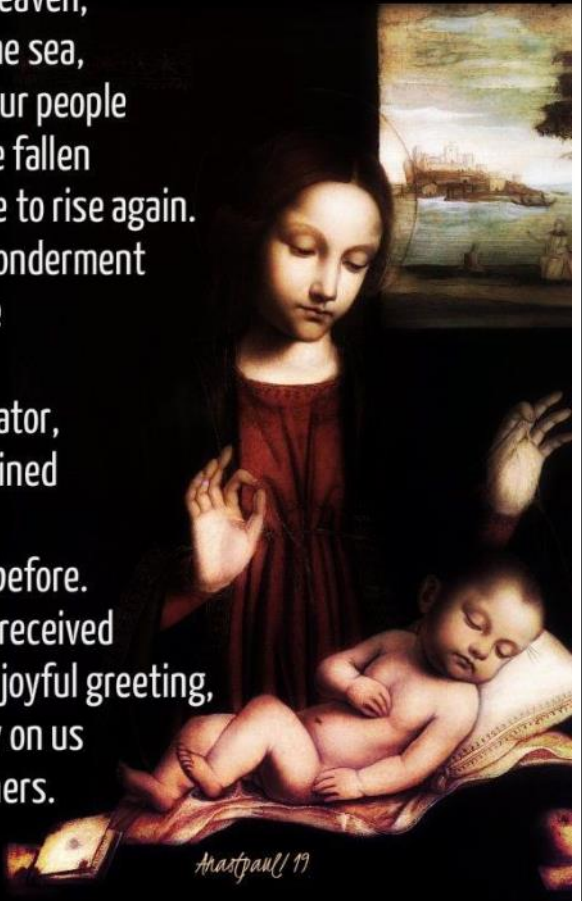
With every blessing, Miss X.Hagan

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Loving Mother of the Redeemer

Traditional Marian Anthem for Advent

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven,
star of the sea,
assist your people
who have fallen
yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment
of nature
you bore
your Creator,
Yet remained
a virgin
after as before.
You who received
Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us
poor sinners.



Mental Health Awareness

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. You can take advantage of this week to think about what you do every day to keep yourself emotionally healthy. If you are struggling, and we all do at some point in our life, it is normal, do talk to someone you trust or a professional. You may also want to talk to your GP.

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
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