

St Michael's Catholic College

Autumn Term



RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR

RUAH

"The breath of life that animates the soul"



Year 11 Prefects 2021-2022

Year 7 Welcome Mass



When we went to Mass at the beginning of year 7, I felt slightly scared to sit in a church with my form and other children. Before Mass, teachers made us line up in our form groups so that it would be easier to walk to our location.

Luckily, the Church is less than 5 minutes away (walking) which makes the journey quick and costless. As soon as we reached the Church, our teachers told us to form a straight line before entering. We were given the order of service with songs and prayers. During Mass, there was a teacher playing the guitar and a teacher playing the piano. At the end, teachers politely asked us to remain seated until our form was called to leave. The inspiring words were about wishing us good years ahead and to bless us in Year 7. I found this so sweet and a great way to end Mass. I felt safe and protected even though we were going through covid, the teachers always found a way to continue learning and any fun experiences. I love St. Michaels and everything it has to offer. I can't wait for future Masses at our Church.

Written by: Maja N Year 7

Welcome to all new staff joining the college this academic year



We welcomed many new colleagues this year across many departments. Joining us as a teacher of Science/Math's is Ms Ioannidou, in Drama there is Mr Kose, in Math's is Mr Devine and in ICT is Mr Dews. We also have Ms Mundy who has joined us in Science as well and in the RE department we were pleased to welcome Mrs Bryant, Ms Connelly, Miss Stewart and Mr House.

In the support and SEND/inclusion team we were also joined by Miss Walker, Miss Etemewei, Miss Oluwole and Miss Duff.

A short, but special service was held on the 1st day of term to welcome our new staff members in the Chapel led by Miss Casey with prayers shared and a special intention for the start of the new year.



Closing Prayer
(Please join together)

I believe, Lord.

*I believe that each of my students is your child,
I believe that they are a reflection of your love.*

*I believe that each child possesses special gifts and talents,
that you are entrusting me to help them discover these gifts
and nurture those talents.*

*I believe that each child is trying to find you,
And that I can be a model of how to look,
How to live, how to pray.*

*I believe that my job is actually a mission, a ministry;
That you have chosen me in this time and in this place
To be there for these kids.*

*I believe that there is nothing haphazard about my day,
About my experiences with my students or with their parents.
It is all part of your plan.*

*I believe that you have chosen me, Lord.
I believe.*

Friday Mass at St Michael's

On Friday the 17th September we were delighted to welcome back Fr Keith Stoakes to lead us in our Friday worship in the Chapel. We were sadly unable to all join together in the Chapel last year due to Covid restrictions but this year we have decided to return. It was also the first year we were able to have each form represented in their own mass, due to the introduction of the DaCosta form this year. Starting with 11Bosco, each week pupils lead with the first readings, the psalms and the bidding prayers. Pupils also support Miss Casey with the offertory.

This year we also have the help of the Year 10 Chaplaincy team (more about this further on) who help organise the Chapel each week in preparation for Mass, and on Friday AM they help to tidy it up. It has been fantastic to be sharing in this group worship once again and with the help of Mr Laurence on the Guitar, the sounds coming from the Chapel on a Friday morning have been a welcome return.



November Prayers for the Dead and Remembrance Day

As we entered November, students and staff were asked to share the names of those whom they had lost this past year. These names were added to our scroll and placed in the Chapel and formed a point of memorial in the main entrance. Every Friday at Mass, Fr Keith offered a special intention for those who had been named, it was a key and important reflection that though these people had been lost they were never forgotten.



On the 11th November, we stood in a moments silence at the end of breaktime and remembered those who had been lost in WW1 and all subsequent conflict.

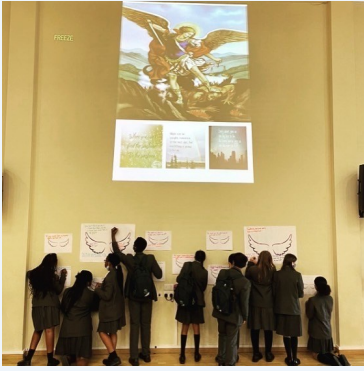
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

October Month of the Rosary

During October, on Wednesday breaks, the chapel was open to do the rosary. Me and some of my friends went to it and it was amazing. Throughout the whole month different parts of the rosary were said, each time bringing us closer to the mother Mary than before, as this was the month of Mary. It was not only a time to reflect on our relationship with Mary but on our own actions and if they fit into her example. It personally made me feel connected to my religion and to everyone around me on the special month that was October. I think that it was also a good opportunity to pray after so long not being able to attend mass for so long. This year we were inspired by CAFOD to reflect on the work they're doing worldwide to embed the message of Laudato Si and used their 'Care for Creation' rosary guide.

Written by: Luiza L- 10DA

St Michael's Day



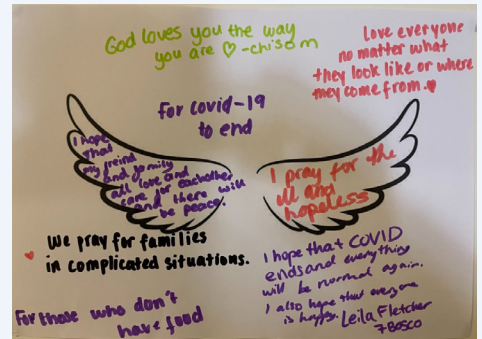
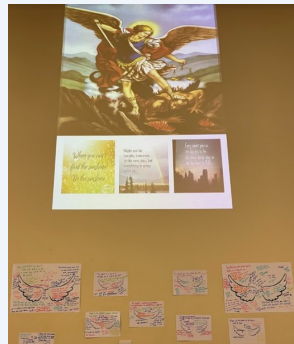
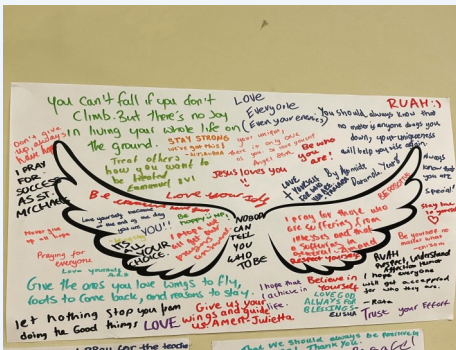
This year we wanted to mark St Michael's Day—the 27th September—with a bigger occasion. Each year Ms Corcoran has kindly always arranged a sweet treat for each pupil at the end of each St Michael's Day, but this year we felt it was more

important to mark the event, in order to bring our community back together once again.

Miss Casey led assemblies all week to remind pupils of the story of St Michael and how he overcame obstacles and the resilience we may need in our lives.



On the day itself large copies of angel wings and some smaller ones were placed in the hall—all pupils and staff were invited to place their hopes and dreams for the future in the wings.



Year 7 Retreat

The retreat I attended was about friendship, and how to be a true friend. We took part in many activities such as a game where Miss Casey (the head of chaplaincy) asked questions and we had to run to different signs around the room to show our opinions. Another activity that I took part in was drawing the perfect friend. In groups we drew around a group member and then inside and around it we put what qualities your perfect friend would have and what qualities we have and what we want out friend to have. We also watched a short clip from Toy Story and discussed what it taught us about friendship.

My favourite activity was creating a poster with my friends about what friendship means to us.

We finished the day with prayerful reflections.

The retreat taught me so much about what friendship is and how if you have friends that support you they can make you feel stronger and better about yourself.

Hannah S—Year 7



House Competitions

Soap Run

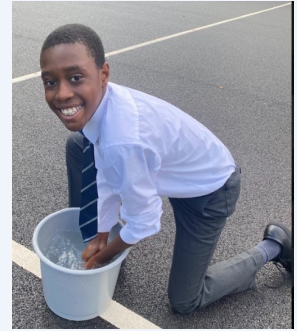


I participated in the soap run which is a house competition. The aim is to reduce your bar of soap to nothing by using all your force to wash it away in a bucket of water. By taking part in this event it is showing the Salesian value humour, this

by having fun with not only my form but others and learning to communicate with my peers. My house DaCosta won, but overall it might have shown others that sometimes not everything is about winning, having fun we

can show humour and also respect one another. It was great fun as it was something I've never done before and I look forward to taking part in it next year.

Delina G –7DA



Tutor Board

For our form board, we all decided as a form to create an idea that relates to all of our talents and personalities. On the top of the board there is a rainbow that represents everything we have learnt over the past year and what skills we can adapt to our daily lives. the words all represent each of our RUAH values and what we can do to make



each other feel safe and happy in school. The flowers in the tree present all of our ideas hobbies talents and healthy habits which allows us to be able to learn what we are all capable of and embrace our differences. The photos on the board manifests the achievements of our form during house competition, art projects and demonstrating the true values of RUAH.

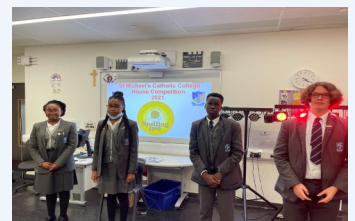
Winning this house competition was an amazing experience for all of us and proves to us how much we can get done with the support of each other.

Stephanie C –Year 8

Spelling Bee

I'm not always the most eager student to participate in house competitions- it's never really been something that I'm interested in. So it's really saying something when I tell you that I genuinely had fun taking part in the Spelling Bee. 'Spelling Bee?'- I hear you exclaim, 'That sounds super hard and probably slightly boring and definitely not worth staying behind after school for.' Honestly, I kind of felt like that too at first, but after some mild encouragement from my whole form class I was convinced to attend. And I'm glad I did. It was the perfect

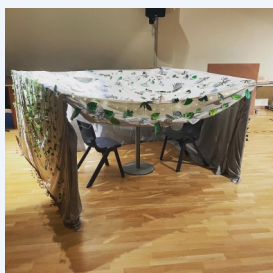
balance between challenging and interesting and even a bit scary. However, even in the face of adversity, I won the Year 10 category. Plus, I'm happy to announce that after some fierce competition from the winners from the other year groups, I am now the undefeated Spelling Bee Champion 2021/22. So this goes out to all those who think house competitions are a waste of time: get off of your high horse and take part in something. Who knows, you might even enjoy it. *Ryan B –10DA*



World Religions Focus

In order to reflect the wider life of the college community and to respect the area around us, the chaplaincy teams, Miss Casey and the whole RE department have spent time in lessons and putting on events to learn about different world religious festivals as they have come up in the calendar this past term.

We started in September with Sukkot, a celebration of Diwali at the beginning of November and finally a focus on Hanukkah as we came into December. Read below what we did over the past term, with written contributions by Juliana as part of the Year 12 Chaplaincy team.



Sukkot

Sukkot is a Jewish festival celebrated in autumn and it is also known as The Feast of Tabernacles. Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land, and celebrates the way in which God protected them

under difficult desert conditions. It is celebrated by building a sukkah which is essentially a small shelter that must have 3 walls. Jews are required to eat

in the sukkah for eight days (seven days in Israel),

and some even sleep in the sukkah for the duration of the holiday. The sukkah is decorated and the first day is considered a holy day in which most forms of work are forbidden. At St Michael's we built ourselves a sukkah in our main hall with decorations all around it, especially paper leaves that the younger years decorated.

Furthermore, everyone who visited the sukkah was given a treat of an apple dipped in honey. In lessons, Ks3 pupils learned about the history of the festival and designed their own sukkah.



Diwali

In India, Diwali is known as India's most important holiday. It is a Hindu festival and is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. Diwali, which for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations, is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of

good over evil and light over darkness. In one of the main stories in Hindu mythology, Diwali is the day Lord Rama, his wife Sita Devi and brother Lakshmana return their homeland after 14 years in exile. The villagers lit a path for Rama. During Diwali, people wear their finest clothes, illuminate the interior and exterior of their homes with lights, perform worship ceremonies of Lakshmi (the goddess of prosperity and wealth), light fireworks, and partake in family feasts, where mithai (sweets) and gifts are shared.



In school we had a huge celebration in the hall after school on the 4th November, which anyone could attend. Miss Casey led with a presentation before music played and members of the Year 12 chaplaincy team dished up a selection of foods. Finally everyone was given sweets to celebrate the blessings of the day.

In Ks3 lessons pupils learned about the full history of the festival, designed Diwali cards and coloured in elephants.

Hanukkah



This year Hanukkah started on the 28th November, and across Ks3 lessons, the RE department delivered a full lesson to help pupils understand that whilst we began Advent on this same day, there are other celebrations taking place by others worldwide for a different religion.

Across these lessons delivered by the RE department, pupils learned the history of the festival and reflected on the miracle of the oil which lasted for 8 days, showing the Maccabees that God was truly with them as they fought the Syrians. We also explored how it is celebrated in modern traditions and how, like at Christmas, many Jews opt to give gifts across the 8 nights of Hanukkah. The lessons culminated with pupils decorating their own Menorah's and finally they were gifted a donut, as fried food is a main focus of foods shared in Hanukkah to reflect the oil in the Temple.



Faith in Action KS3

During the last year or so, it has been quite difficult getting back to a somewhat normality. However, the time I spent in lockdown helped me appreciate and think about what small deeds I could do that might help people e.g donating clothes to charity or doing a prayer for those I believe are in need. Now that many things are starting or already have opened, I am able to spend time with my friends, do good deeds whether that is for my school, church or community in general. As the Faith In Action programme was started up again at school in preparation for our Gold level, I have been putting my faith into action by donating food and time to help with the harvest festival, selling poppies at school, preparing for Sukkot by creating designs of how the Sukkah could be made and more. Furthermore, due to being in lockdown we were not able to get our bronze or silver awards therefore, we have to create a final piece to sum up what we have been doing. I am currently working on the poster I decided to show as my evidence of what I have done as part of the programme. Although there have been many ups and downs in the past two years, I try to look at the positive side of things and look to the future, try to see what I can improve. With hope, we can encourage others to do the same and have faith in their actions even with the smallest things like praying to God.

Julia M—Year 9



This year we are proud to also introduce a new cohort of Year 7's who are working towards their Bronze award. Some of whom have also contributed to this issue of the Bulletin.



Year 10 Chaplaincy Team

This year we introduced a KS4 chaplaincy team to support the work being done by the established sixth form team who are now in Year 13.

As a member of the Year 10 Student Chaplaincy, it is of great pleasure to me that I have been able to collaborate and aid the Chaplaincy Team in all of their efforts. Being apart of the Student Chaplaincy has allowed pupils, (such as myself), to engage in a multitude of different activities that place heavy emphasis on the important of culture and religion outside of our own Christian faith. Examples of this are seen in activities such as 'The Festival of Sukkot' in



with help from the distinguished Senior Chaplains in Sixth Form were able to assemble a stunning tabernacle. Events like this also go to show the importance of embracing culture's that differ from our own as Catholics. Being a part of the Student Chaplaincy, personally has



allowed me to reconnect with the spiritual and enrichment aspect of the College. Things such as catering for the Chapel and partaking in enrichment activities revolving around

Christianity drives home the importance of religion and faith to not only the R.E Department, but to all students and pupils. Being a Chaplain has been and will continue to be an exemplary experience for me and other students from Year 10 and Sixth form and it is of great pleasure that I have been granted with the opportunity to take part.

Malachi G—Year 10



The Year 10 Chaplaincy team have taken a lead on fundraising for the senior citizens Christmas Hampers, putting on a fantastic day of cake sales and a tuck shop with sales totalling £215.

Sixth form Chaplaincy

This year to support the stellar work of the now Year 13s, Miss Casey recruited 12 new members of the Sixth form chaplaincy team from Year 12.

Joining the Chaplaincy has been an amazing experience so far and our first project was very enjoyable and this was the Sukkot. During the preparation, we devised the structure of the traditional sukkot with recycled cardboard. Over two days, we built as a team a cardboard structure of sukkot but unfortunately, this didn't hold as well as we expected.

However, this wasn't the end. Miss Casey then visited the DT department and got some strong wooden boards to get a firmer structure for the Sukkot. We then used bedsheets to make a roof for the Sukkot and covered it in leaves and flowers. We further decorated the Sukkot with fairy lights and furnished the inside with chairs. At the end of the project we were all very proud of how it turned out and it



looked very similar to the traditional ones. I really enjoyed this project as it allowed me to envision the future products we would do in the Chaplaincy team.

We were keen to join the chaplaincy team as we were aware of some of the things the previous Year 12's had done with Ms Hagan last year. However, the opportunity to help around school and our wider college community was a large

driving force to joining. We look forward to working alongside CAFOD soon as part of their youth program.



Taking part in the events for world religions has been great, as we have certainly learned more than we knew before. But we've also done some great work to further highlight the Catholic life of the school. Miss Casey told us about her idea of a virtual advent calendar and at first we did all laugh as we did not know what she meant, however in the end we created videos which are shared daily throughout Advent to tell the Christmas story and messages of hope for the day.

Overall it's great to be able to represent the school and take part in lots of different kinds of activities, as well as being role models for the younger years and helping to guide the Year 10 chaplaincy team.

Contributions from Deborah , Nathan and David—Year 12



Harvest Appeal for Southwark Foodbank

A few weeks ago I donated food to the Southwark charity food bank. Whilst doing this I knew it was a good idea because food that was lying around my house was going to waste and could be used for people who need it more. It was also good for myself and others in the College because many people are suffering in our local community, so by helping out we can hope it makes a change to their lives. It also helped me to appreciate what I have and allowed me to be grateful, as even though I don't get everything I want all the time I do have more than others. I didn't only donate food but toothpaste and shampoo as others also need to keep clean. By doing this me and many others have shown the RUAH values, respect, giving to the less fortunate, understanding by showing empathy, affection caring for others and humour by being happy to help I was happy to serve and give to those who needed it more than I.

Delina G— Year 7



Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors

Last year Sydney and Alysandra (now Year 13) became part of the Southwark Youth Diversity ambassador team. Alongside Mr Ludlow, they decided to bring the work they were doing outside the college internal, and set up a Diversity and Inclusion team across all year groups. We look forward to seeing the brilliant work they do this year.

With my parents coming from Barbados and Ghana, and having stayed equal amounts of time in both countries before coming to the UK, I - from a young age - have grown up in a family with a culture like no other. As a result, having family from different sides of the world have meant I inherited an amalgamation of cultures, values and ethics that I carry day in, day out and shape who I am as a person. Here at St Michael's, I believe that every single student and staff member should be able to express themselves freely, regardless of race, sex, gender, religion and the other factors that seem to divide and define us. Due to this, I worked hard last year to provide changes to the hair policy so that it includes the treatment of afro-textured hair, yet I still felt as though the students of this school were not truly being represented - hence why I became Diversity and Inclusion Ambassador this year, alongside Natasha Year 10, who also believes that more should be done to

eradicate the sexist and misogynistic undertones that unfortunately still lay within the students. School is meant to be a safe place for young people to educate themselves and prepare to become the leaders of tomorrow; however, if we are not able to confront the existent issues that we face, we will never be truly able to perform to the best of our ability, as well as create a truly equal school society. This role in the school community is one of great importance for me as I believe that I, as well as all those who are in the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, have been given the chance to voice the concerns of students who have felt discriminated against, segregated against, and cast aside for embracing themselves and I, for one, am proud to be working amongst others who share common goals and aspirations with myself. We plan to help spread equality throughout the college via CPSHE and the establishment and constant enforcement of Salesian and RUAH values, in order to allow each pupil to feel welcome and valued at St Michael's Catholic College. It is in our darkest moments where we must truly focus on the light, and I believe that if we do not combat the issues faced in the world, we are subconsciously promoting them.

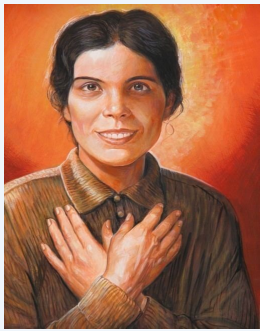
Adrian, Year 10—Diversity and Inclusion Ambassador

Southwark Cathedral Mass

On Friday, along with Ms Corcoran and Miss Bryant, six of us in the sixth form leadership team went along to the beautiful St George's Cathedral for the Southwark Diocesan schools Mass to celebrate the beginning of the new school year. The service was led by Reverend John, the Archbishop of Southwark, along with other priests from the parish, and focused on the importance of Catholic education as a work of love. There were loads of hymns and readings led by other Southwark school students, which really highlighted the community spirit that collective worship creates. Inspired by the feast day of St Therese, which was on the same day, we were directed with the message to share love in little ways, and we received a blessing for good luck for the coming

academic year which, for us Year 13 students, was much appreciated!

Jonas K—Year 13



Alexandrina DaCosta

For the new academic year we picked a new House Saint as researched and voted for by last the student parliament, Alexandrina Maria da Costa. Her story was so moving to learn about her dedication to Christ and the miracle of her survival after an accident, living on only the Blessed Sacrament daily. The new house has put their best foot forward making a name for themselves in the house competitions and have proved successful a few times.

What's It's Like to be in the New House Da Costa

Da Costa is an amazing house where everyone is kind to each other and makes everyone feel welcome and safe. I would say that we are all committed to our roles and if given one, we make sure we stick to it. Last term, some of us participated in a competition called the Soap Run where we had to get rid of a bar of soap using the water we were given.

Of course, we had our lovely House Captain Osato who was there to support us and cheer us on. Now, sometimes, our house tends to get a bit competitive when doing house competitions like this one, so it was good, to our luck, that we won! How great! As we were the new house, I think we definitely showed everyone that just because we were new, didn't mean we didn't know the way to victory.

Also I took part in the spelling bee! As I am in Year 7, this was my first year doing it. Some of the words were really hard, but in the end my spelling skills were very useful as I ended up winning out of Year 7. This gave my house 1,000 house points!

Overall it has been good to make a mark and be part of the new house and a part of the history of house saints in the school.

Mirabel M—Year 7



DaCosta Charity Week



Part of having the great privilege of being the first ever captain of a 10DA form in St Michael's was organising St Michael's first ever Da Costa (DA) charity week.

This took place from Monday 10th October to Friday 15th October, and in one week the Da Costa House as a whole was able to raise £234 which went to charity. Our form decided to organise a wet sponge throw after school, and was very pleased with how it turned out.

Students of all years had a lot of fun throwing wet sponges at teachers, and there were a lot of amused viewers. This was just one great event as a part of charity week, and was very enjoyable and successful - as a lot of money was raised as everyone was willing to donate. It was also a nice opportunity

to feel like a college community.

Other events organised by the other DA forms in the school, including: a bake sale; tuck shop; and guessing the sweets in the jar, were also successful in raising money for charity.

These events reflect on the Salesian and chaplaincy attitude of St Michael's, as money towards the positive cause was a result of the humour and compassion of the students and teachers. It encouraged respect for the less fortunate and demonstrated what the college community as a whole can be grateful for.

Overall, the first Da Costa charity week was a great success, and it was a good way to officially establish ourselves as a house, and gather lots of ideas for charity week next year!

Natasha J – Year 10

Rua Charity Week

RUA Charity week began on the 8th of November until the 15th ending with Year 10's sponsored silence. Over the week, each year group contributed to the event to help raise money for charity, there were a variety of activities such as: cup stacking, doggie hottie, football matches and many more. There were many participants for each event and many treats for the winners. RUA charity week was a big success as £283 was raised and it was a good opportunity for students to get involved in charity work and a fun way to help those in need.

Victoria D – Year 10



Coming up in December 2021!

In the last few days of the Christmas there are lots of final events taking place we will update you in the new year including;

- Christmas Hampers for local senior citizen's in our community
- Christmas Jumper Day 2021
- Christmas Dinner 2021
- Carol Service 2021
- Christmas Door Competition 2021



And finally,

Just announced, Mika C in 11DA has won this years coveted Christmas Card competition – many congratulations to her!

Mika says “the design is a flipped version of the St. Michael’s logo, since the jagged edges of the sword are like the edges of a Christmas tree upside down.”

Other entries from the competition will feature on the Order of Service given out during our end of term Christmas Liturgy in Dockhead Church on Friday 17th December.



A message from the Principal

A Prayer for Advent

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ms Corcoran – College Principal

A message from the Chaplaincy

A Prayer for Hope

Dear God

When I stand at the beginning of the day; bless me with the vision to see the best of things to come, the wisdom to make good decisions and most of all faith that you are walking with me every step of the way.

Amen

Miss Casey – Head of Chaplaincy