

# St Michael's Catholic College

*Spring Term*



**RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR**

**RUAH**

*“The breath of life that animates the soul”*





# THE NEW SCHOOL PRAYER



## **St. Michael's Catholic College** **College Prayer**

Lord, thank you for the gift of this day  
and the time to live and love in your  
world.

May we be brought to the fullness of  
life by the Salesian values taught to us  
by St John Bosco.

We ask St. Michael our protector  
to watch over us in our mission  
to overcome evil with good.

Amen

St. Michael, **pray for us**  
St. John Bosco, **pray for us**

In the autumn term the RE department, Mr Kelly and Ms Corcoran began to share ideas to launch a new college prayer. After a few drafts the version above was decided upon, honouring the founder of the Salesians St John Bosco, as well as our namesake St Michael. Officially this was launched at the start of 2023 and many classes can now share this word perfect. It is something our young people will take with them as they continue beyond St Michaels and help to showcase the values learned here for the rest of their lives. The cards and design were made by Mr Lomax, the Head of Art, and each student and staff member now has a copy of this unifying prayer.

## PRAYER AT ST MICHAEL'S

As a college community prayer is at the forefront of what brings us together. Each lesson begins with a prayer, as well as form time in the morning and afternoon. We also pray together in assemblies. Prayer is therefore something we think about regularly and we wanted to ensure our prayers are always meaningful and reflective.

As a result we now offer weekly community intentions along with private personal intentions so we are all bound in the words spoken.

Examples of these intentions have recently been for those with Cancer, St Patrick, the vulnerable etc.

Prayerful intention this week

As well as your own private intentions, our community intention for prayer at the beginning of lessons is for...

Those suffering with cancer...

...Give them the courage and strength to fight another day and grant us the grace to use our pain to reach out with help and support.

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Prayerful intention this week

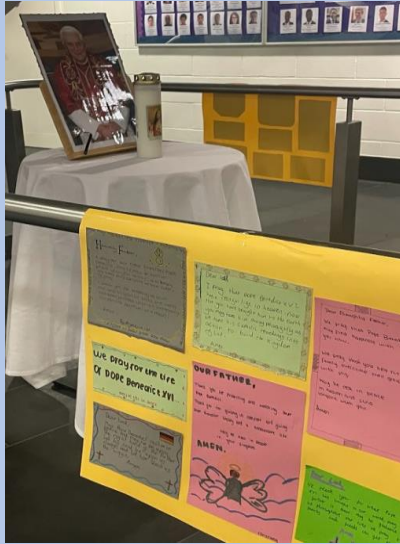
As well as your own private intentions, our community intention for prayer at the beginning of lessons is for...

St Patrick...

Feast Day of St. Patrick is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March



## POPE BENEDICT EMERITUS XVI

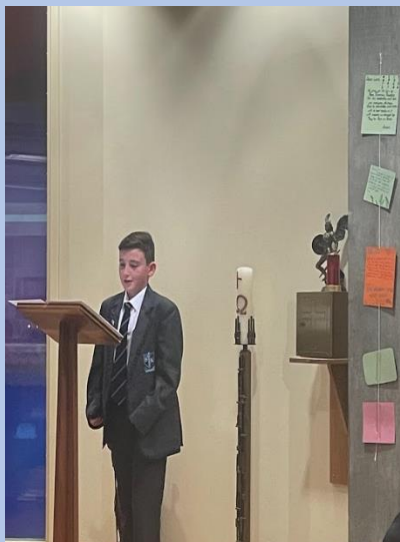
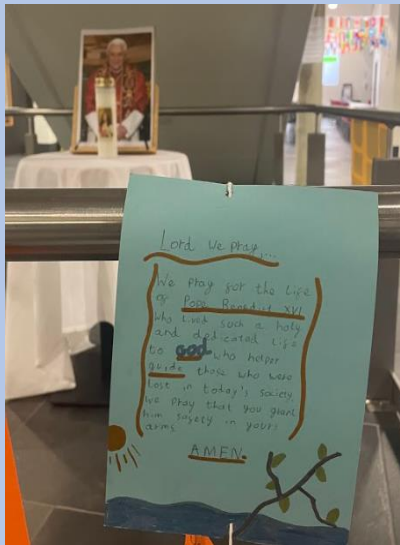


As we returned to school in January 2023 we marked the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict. As lessons began, all students in KS3 and CORE RE had lessons dedicated to the life of this history making Pope. Students learned about his dedication to theology and the influence he had on Church teachings still in practice today.

Students were then given the chance to write a prayer or a message to honour Pope Benedict, with a focus on thanking him for this dedication and hope for the Church.

Miss Casey and pupils from Year 8 Faith in Action put together a display under the main staircase to honour this momentous Pope.

Finally, 7 Savio's Mass, which took place that week, was dedicated to the life of Pope Benedict and the liturgy was wonderfully led by Fr Keith and the pupils of 7 Savio.







## FLAME 2023

Flame at Wembley Arena returned after a hiatus due to COVID, for the first time since 2019. Students from all key stages were accompanied on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March by Miss Casey, Miss S Etemewei and Ms Cadahia for this joyous and momentous day.



Flame is the largest catholic gathering in England. It took place exactly 150 days before the World Youth Day in Lisbon and borrowed the Scripture from WYD, “Mary arose and went with haste”, and crystallised it into the theme “Rise Up.” Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up as Mary did.

There were about 8000 people attending the flame concert at Wembley Arena. Seeing so many people gathered in one place was a fantastic experience. Many music artists performed during the event sharing their life experiences and faith in God. Going to the event, I was expecting a boring few hours and constant prayers, however it was surprising to see artists like:

- Gunvva B (rapper) who received the Urban Music Award as well as published his book titled, ‘Unpopular culture’ where he railed against status quo and encouraged the youth to live happy fulfilling lives being themselves.
- Faith Child, a contemporary Christian artist and presenter, his music is a blend of Rap, Electro and Pop.
- Adenike singer and songwriter was a contestant in The Voice in 2020. She was my favourite as she somehow managed to get the whole crowd to sing the same lyrics at different times and it all sounded great together!

In between the performances, the church officials spoke about the main theme of Flame 2023, encouraging everyone to “rise up” and take action in their lives, rise up to save the planet for future generations and to spread the word of God and tell people about the Catholic faith.

Flame finished with the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During a day filled with music, dance and fun it was easy to simply forget the real reason why we all came there. The Adoration of the blessed sacrament allowed us to reflect on the day and remind us that God wants everyone to feel joy and be happy but we should never forget about Him. In summary, Flame was one-of-a-kind experience.

*Ethan K – 10 DA*





## A NEW CAFOD CAMPAIGN LED BY ST MICHAEL'S

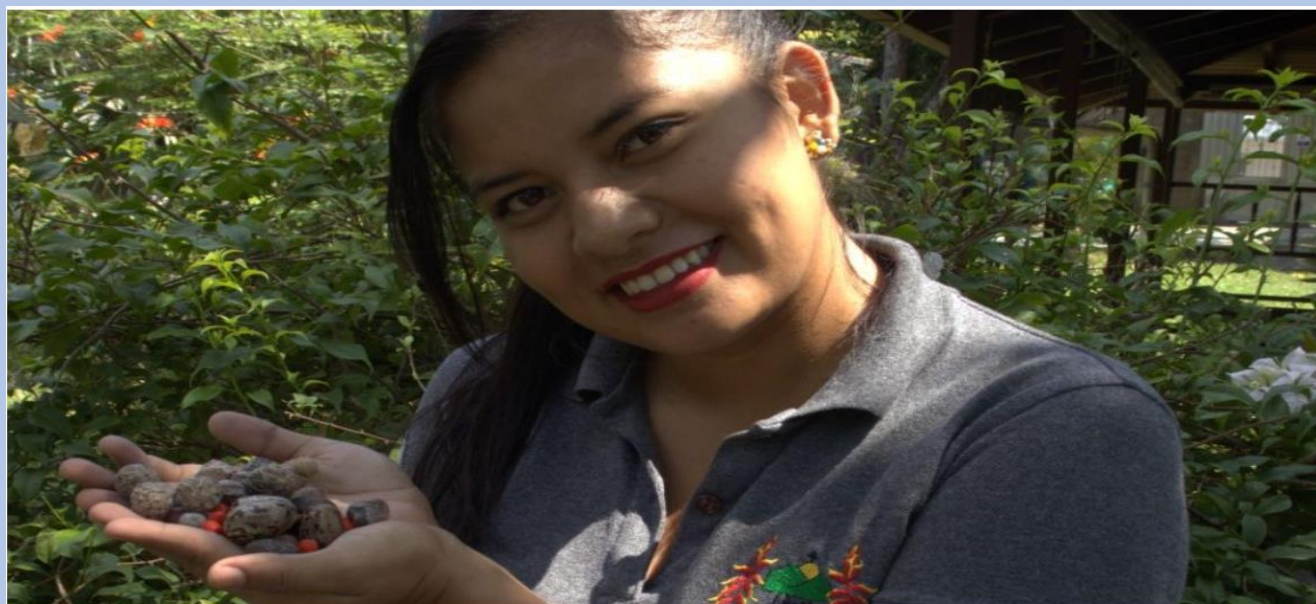
St Michael's were given a once in a lifetime chance to take part in a new CAFOD Campaign which involved 5 students in the Year 12 Chaplaincy Team and the CAFOD Youth Training Program, to be the recording actors for the video. Jenny Garzon (pictured below) is a CAFOD worker working on the ground in Colombia to help people get access to education, supplies and to help respond to the climate crisis Colombia is facing. CAFOD got in touch with Miss Casey to ask about some potential voice actors to read along and record for the campaign which would be shared worldwide, and premiered at Flame where Jenny herself was present.

Ayomide I, Laura F, Dylan S and Aaron G all read along for smaller parts of the video, but Mariana R read for the main part of Jenny and it was such a unique experience for them to be able to take part in.

As mentioned, it premiered to 8000 people at Flame in early March and can be seen on YouTube or the CAFOD website under campaigns about the earth.

We are reminded of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* that this is all of our common home to share, and hope our small input into the campaign can help to spread vital awareness.

*Pictured Below: Jenny G who the CAFOD Campaign is about*







## LENT BEGINS: ASH WEDNESDAY

This year ten members of the Year 12 Chaplaincy Team led our Ash Wednesday Services. Thank you to Ayomide, Sadie, Astra, Maria N, Regina, Mariana, Heidi, Holly, Samanta and Hermy.

I chose to participate in Ash Wednesday because it helped me and my journey with God and to become closer to him. My faith has become stronger recently and Ash Wednesday was a big step for me. Not only did it help on my religious journey, it also helped in different skills like public speaking as I could feel God was present with me helping me begin to overcome my fears of public speaking.

*Heidi L-Q – Year 12*

I wanted to help in Ash Wednesday because as I was putting the ashes on everybody and saying believe in the Gospel. I could see everybody's faces as their spiritual connection with God is getting stronger and it symbolises something that our Lord Jesus Christ did for us and helps us to remember this as Lent begins.

*Ayomide I – Year 12*

The reason why I personally chose to participate in such an event is due to the importance it holds: the service not only involves the imposition of ashes on the forehead, symbolising humility and mortality, but also the need for repentance and forgiveness. In participating, giving out the ashes, it was a genuine powerful and meaningful experience (for both the giver and receiver ends) ultimately, helping me to reconnect with my faith and focus on my spiritual journey.

*Maria N – Year 12*



## LENT AND RECONCILIATION

We once again were blessed to be able to run Reconciliation services for all students across the college during Lent, with the help of local priests in our wider community. At the start of Lent Ms Corcoran and Year 12 student chaplains lead assemblies about the true meaning of Lent and how we can be called to reflect at this time. The period of Lent reflects the time when Jesus spent in the desert and how he was tested; we look to this story as inspiration in our own lives so we can grow in spirit during the Lenten period. As Lent began we were reminded of the call to: Pray, Fast and Give Alms.

Ms Corcoran asked pupils:

- What are you doing for Lent?
- Why are you doing this?
- What does scripture tell us?

It is important at this time to look inwards and consider the actions we might undertake to better understand the mission and sacrifice of Christ. By denying and dedicating ourselves to certain things, we are better versed to grow as individuals, as we begin to consider the needs of others before ourselves.





## FAITH IN ACTION: NEW YEAR 7 TEAM

The new team in Year 7 are proactive and a fantastic addition to an already thriving Chaplaincy at St Michael's. They are confident and willing to help in all cases. They recently reflected on why they joined and what they have got out of this venture.

I love Faith in Action as it is a very warm and welcoming community where we do everything together. We take part in many different celebrations which are very joyful and interactive. Faith in Action has also taught us a lot about religious views of the world and about our God and different religions e.g. Judaism

*Maia J – Year 7*

I love Faith in Action because it is a time where I get to compete in fun things with my friends while also learning at the same time. Plus I also love how all of this is organised with Miss Casey. I joined faith in action because I heard that they got to go on trips and organise events and I wanted to become part of that.

*Kobby B – Year 7*

I Joined Faith in Action as it is a way to get closer to God doing things that you like for example doing fundraising and charity events to raise money for different causes. I love faith in action as it has an amazing community and teachers which help me to my goal of being the perfect Salesian student. Recently, one thing I enjoyed in faith and action is that we got to do a fashion show and contribute to the Lunar New Year event which helps students to understand and celebrate different cultures which is inclusive and very unique.

*Zachary O – Year 7*

I joined Faith in action as a way to get closer to people and God and to be a community that helps and creates events for everyone to enjoy and to learn new things on their journey.

*Amara P – Year 7*

I joined faith in action to learn more about other religions and to Strengthen my relationship with God. I enjoy all of the events that we hold.

*Elayne A – Year 7*

*Pictured Below: Just some of the 18 members of the Year 7 group*





## WORLD RELIGIONS FOCUS: LUNAR NEW YEAR

We continued the St Michael's celebrations of world religions and other cultures by marking the Lunar New Year in January 2023. All of KS3 received lessons about the history of the Lunar New Year, including the Great Race of the Zodiac of Animals and the many wonderful customs which take place each year throughout China, Asia and the rest of the world. The kitchen had an all Chinese menu during the day and after school we held a reenactment of the great race. During lessons KS3 classes created their own Chinese lanterns. Year 10 and Year 13 Chaplaincy students also aided with displays and creating the fake river for the animals in the race to cross.



Taking part in the Lunar new year was amazing because I was able to express myself and show how I truly act and my acting skills. This article will guide you through how it came to be.

In preparation, we had many rehearsals and since I was the main character (The Jade Emperor) I had lines so I had to practice those but the others barely had to practice. All they needed to do was practice their acting skills and show more enthusiasm.

Some things I enjoyed consisted of the dress rehearsal and myself. The reason I say I liked myself is that I was the one who lightened up the mood with my heavenly acting skills and my extraordinary humour. Plus every time I made a mistake I would cover it up by making people laugh which is very smart. The reason I liked the dress rehearsal is mainly that we got to dress up and we had the proper equipment needed for everything, so we were basically performing without any audience which removed some stress off my shoulders.

We told the story of the GREAT RACE, where the animals competed for the Jade Emperor to decide the order of the Chinese Zodiac Calendar. It was so much fun seeing the others all acting like their animals and crossing the fake river Miss Casey built.

In conclusion, the Lunar New Year was amazing and I hope we do it next year, if so I can't wait to participate again and I highly recommend you do as well! 👍

*Kobby B-A – 7DA*





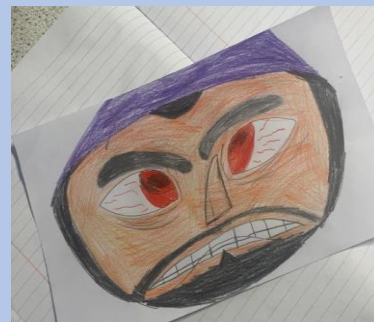
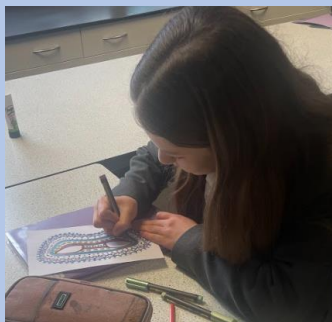


## WORLD RELIGIONS FOCUS: PURIM

The Purim Fashion show was a very nice and exciting event to be able to participate in. The reason that we held a fashion show for Purim was because Purim is a festive and celebratory time for Jewish people where young people learn about the story of Queen Esther who stood up for her people and saved many from death because of her confidence. It is a time to celebrate! A way that Jewish people celebrate this time is through fancy dresses and festive masks. One thing that was really fun at the Purim event was when we were in the drama room and everybody was wearing hats and posing. Another thing that I enjoyed was seeing everyone's unique clothing, we all looked really amazing! At the fashion show we had some judges who were dressed up in such crazy but unique clothing. We had a stage that we all walked on and could show off our exciting clothing to the crowd who gave a supportive cheer each time one of us came on. There were two great hosts from Year 11 who gave each of our outfits an impressive, thrilling description and some Year 9s who acted as the judges like we were on Britain's Got Talent. Music played as we came out and we were able to show off the fun outfits we put together.

*Elayne A – 7RU*

In March we celebrated Purim, the Jewish Festival which celebrates the time when Queen Esther saved the Jews from persecution. A main feature of Purim today is a festive meal and a fancy dress parade. We turned this into a sustainable fashion show and held the first ever BERMONDSEY FASHION WEEK. Students in Faith in Action in Year 7 created costumes, Year 9 Drama Club students were the judges and Ryan and Jayden in Year 11 were our comperes. As always KS3 classes had dedicated lessons about this festival and created their own masks.





## LENT FUNDRAISING 2023



For Lent 2023 it was decided that we should raise money each Friday for the Catholic Children's Society. As a charity they have supported some of our young people and their families in the past, so it was decided that we would try where we can to give back. Each House was given a Friday in Lent to raise funds in whichever way they wanted to do so. DaCosta held the DaCosta Carnival with fairground games, popcorn, doughnuts and candy floss raising nearly £200. Rua also held a fundraising day on St Patrick's Day where green was a theme, donations were made to wear green as well a tuck shop and a teacher sponger throw organised by Mr Devine. The total for Rua is still to be announced but a minimum of £150 is expected.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

We still have a week to go before the end of term, so here are some of the events taking place in the last week of term.

The Chaplaincy bulletin will return in the summer term, so watch this space. Thanks to all Student Chaplains, Faith in Action Leaders and participants for demonstrating Salesian values and contributing to the Catholic life of the college.

- **Ongoing Salesian Exchange with a Salesian school in Florence**
- **Ongoing morning prayer for Lent in the chapel at 8:15am**
- **Year 9 Music Celebration Assembly**
- **Bosco and Mazzarello charity days for the Catholic Children's Society**
- **Lent and Easter preparation Services at Most Holy Trinity Dockhead**
- **Stations of The Cross performed by Drama Students**



### A WORD AND A PRAYER



#### A Prayer to Prepare our Hearts for Easter

Almighty Father, who sent your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, show us how we can honour you and bring glory to your name, by walking in the way of Jesus.

Give us grace and mercy as we try and fail, guidance when we are not sure which way to go and wisdom to trust you in all things.

For your love brings light and life to all who seek it. May we seek you evermore as we walk with you to Holy Week and beyond.  
Amen

*Ms. Corcoran - Principal*

**WISHING ALL  
THE STUDENTS,  
STAFF AND  
FAMILIES A  
HAPPY AND  
HOLY EASTER  
HOLIDAY.**

*Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*