

# St Michael's Catholic College

*Summer Term 2023*



**RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR**

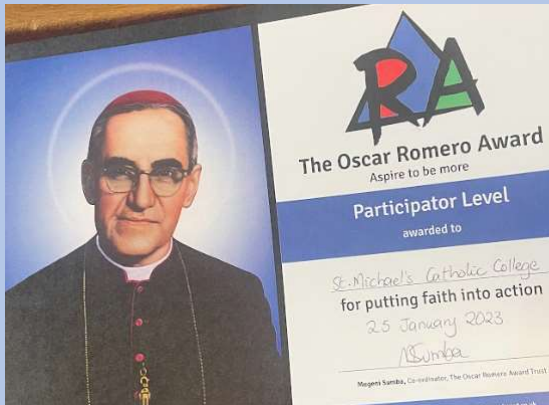
**RUAH**

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





## ST MICHAEL'S AWARDED THE OSCAR ROMERO AWARD



In April, St Michael's were finally invited to receive their Participator Level of the Oscar Romero award. This means we have showcased true Salesian Values throughout our college and that all we do is highly inspired by Catholic Social teaching to walk in the footsteps of St Oscar Romero. Last year we were only attendees, but this year we were part of the lucky schools who were showcased to be award winners. St. Romero fought for human rights and to end discrimination towards the poor and this mass contributed to the continuation of the legacy that he started. It was a lovely mass that we hope inspires people to work with integrity for an end to violence and poverty.

In summary, we were nervous but proud and it really made us feel so proud of the school knowing we played a part in making this possible. On behalf of the school, we are so pleased of what this great school has achieved over the last years and I hope that the pupils in the school can continue to show RUAH values in their everyday lives. We are also one of the lucky few to earn this amazing award due to our focus on Catholic social teaching and Salesian values which we act out daily. St George's is also such a beautiful church and we got the chance to take a picture with the Archbishop!

We were told that the school worked very hard to achieve this award and they were able to receive it as a result of our hard work and dedication. We were full of pride to take part in the Oscar Romero award and thought the service was a good way to honour ours and other schools' achievements.

*Michael I, Jonathan A, Rosie N, Camille N and Monika K – Year 8 Faith in Action Representatives*







## THE SALESIAN EXCHANGE



In a St Michael's first, we took part in an exchange programme with the Salesian School of Florence. In March, students across the school welcomed visitors from Italy, with the return trip during our Easter break. Students from St Michael's were members of Faith in Action and the Year 10 chaplaincy team, alongside other students from Year 9. This was a real reward and reflection of the service these students have given to the school, that they were invited to take part in this inaugural event. We hope to continue this event moving forward. Whilst in London, students visited the sights, took part in lessons and before they flew home attended a special Mass led by Father Keith and students in 7MA, where we read part of the service in Italian. In Italy, again the students saw the sights and took part in Italian school life. Thank you to Ms Rughooputh, Miss Stewart and Mr Kelly for escorting them on a wonderful trip, enjoyed by all.

The daily routine at the school was very interesting to be able to experience. The Salesian educational approach emphasises a holistic development, where academics, sports, and extracurricular activities go hand in hand. The classes were engaging and interactive, with teachers fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment. I was able to immerse myself in a new curriculum, expanding my knowledge and gaining insights from different perspectives. What made this experience truly unique were the connections I formed with fellow students. The cultural exchange between us was enriching, as we shared stories of our respective countries, traditions, and customs. Despite the language barrier, we found ways to communicate, using gestures, laughter, and the universal language of friendship. The Salesian ethos of understanding and respect created a sense of belonging, transcending any cultural differences we might have had.

*Bryant U – 10VI*



## CHAPLAINCY: END OF YEAR MASS



For the final Mass of the Year, Fr Keith led the school in a service in honour of the Holy Day of Obligation for St Peter and St Paul. Each week a form class takes charge of leading the service, however, for the final Mass of the Year all students from the Chaplaincy teams across the college were welcome to join and share in this service. Readings were led by Stephanie E (Year 7), Maja N (Year 8) and Samanta K (Year 12). It was a wonderful coming together of all the groups who have worked tirelessly to showcase their service to others and to thank them in a special tribute for the hard work they have done.



I have been incredibly impressed by the dedication and service given by the members of Faith in Action and the KS4 and KS5 chaplaincy teams over the past year. This was a lovely way to mark their dedication and Fr Keith made a special note to highlight the work they have done. All of these young people have showcased the Salesian Values of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour and are consistent role models to the other young people of our college. I'd like to personally congratulate them on their hard work and commitment to all of our events and enterprises this year, it was wonderful to welcome you all to the Chapel on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June. Well done!

*Miss Casey – Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*







## PRIDE AT ST MICHAEL'S



Over the month of June, St Michael's hosted a series of events to mark Pride month. Assemblies were led by Mr Mullik with the Diversity Ambassadors. As well as this, we welcomed visitors in to speak our young people about the context of LGBTQ+ in a Catholic setting.



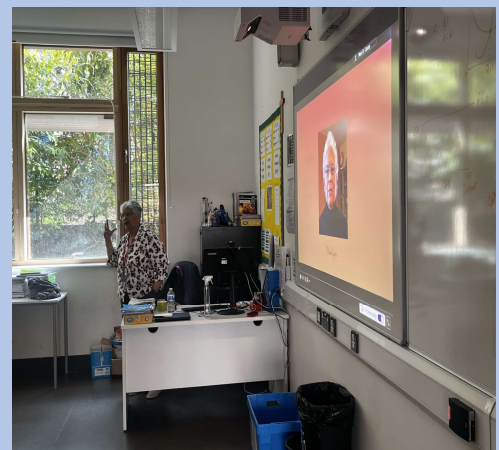
*Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed and loved.*  
—Pope Francis

Ruby Almeida (LGBT+ Catholics/ Quest) and Dr Nicolette Burbach (LGBT+ Catholics and the London Jesuit Centre) ran sessions on 'Being LGBT+ and Catholic' and 'Theology and Trans Liberation' "Listening to the speakers and their experiences was really inspiring. We were made aware of organisations set up to help Catholic LGBT+ youth and how Ruby Almeida herself worked to support people like herself and in less accepting communities. I consider myself very lucky to have met them both."

*Ash G – 10DA*

"We felt this assembly was very beneficial as it educates people about the struggles and hardships that face the LGBTQ+ community. This assembly was intended to shine a light on the dangers of hate crimes and how impactful a support system can be especially for LGBTQ+ youth. We wanted to encourage people to be that safe community and use RUAH values to build an inclusive community where our friends and peers feel safe to be fully themselves in. By using examples of real-life people and victims of hate crime we hope to show how real this issue is and how it can affect the most vulnerable people in our society."

*Sosna M – 10DA*





## THE MONTH OF MARY



Each morning before school, during May, students in the chaplaincy teams across the college met to share in the decades of the rosary.

Every day, we shared a decade of the rosary and read scripture from either the Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious and Joyful Mysteries.

We were so glad to have the chance to pause and reflect each morning. We took turns reading the scripture, whilst Miss Casey led us in the reciting of the rosary and the reflection for the day.

Saying the rosary is an avenue for contemplative thought and a way to refocus our minds and energy on living in Jesus everyday. By stopping to remember key events like this it helps us to remember and be grateful for what God has given to us up until now. Not only that, it helps us to connect with other people around us through prayer. It helps to be grateful for everything we have and praise God in making us so perfect.

It helps us also to take a break from the pressures of school, and to take time to reflect on our faith and finally to thank God for everything he has done in our life.

*Isioma A, Irati A – Year 10*

*Sadie B, Ayomide I and Regina R – Year 12*







## WORLD RELIGIONS FOCUS: EID



For the final World Religions Festival Focus of the year, we spent time in April marking the end of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid-al-Fitr. In lessons Year 7 learnt about the time of Ramadan and it's relations to the actions of Muhammad. After school in the hall, where all students in the college were welcome, we had a craft celebration as is common in a lot of Muslim homes in the preparations for Eid. Younger children will often decorate jars and tubs, called Eidi Jars, with the hope that on Eid they are gifted with money and sweets in the jars as part of the celebrations. We also decorated plates for displays. Year 12 Chaplaincy students were on hand to provide traditional snacks and drinks, including dried fruit, biscuits and tangerines, alongside lemon juice. Year 10 Chaplaincy students helped lead each table in their craft of choice.

Thank you to all staff and students who came along to enjoy the afternoon and make it a success.





## YEAR 7 FAITH IN ACTION REFLECTION AND FINAL PIECE



The Year 7 Faith in Action team have worked tirelessly this year to demonstrate their Salesian Values in action. As we approach the end of the year, the students came together to write their song for their piece, set to the tune of Shine, Jesus, Shine. We hope to see them qualify and graduate in the Autumn team once all of their work, final piece and journal has been moderated.

They also spent time reflecting on their year and wrote this up to inspire future Year 7s to join.



I feel fantastic being a part of faith in action because I get to express myself and show my talents to the school without worry. I personally loved the lunar new year as I enjoyed being the only character with lines and acting in the play, even now people still talk about how funny I was! Now, I look forward to graduating with the rest of my peers and having the title of an FIA graduate throughout my whole time in St Michael's.

*Kobby B – 7DA*

Joining faith in action was a choice that I do not regret at all and I have enjoyed every minute of it. My favourite thing we've done this year is definitely the Bermondsey Fashion show for Purim. I had so much fun and I loved seeing everyone's creative outfits and I got to know some of the other members better that day. I cannot wait to make new and better memories with the people in Faith in Action next year!

*Elayne A – 7RU*

Being a part of faith in action made me realise the amount of amazing and fun things I can do whilst spreading God's message. One of my most favourite events was the lunar New Year and Eid. This is mainly because I've got to learn more about different cultures and religions which further enhanced my knowledge. I am looking forward to my graduation of faith in action and I hope that in the future I can do many more different things like this. I am very grateful for all of the teachers like Miss Casey and Miss Stewart, they have really helped me develop my relationship with God.

*Zachary O – 7DA*







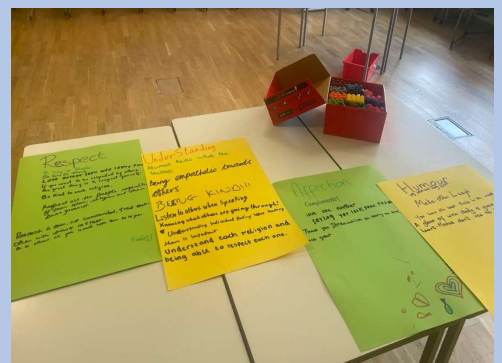
## COLLEGE SHOWCASE EVENING



On the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 St Michael's hosted their second annual Showcase evening. Across the college students were able to demonstrate the work they have done throughout the year, outside of lesson time. It was wonderful to hear the band, see drama performances and taste the wonderful carbonara from Food Tech.

The Chaplaincy teams put together a presentation and reflection in the Chapel and the neighbouring classroom of all the wonderful things they have done this year. Students from Year 7 and Year 8 Faith in Action led the afternoon on behalf of the other students and were able to tell all our visitors about the activities they have been up to.

As role models of the RUAH Values and faith formation in the college, the students invited visitors to write either a message to God or reflect on the RUAH values in their own lives.







## A LOOK BACK...



There were services, Masses, fundraising events and activities surrounding Chaplaincy this year, some of which didn't make it into previous bulletins. The pupils of St Michael's are dedicated and resilient and have showcased how well rounded and amazing they truly are through all of the things we have managed to achieve.



## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR LOCAL SENIOR CITIZENS IN OUR COMMUNITY







## YEAR 11 VISITED BY THE JIMMY MIZEN FOUNDATION AND REFLECTION



We were lucky enough to be visited by Margaret and Barry Mizen just before the Christmas break, where they spoke to our Year 11 about the importance of understanding our actions, but more importantly how we can make sense and peace with those who harm us. They shared the story of their son, Jimmy Mizen, who tragically lost his life in an unprovoked and merciless attack. However, for Margaret and Barry, as devastating as it of course was, they used this to inspire others to avoid knife violence and gang related crimes and set up the Mizen Foundation to reach out to young people and share the message of peace and reconciliation overcoming all. Following this Mrs Bryant led Year 11 in a reflection, wherein each form created banners about the importance of peace and understanding. Jayden F-M (11DA) led us in scripture and it was a truly inspiring and empowering way to end the term.





## A WORD AND A PRAYER



At the end of this school year we give thanks to God:

For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, both in and out of the classroom, For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced;

For the burdens that have been lifted and the hurts that have been healed;

For the respect, understanding, affection and humour that has been shown.

We give thanks for the friendships that have just begun and for those that have grown.

For the faith that has been lived in our daily struggles,

For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days and for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for the community that we are.

Lord, bless us and keep us safe over the summer, pour out your love on us that we may return renewed and refreshed to continue our journey together.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

*Ms. Corcoran - Principal*

Wishing all students, staff and their families a restful and peaceful summer break.

Psalm 97

*Light shines on the  
righteous and joy on  
the upright in heart.  
Rejoice in the LORD,  
you who are righteous,  
and praise his holy  
name.*

*Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

### UPCOMING

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are some of the events taking place in the last week of term which we will update you about in the Autumn. As always, please do look to our Twitter and Instagram to see ongoing events throughout the year.

- Sports Day
- Arts and Enrichment Week
- Careers and Enterprise Week