

# St Michael's Catholic College

*Spring Term 2024*



**RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR**

**RUAH**

*"The breath of life that animates the soul"*





## THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DREAM OF ST. JOHN BOSCO



On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, as a college we celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dream of Bosco. Fr. Keith came in on that day to lead us in Mass to celebrate this momentous day for Salesian's Worldwide. We were reminded of the message of the heart of each child is at the focus of what we do each and everyday. We reflected that through our RUAH Values we live out the dream that he had for, at the time, the children of Turin, but that this extends to all children now living in the Salesian ethos. Year 8 Bosco helped to lead this special Mass and all students across the college shared in a focal presentation for the day. As part of the celebrations, Bosco held their charity week and students and staff were asked to send messages of when they have seen someone 'showing their RUAH'.



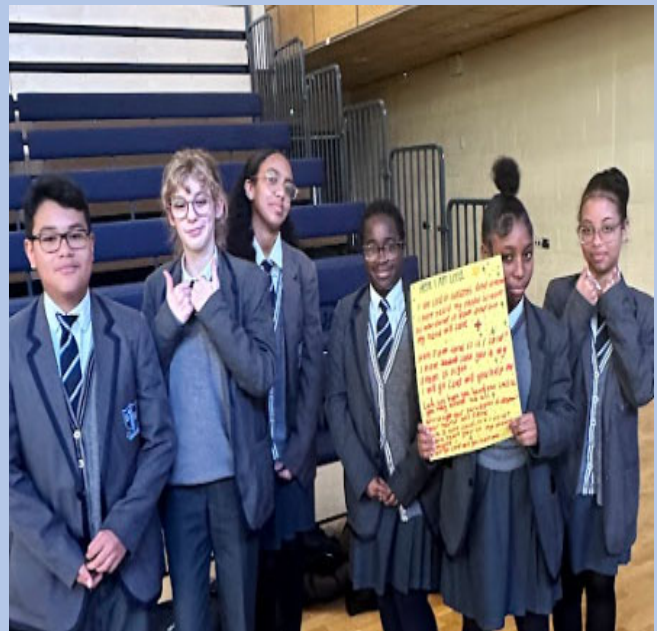
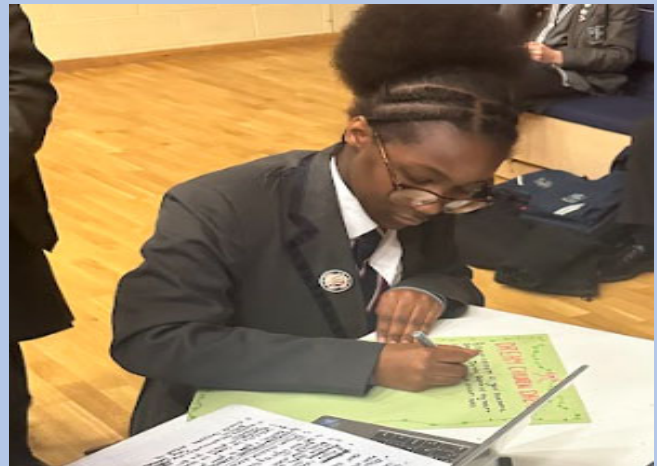




## YEAR 9 RETREAT



The Year 9 retreat took place across two Fridays before February Half Term. Around this time the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dream of St John Bosco was always held, this was the theme that the students reflected upon. Students were shown a video of people, somewhat older than themselves, being asked 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' – all of the people laughed. It was a clear message that to stop dreaming, is to stop hoping. We were reminded of the Dream of Bosco for all young people and that we were in fact living out his dream, so certainly many things can be possible through hope, faith and determination. Students shared their wishes and dreams for their own futures; reflecting on how the values of RUAH might encourage them and aid them in their own future lives. Each group wrote song a about hope, dreams and faith set to a pre-existing tune; they spoke of the need to keep God at the centre of all that they do.





# LENTEN LITURGY AND RECONCILIATION



Before half term, members of the Chaplaincy in Year 12 attended their second CAFOD Young Leadership Training Day. They were keen to share their newfound knowledge and drive for fundraising with the rest of the college. Prior to the start of Lent, students put together their own assembly speaking of the importance of Ash Wednesday and the true focus of Lent. Students shared the story of James, the Fisherman in Liberia, who without the help of CAFOD might have lost his life for his work. Year 12 Chaplains shared the message and hope of Lent, that people might spend some time giving back to those less fortunate than themselves, as well spending time in reflection of themselves.



Once Lent began, each Thursday morning Year 12 Chaplains shared a special service with all year groups to spread the message of Reconciliation and encourage students in the rest of the college to attend with a Priest. They shared the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, and shared that worrying about riches does not help one to please God, it is grace, loving thy neighbour and reconciliation in the eyes of the Lord.







## RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



Each year at the Cathedral, Archbishop John Wilson leads a special Sunday Mass focusing on the importance of Racial Justice and Equality in the world and especially within the diocese of Southwark. Miss Casey attended with pupils from the Sixth Form Chaplaincy to represent the college. All students were invited to attend and many were present at St George's, as well as Paul G (11DA) and Mateusz W (10MA) who were altar serving during the Mass.

Sunday 28th January marked Racial Justice Sunday in the Archdiocese of Southwark, which was commemorated with a Mass held in St George's Cathedral. As part of St Michael's wider work with the community, the Chaplaincy Team sent representatives to attend this Mass, at the invitation of Canon Victor Darlington, the head of the Commission for Promoting Racial Justice and Cultural Inclusion in the Archdiocese. It was truly inspiring to see such a commitment towards promoting diversity and inclusion within the mission of the Church, and in his homily, Archbishop John Wilson delivered a very significant message: there is no place for racism. There was also a focus on celebrating cultural heritage, with the bidding prayers read in the languages of different communities within Southwark, and a procession at the beginning, highlighting the plethora of cultures and communities who are all united through God's love. Many thanks to Canon Victor for the invitation, and all those who represented St Michael's by attending. Let's spread the spirit of this message through our words and actions, every day.

*Ryan B – 12A*

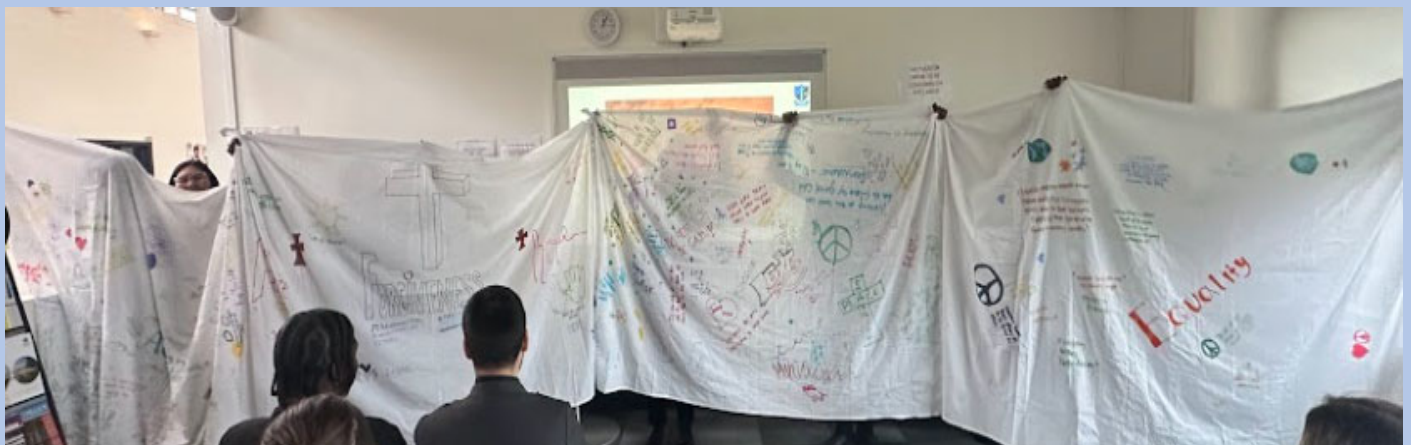




## YEAR 13 RETREAT



Year 12 were welcomed back to the college in January with a morning of reflection. After a session on their futures and achieving goals they were setting for themselves, they were joined by Miss Casey who led them in a session on the beauty of Peace, Hope and Forgiveness. They listened to the story of Jimmy Mizen, a young man who sadly lost his life due to senseless violence, but the more important factor within this were the words of Barry and Margaret Mizen, his parents. His parents, through their faith, opted not to hold malice or hatred in their heart, and instead chose to move on and forgive the person who took Jimmy's life, as they said in their own words, this is what Jimmy would have done. Students were able to reflect on the fragility of life and realise that their futures are not promised, so it is so important to live in the Values of Peace, Hope, Justice and Reconciliation. Year 13 created messages of hope to begin the last few months of their time at St Michael's; which were then pieced together, to showcase their statement of intent for their futures.



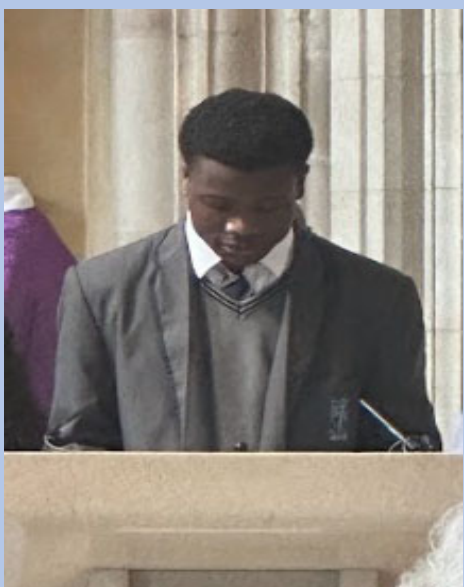




## CARITAS ANNIVERSARY MASS AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL



On Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Caritas Southwark, held a special Mass at the Cathedral to celebrate one year of working within the Diocese. Caritas is a charity, whose message is to end poverty, promote justice and restore dignity for all. Ahead of the Mass Canon Victor shared this message of the Mass *'I give thanks to God and to every member of my team for their hard work, support and Caritas Southwark Team contributions towards the realisation of this day. This is a dream come true, we all have worked hard and waited for this day, and it has finally come after a year of team work and consultation.'* He noted that this is a chance for all of the people in Southwark to embark on this new era together.



St Michael's were invited to attend this Mass and three of our students, Chidera U, Jeremy D and Hadrian K (Year 10 Chaplaincy), shared bidding prayers alongside students from Bonus Pastor, focusing on the work and message of Caritas. Other students attended to represent the college alongside Ms Corcoran and Miss Casey. It was a day enjoyed by all who attended and a wonderful message to take with them back to the college.

The Caritas Mass was a great experience where I was able to boost my confidence due to reading in front of many people. It was also a great spiritual experience and overall the message of the mass was fulfilling and something that I could take and use in everyday life. It connected well to our school Salesian Values and enabled me to reflect on the work I can do to ensure there is justice and hope for all in the world.

*Hadrian – 10 DaCosta*





## YEAR 12 CHAPLAINCY FOR CAFOD



St Michael's Chaplaincy Students in Year 12 work alongside CAFOD each year to bring the message of CAFOD into our college lives. Following on from their most recent training day the students selected to share some of the campaigns of CAFOD with Year 7. They began to deliver special lessons about the Step Up To The Plate project. They led the pupils in an activity to help them understand the inequalities of food growth, distribution and wealth across the world. CAFOD provided templates so our young people could write messages to our government to make them aware of the issues in the world, many of which we will be sharing with CAFOD. The lessons were a chance for Year 12 to demonstrate what they have been learning, and equally for Year 7 to learn about something which is so important to the world in which they live. Well done to all of those who led engaging and insightful lessons.



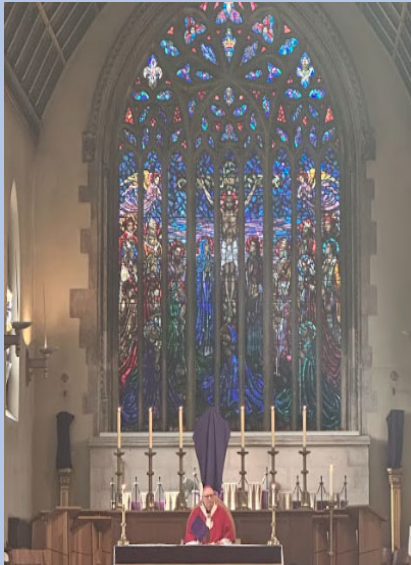
It was great when the Year 12's came into teach us, as it was different to normal lessons with a teacher. At first we did an activity about being a farmer and what we might do with different crops. The Year 12's really encouraged us and reminded us to be brave with our answers. The final task was to write a message to the government about food inequality on a broken plate, to show the problems with resources around the world. It was really fun and they picked the best ones for extra Merits! It really made me think about how much food I might waste and I'm going to try and change this.

*Minerva – 7 Mazzarello*





## OSCAR ROMERO MASS AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL



Last year, 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.

We attended once more to support the other schools within Southwark and to give us the determination to work towards the Developer Level.

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, the Mass was very enjoyable especially as we are leading up to Easter. We got to meet the Archbishop and learn more about the St. Oscar Romero which was a very enlightening experience. For us, the mass was very interesting and we especially enjoyed how so many schools were all together because it really gave the sense of community and I think it was lovely how we were all supporting each other. We were glad to be chosen to attend on behalf of the school with the Year 8's, and learn about the sacrifice of Romero.

*Paul A, Adam S, Amariah F, Enara A and Alaia A - Year 7 Faith in Action Representatives*

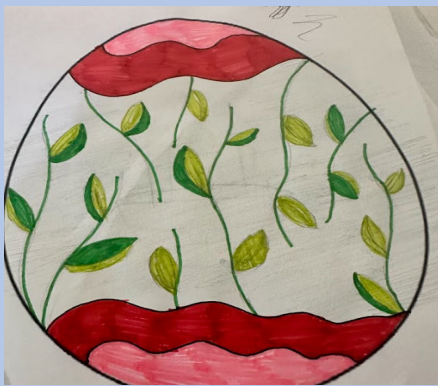




## WORLD RELIGIONS: RAMADAN AND NOWRUZ

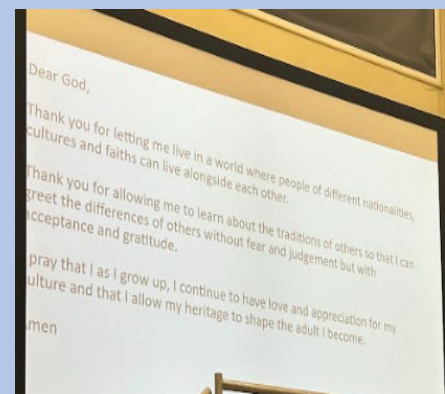


As part of the college culture, we have celebrated different world religions over the past few years. In March it was Nowruz, which is the Persian New Year and celebrated by over 300 million people worldwide, including members of the Zoroastrian and Baha'i faiths. All of Year 7 and Year 8 had special lessons to learn in RE, about the background of Zoroastrianism and the ways in which the festival is still celebrated today.



During assemblies Ms El- Janbey shared her personal experience of this, of building the HalfSin table at home and painting eggs to reflect the new year. She also shared how she is continuing this tradition within her own family.

Alex in 7 Rua, also shares in this background and helped his class with this lesson and shared prayers in assembly for Ms El- Janbey.



Ramadan commenced on the 11<sup>th</sup> March this year, and with members of our college community observing this, as a college we wished to share vital information with all students at this time.

All Heads of Years led assemblies about this, with the Year 8 team asking Mr Murungi to share his own personal experience.

These assemblies reminded us of the RUAH values of Respect and Understanding, and that we are all one in the eyes of God.







## FUNDRAISING



There has been a host of fundraising taking place across the college during the Spring Term and throughout Lent, as a reflection of the call to give alms during this part of the liturgical year.

Bosco Charity week took place in February, where students across Bosco House showcased their Faith in Action; especially their Humour as their week culminated in a charity dress up fun run around the Astroturf.

Bosco charity week was in aid of Evalina House, a charity close to me as I was admitted there when I was 3 with a hole in my heart, I'm so grateful to them for saving my life! In 7 Bosco we helped mostly with the tuck shop and a movie night; but I also sponsored £30 to my friends for the fun run. There was also a basketball match held by Year 10. Overall I think we made over £600, which is great for the charity day.

*Isabella – 7 Bosco*



Vicuna Charity week took place within Lent with money going to Make a Wish; they raised £240 overall with a range of activities including Karaoke.

Different houses also held charity days during Lent, Rua made and sold pick'n'mix, plus a treasure hunt with the final prize being an Easter Egg making over £100. DaCosta held a Ninja Warrior style course, a grand tuck shop and a guess the baby picture of the teacher, in one day DaCosta raised £360.

I wanted to get involved to help make people happy on the day by selling lots of nice things and as it was going to help CAFOD it made me even happier. My form brought in lots of good things and Miss Casey helped us to sell and support the charity.

*Elior – 7 DaCosta*





## A WORD AND A PRAYER



### Let Us Have Hearts of Thankfulness

Lord God,  
You loved this world so much,  
that you gave your one and only Son,  
that we might be called your children  
too.

Lord, help us to live in the gladness  
and grace  
of Easter Sunday, every day.  
Let us have hearts of thankfulness  
for your sacrifice.  
Let us have eyes that look upon  
Your grace and rejoice in our  
salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace  
and tell your good news to the world.  
All for your glory do we pray, Lord,  
Amen.

*Ms. Corcoran - Principal*

Wishing all students,  
staff and their families  
a blessed Easter.

Heavenly and Almighty Father, I  
give thanks this day for your  
great gift of Jesus Christ, that  
you would love me so much  
you'd send your only Son to live  
and die for my sins. I celebrate  
in his glorious resurrection,  
claiming victory over death  
and sin. May I daily die to my  
sin, ever stepping closer to you  
and your path for my life.  
Forgive my sins, Lord, and let  
me live fully in the joy of Christ.  
Amen.

*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  
Summer. As always, please do look at  
our Instagram to see ongoing events  
throughout the year.

- Bosco Charity Day
- Easter Services
- Year 10 Trip to Madrid