

# St Michael's Catholic College

*Summer Term 2025*



**RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR**

**RUAH**

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



As a college we have fundraised for the Catholic Children's Society throughout the years and this charity was the focus of the Good Shepherd Mass formed by the Catholic Education Service. Year 10 Young Salesian students attended on behalf of the college and presented a cheque of funds raised this year of £2771. It was also an opportunity for the students to meet other students from the St Benedict's Catholic Academy Trust who were also in attendance alongside Jonathan Ronan the CEO of the Trust. It was a wonderful Mass focusing on service of others not to only think of ourselves.

In May, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Good Shepherd Mass at St George's Cathedral along with a few other members of the Young Salesians group. It was such a special experience and I'm really glad I went.

The Cathedral itself was beautiful and as soon as we walked in, I could feel how peaceful and welcoming it was. The quiet hymns playing in the background really helped everyone settle in and enhanced the atmosphere.

The Mass started with a warm welcome by the Priest which was followed by the first hymn. We all joined in singing, emphasising the sense of unity within the congregation. Throughout the Mass, there were different prayers, readings and hymns. However, one of my favourite parts was when we all prayed together for young people, for our schools and for the people who need help the most. It reminded me of how important it is to care for others and to try to make a difference even if it's through something small.

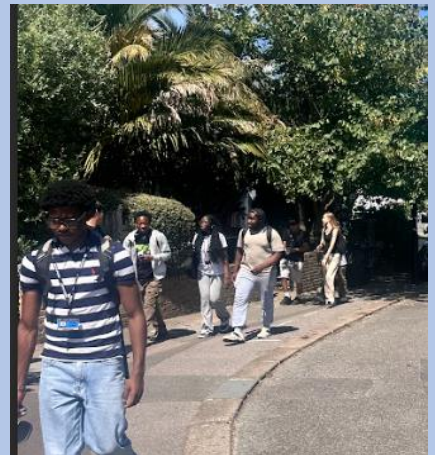
The message of the Good Shepherd was all about love, guidance and never giving up on people and I found this really inspiring especially hearing it while surrounded by other young people who are trying to grow in their faith just like me.

Overall, the Mass was very inspiring, bringing me closer to my faith, my friends in the Young Salesians and the Catholic community.

*Mirabel M – 10 BA*









On Friday, the 4th of July 2025, inspired by Pope Francis's declaration that this Jubilee year be deemed Pilgrims of Hope, Year 12 chaplaincy students undertook a mammoth walk from the college site to Bonus Pastor in Downham. Setting off in the morning accompanied by Miss Casey, Mrs Weatherley and Mrs Bryant, they journeyed from Bermondsey towards Lewisham and eventually reached Bromley. Part of the plan for this trip was to involve other schools within the St Benedict's Catholic Academy trust. Students and staff from St Michael's met students and staff from Bonus Pastor halfway and were kindly hosted by another school within the trust St Matthews Academy for a lunch time of unity, games and activities. It was a tough near 6 hour walk in the 28 degree heat but the final arrival at Bonus Pastor was rewarding and it truly united all those who took part to become Pilgrims of Hope.

The pilgrimage we took to Bonus Pastor was one of community strength and certainly a group struggle. Nevertheless, it was a memorable experience, one that the Chaplaincy group can never forget. First, we came to school and registered, disconnecting from our devices and social media and engaging with our surroundings. Taking our first picture in front of the school. Carrying a miniature baby Jesus alongside allowed us to reflect on the struggles that Jesus himself went through. The weather was hot. The sun was burning, but we perceived it. As we walked, talked, sang, even the company of the fellow members of the group inspired us to continue to our final destination: Bonus Pastor. We took a pitstop at Deptford High Street and then set forth. The walk continued until we reached St Matthew's Academy, where we took our lunch break. This is where community spirit started to bubble up. A few games of Mafia and silly accusations of who could be the impostor led to the creation of fond and sweeter memories. Finally, after lunch, we continued to walk until we reached Bonus Pastor. Overall, it was a lovely experience and one I hold dear.

*Ope O – Year 12*





As part of the year of the Jubilee in the calendar of events shared by the Vatican and the diocese, there was a designated jubilee for the elderly and grandparents. To welcome this event St Michael's hosted an afternoon tea party for local senior citizens, grandparents, parents and relatives of those within our St Michael's community. Lots of cups of tea were made and drank and the Year 12 Chaplaincy, who hosted the event, some of them learnt for the first time how to make a good cup of tea thanks to the guidance of Mrs Ferguson. Mrs Simmons, our food technician, lovingly baked over 150 scones and sausage rolls for our guests. The music department put on a short display from the band and the drama department shared some Shakespearean scenes for from their lambda project. It was wonderful to have so many visitors into the college and to see our young people work to serve those who have worked tirelessly their whole lives to look after others.





As always with each Year 12 Chaplaincy group, a smaller group attend CAFOD Young Leadership Training and feed this back to the rest of the team at school.

On this occasion it was to celebrate the completion of this year. The students heard from a local Catholic MP who has tirelessly worked with CAFOD, enjoyed a short liturgy and received their certificates and special Romero Crosses. Franck A (Year 12) read a bidding prayer on behalf of the college, the ceremony itself taking place at St George's Cathedral. CAFOD welcomed all young people to Romero House for a Pizza Party afterwards.









Our recent exchange trip to Florence, which lasted just 3-4 days, was short but packed with unforgettable memories. From the moment we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by the Italian students, who were excited to show us around their beautiful city. Speaking with them helped us improve our language skills and learn more about Italian culture first-hand. During the trip, we explored some of Florence's most iconic spots - from the bustling markets to quiet piazzas and historic landmarks. We also had time to enjoy the local food and, of course, do a bit of shopping. Souvenirs were a must, with many of us picking up handcrafted goods, leather accessories, and little gifts for friends and family back home. One of the standout moments came when Adam, in Rua, took a quick detour and bought fresh fish for his dad. It wasn't something you'd expect on a student trip, but it was such a genuine gesture that it quickly became a running story among the group.

Although the trip was brief, the connections made, and the experiences shared have left a lasting impression. Florence gave us more than souvenirs - it gave us new friendships, cultural insights, and stories we'll be telling for years to come.

*Aceline P – 8SA*







Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> July saw the annual showcase return to St Michael's. The Young Salesians of St Michael's shared the message of RUAH with all who visited the Chapel. They were also able to share updates of what we have done as the first ever members of the Young Salesians, focusing on the work they have done for Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour.

The showcase evening, I was really nervous. To start off the showcase evening I didn't realise how welcoming people would be so easy after feeling very nervous inside at the start. As the time went on, I felt OK introducing people. We were able to talk to people about our Young Salesian program and what the future of the program looks like with other schools, like a family tree. The main focus in the Chapel was the letters R U A and H, we painted them and also to encourage people to write messages of what they think our Salesian Values would be about.

*Stefan P – 7RU*





As the Patron Saint of Students, St. Benedict's teachings resonate deeply within our school community. His motto, "Ora et Labora," reminds us that "Pray" means taking time for quiet reflection and connecting with our spiritual side, while "Work" encompasses putting effort into all aspects of our lives – studies, friendships, and contributions to our schools. It was a truly inspiring day that reinforced our shared values and strengthened the bonds within the St. Benedict Catholic Academy Trust. Each school played a role, with St Michael's providing musical accompaniment. The choir delivered a beautiful rendition of the Jubilee Song, harmonising wonderfully during the Communion. We look forward to taking part again as the years of the Trust develop.



On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July in the morning, I was very nervous at the start as I'd been picked to read. When we got to the Church I started to feel a little more okay, when it finally became time to read I was suddenly more than okay! I was ready and in the mood to share the bidding prayer. After the Mass I felt very proud of myself for reading in front of 500 people and was so happy as well that my Dad was able to see me read at the Cathedral.

*Stefan P – 7RU*



There were Masses, fundraising events, prayer intentions, services and Young Salesian activities from the Chaplaincy team this year, some of which didn't make it into previous bulletins. The pupils of St Michael's are dedicated and committed to their Catholic faith, are resilient and have showcased how well rounded they truly are through all of the things they have managed to achieve through their many and continued acts of service to support the St Michael's community.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



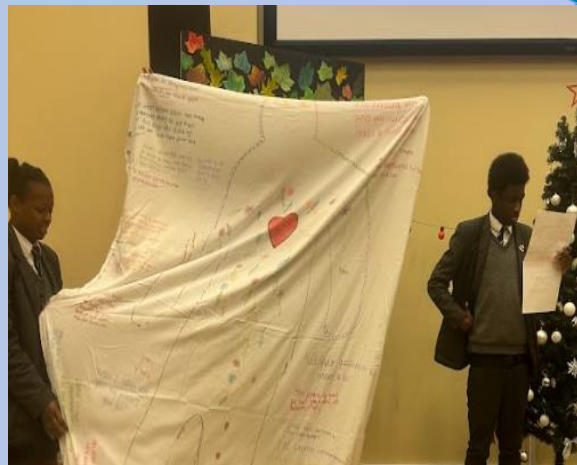




## A LOOK BACK



### YEAR 11 RETREAT



### LENT PRAYERS AND LITURGIES







# A LOOK BACK



## 7 RUA MASS



## YEAR 11 AND 13 LEAVERS





## POPE FRANCIS ASSEMBLIES

### A Boy Named Jorge

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Argentina in 1936. He loved playing football with his friends and helping his grandmother in the kitchen. As he grew older, he realised that he wanted to help people and eventually he decided to become a priest. He lived simply, took the bus to work, and always cared for the poor. In 2023 he became Pope Francis - the first to choose the name after St. Francis of Assisi known for his life of poverty, humility, and love for creation. Elected by conclave after the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI, he was the first Pope from Latin America. Pope Francis taught people to be kind, take care of the earth and love one another – just like Jesus!



## ALL ARE WELCOME AT ST MICHAEL'S

### All Are Welcome Talks 2025

Y7, Y8 and Y9 in G10

Greater representation of women within the Church and better inclusivity of the LGBT community – these are some of the big issues the Synod process is addressing. Synodality is a key element of Pope Francis vision for the Church, aiming to foster a more inclusive and participatory Church. Pope Leo wants this continued.

Dr Janet Obeney-Williams from LGBT Catholics at Westminster is involved in the Synod process here and in Rome. She wants to talk to you about the process and listen to your opinions and give you a voice in changing things.

This is your opportunity to shape the Church of tomorrow.

Y10 and Y12 in G18

The story of Sylvia Rivera. She is best remembered as a key figure in the Stonewall Riots in 1969, but she was also a true pioneer when it came to speaking up and advocating for the rights of the disfranchised such as transgender people and LGBTQ youth.

Dr Nicolette Burroughs is the Social and Environmental Justice Lead at the London Jesuit Centre. She again is returning to St Michael's to deliver a 'university level' taster session on Liberation Theology and the story of Rivera and why her activism is studied within Social Sciences.

Tuesday

24<sup>th</sup> June

3.30 to 4.30pm

Christ in  
Everyone



All Are Welcome in St  
Michael's



## FUNDRAISING







## A WORD AND A PRAYER



We thank you Lord, for this school year. For the challenges, the successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt.

Help us to continue to demonstrate RUAH values during the summer holidays and to remember that you are with us Lord as we spend our time with family and friends.

Help us to remember to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others and to be peacemakers in our family. Give us the strength and courage to do what is right and to be witnesses to our faith.

Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and moments of joy and bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term.

We thank you for our classmates, the St Michael's staff and Governors, our parents and carers and for being part of a Salesian community that cares for us. Amen.

*Ms. Corcoran - Principal*

*Lord Jesus,  
The summer invites us to a  
pace of life that allows for  
more rest and relaxation.  
Help us to truly embrace this  
time as a gift from You.  
Quiet our minds and hearts,  
that we may find true rest in  
Your presence. Renew our  
spirits, bodies, and minds, so  
that we may return to our  
daily responsibilities with  
renewed vigor and purpose,  
ready to serve You and our  
neighbors with greater love.  
Amen.*

*Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

**As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are upcoming events and dates:**

- **Sports Day**
- **The end of Arts and Enrichment week**
- **Achievement assemblies**