

St Michael's Catholic College

Spring Term 2026



RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR

RUAH

“The breath of life that animates the soul”





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 competition and held a runway show. Students in Young Salesians in Year 7 created costumes, Year 10 Young Salesians were the judges and Year 12 Chaplaincy helped with organizing, snacks and hosting duties went to Catherine D 12B.

For the fashion show, I chose to dress up as Alvin from Alvin and the Chipmunks. The theme was eco-friendly, so I made sure not to buy anything new and instead used clothes I already have. I wore a red T-shirt, which represents Alvin's signature outfit, and paired it with my own jeans to complete the look as well as wearing brown ears.

To make the costume more accurate, I added a large letter "A" to the front of the T-shirt. I made the "A" using paper instead of fabric so that I did not need to buy anything new. I attached it carefully so it could be removed later. I also wore makeup to match the chipmunk look.

This project showed me that fashion can be fun while also being environmentally friendly by reusing items instead of buying new ones.

Aaliyah A - 7VI



For the fourth year in a row, St Michael's returned to Florence to visit our Italian buddies whom we spent time with in November. This time the trip took place during the February half term, where the weather was a little more palatable than previous trips in May. Year 8 students, lead by Mr Kelly, Miss Casey, Mr Devine and Ms Roshier spent days in school, walked the streets of Florence and finally enjoyed a day trip to Pisa.

Entering Florence, Italy was very nerve racking for me as I had never left the country by myself. Going into another school was exciting to see how I could compare how we do things in St Michael's to what the Italian School did. On the first day of meeting my Italian buddy I was happy that I could share memories with Eugenio my buddy and get up to date with how we are doing. I was privileged to do a workshop with him so we could learn, discuss, have fun and expand my relationship with other Italians. The Italians also gave us a warm welcome reminding me of what we did when they were in London. The teachers also gave us a small introduction about themselves as well as the director (Principal) of the school. The second day, we continued with the English Workshop and had lunch together where I got more time to talk with my buddy and have fun. The final day, was unfortunately where the fun ended and I had to say my goodbye but me and my buddy exchanged numbers and hope to organise a trip where we can see each other again. However, on the weekend I enjoyed visiting the Leaning Tower of Pisa where I bought my souvenir and had a delightful McDonald's Meal. Alongside that we did (28,000 steps) A LOT OF WALKING!!!!
Stefan P - 8RU







Year 13 were welcomed back to the college on Monday 5th January to a reflection day based on RUAH - Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour by way of a spiritual retreat. The message was simple, how can RUAH inform their futures as they set off into the final months of their time at St Michael's. Each form class was given a letter, R U A or H and were charged with making a design piece to share with the rest of the forms.

LENT PRAYERS

Year 12 Chaplaincy team created a daily prayer calendar for the season of Lent. Each day they shared a reading, a reflective prayer and finally a mission for the day.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays during Lent also saw an opportunity of self reflection of prayers in the Chapel. All students and Young Salesians were welcome to attend and create prayers.

11 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 12 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 13 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

14 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' 15 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 16 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

17 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' 18 "When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' 19 "When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

20 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Monday 23rd February

Matthew 25:31-46

The Sheep & Goats



Dear Lord,

We thank you for this renewed Lentern season and the opportunity to reflect and repent on our actions.

Help us to recognise the presence of Christ in every person, creature and being, and guide us into becoming the sheep that are worthy of your kingdom.

Forgive us when we fail to look after those around us, and give us the renewed strength to try again.

Amen.

How can you help and look after others this Lent?





The Young Salesian programme is designed to show progress across the year groups, and the current Year 10's are taking this leadership responsibility very seriously.

In September the Year 10's helped to lead the Graduation. In February Kobby and Zachary were part of the group who met with the Oscar Romero Award Assessor to help share the wonderful work that they have been a part of. In March for Purim, the students no longer took part in the performance but were the judges; going from participants in Year 7 to leaders.

In January, for Christian Unity Week, Year 10 were charged with not only leading the liturgy of the word that week but also putting it together. They each worked on a different element, and each took turns sharing slides and stories. It has been wonderful to see their growth in confidence and leadership since they joined the original Faith in Action in Year 7.



On Thursday 26th February 2026 St Michael's were visited by the St Oscar Romero Award Accreditation team, where we able to showcase the hard work that we have put in across the college living in the spirit of social justice and the inspiration of St Oscar Romero. They met with a range of students and staff who shared how the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching are central to College life. We were pleased to be informed that at the next St Oscar Romero Feast Day Mass at the Cathedral, we would be receiving the Developer award, one of only 39 schools across the country to have this honour.

Being awarded the St Oscar Romero Developer award has been a dream come true after years of practising my faith along with my young Salesian peers. This reward serves as a trophy we can take home and celebrate as a community. Furthermore, taking part in the qualification was a very thrilling experience, taking the representative around the school and answering a few questions (whilst having some biscuits) was really exciting and interesting as I got to talk about my school and all the wonderful things we've done or we offer. So as we go and finally receive the St Oscar Romero award we have worked so long and hard for, it will be an honour and a memorable experience, and we will be able to walk around with joy and pride.

Kobby B-A - 10DA





Students and staff got into the St Patrick's Day spirit on Tuesday 17th March. Lots of students proudly wore symbols of their Irish heritage and other students wore symbols of this day. Mr Kelly played traditional Irish music during lunch to help theme the day.

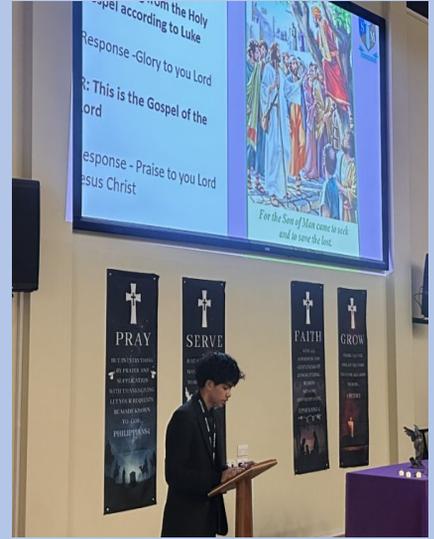


RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY MASS



On Sunday 8th February, Archbishop John Wilson led the yearly Racial Justice Sunday Mass at St George's Cathedral. Miss Casey attended, alongside three students in Year 12 Chaplaincy to represent the college. Lots of other students and their families were in attendance. The Archbishop reminded us ; 'we belong to one another, the test of a Christian is how to love with the brother or sister they cannot see is an act of love for the Lord unseen'.

LENT: RECONCILIATION AND LITURGIES



Throughout Lent we welcomed Fr. Keith and other priests in our community to come to St Michael's and meet with our students for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Year 12 Chaplaincy led the opening liturgy followed by an invitation to the Sacrament. Students in KS3 were welcomed in the hall with reflective messages shared on the screen as they prepared to speak to the Priests. KS4 and KS5 shared in the morning liturgy, followed by receiving the sacrament in the Chapel at lunch time. Many students queued up to speak with the Priests and to reflect and repent at this time of Lent.

Preparations have been underway for the final day of term and our liturgies. The Chaplaincy and Drama teams have united to put together the Easter Liturgy. Along with the service there is a performance of the Stations of the Cross with rehearsals taking place for the past 3 weeks. Pictured are Nathaniel A (9BC) and Alexia A(10RU) playing Jesus and the Soldier in rehearsals.





A WORD AND A PRAYER



Dear Lord,

Thank you for being by our side this Lent, guiding us to fulfil our Lenten promises.

We are grateful for this time of prayer, service, kindness and fundraising as a school community.

As we approach Holy Week we remember your journey to the cross,

May we find the strength from you to carry our own crosses with dignity and courage, knowing that the great joy of Easter is coming.

Cultivate in us a strong Easter faith, nourishing our beliefs through your word and spirit, so we can be a light shining brightly for you, our families, our school community and the wider world.

Amen.

Ms. F. Corcoran - Principal

Dear God,

Thank you for the lessons of these forty days. As Lent ends, help me leave behind my old habits and regrets in the shadows of the past. Clear my heart of distractions so I can truly feel the joy of the Resurrection. Replace my tiredness with Your energy and my doubts with Your hope. As the sun rises on Easter, let Your light rise in me, making all things new.

Amen.

Miss Casey

Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- Lenten Services led by Year 12 Chaplaincy teams and Stations of the Cross
- St Oscar Romero Mass Award Presentation
- End of term for all students and staff
- Palm Sunday – 29th March
- Holy Thursday – 2nd April
- Good Friday – 3rd April
- Easter Vigil – 4th April
- Easter Sunday – 5th April