

catholiclife Autumn 2023

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THE URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FAITH DEVELOPMENT, CATHOLIC MISSION AND SERVIAM VALUES

Meet Our R.E Team



Kerry Connor Assistant Headteache Personal Development and Catholic Life Ethos



Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator



Dr. Sulumenty Odhiambo Head of R F Faculty



James Roberts R.E Teacher, Head of Year 9



Dr. Sr. Elizabeth Revai Mudzimu Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator



Na En Park R.E Teacher

website for further details of our activities and events!

Please take a look at our Catholic Life section on our

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP





Christmas Assemblies

For our Christmas assemblies on the last day of term we reflected on the theme "Love Came Down," delving into the profound miracle of God dwelling among us through the person of Christ. Eva T (12U) delivered a pre-recorded dramatised reading performance of a monologue written by the chaplain from the perspective of the Virgin Mary at the nativity. The assembly was an overall moving celebration of the child in the manger, embodying the true spirit of Christmas and sending us out to the Christmas break.

Chaplaincy Update

Our opening Mass of the year, led by Fr. David Gibbons and Father Francis Nonyelu, highlighted and centred on the theme of the Holy Spirit, asking for guidance and strength for a busy year ahead. This year we marked the launch of a 13-week school-based RCIA program for staff, a collaborative effort by myself and Deacon Errol of St. Philomena's, promising a return next academic year.



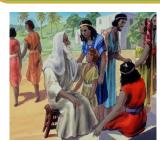
Dominic Cunliffe

Sacred Heart Church hosted Masses of St. Ursula, reinforcing our dedication to education rooted in love and compassion, a testament to our Ursuline way of life. A special Mass on the feast of All Saints, celebrated with Fr. Matthew of Sacred Heart, united us in prayer for the names of our departed inscribed in our Memorial Book. Advent commenced with the symbolic illumination of the Chapel during the "Christmas Tree Service," ushering in the light of Christ into our lives.

Dominic Cunliffe,

Chaplain

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: RELIGIOUS LITERACY - AUTUMN



Our Year 8 Religious Literacy program is designed to cultivate critical thinking skills as the foundation for a deeper understanding of various faiths and religions. Recognizing the profound impact of religious ideas on the development of our world and thought, our program goes beyond the conventional boundaries of religious studies. We acknowledge the pivotal role of the Bible, a literary and linguistic cornerstone rivalled only by Shakespeare in influence. By infusing proficiency in biblical awareness into our curriculum, students gain the key to unlocking essential religious references within seminal texts and everyday life.

During the Autumn Term, Year 8 students engaged in a comprehensive exploration of biblical stories, delving into narratives such as Cain and Abel, The Tower of Babel, The Story of Job, and Lazarus. In the spring term, their journey continues with a focused study of parables, including The Weeds Amongst the Wheat, The Ten Virgins, The Lost Coin, and The Rich Man and Lazarus. The summer term promises an enlightening unit on Religion and the Media, ensuring a well-rounded and thought-provoking Religious Literacy experience for our Year 8 students.

Catholic Life in Pictures



Black History Month commenced with an inspiring event featuring Adenike, a semi-finalist on "The Voice." The interactive performance fostered unity and appreciation for cultural diversity among our students.



Our 'Time Out Tuesday' lunchtime activity has seen good involvement by students. The time provides a valuable respite for relaxation, especially for many navigating the demands of their busy days.





In November, our 'Memory Tree' (left) symbolised the prayers and fond memories we hold for those who have left our family tree, anticipating a joyous reunion through the hope of resurrection. We also created a Memorial Book (right) honouring the memories of departed loved ones.



Year 10 and Year 11 Form Retreats this tern saw students exploring the Meaning of Life and Who Am I, respectively which set a tone of self-discovery and deepened faith.



The Commencement Mass at St. George's Cathedral, led by Bishop Philip Moger, celebrated our faith and commitment to Catholic Life and Mission. Eight Ursuline representatives joined, showcasing our unity of mind.



Our joint Christmas Carol Service with Wimbledon College was held at Sacred Heart Church in December. We raised £987.49 for our Christmas Charity Appeal in aid of homeless shelter charity The Passage.