



chaplains

THE URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER **FAITH DEVELOPMENT & SERVIAM VALUES**

No.30
Autumn
Term 2022

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Chaplaincy Update

Our theme this year is, **"You will be my witnesses"**. This instruction from Jesus to his disciples is found in the book of Acts and encompasses what it means to be a follower of Christ. Our faith must be visible and active, not just in our hearts. Throughout the school year we will explore how we are called to witness through our vocations, through our gifts and talents and through our encounters with others.

Our St Ursula Masses this term focused on responding to the world food crisis. The Mass was entirely devised by student members of the chaplaincy team and included a very powerful reflection. Student reps also attended the Jesuit Missions Sustainability picnic and spoke with our local **MP Stephen Hammond** about their concerns for the future of our planet.

During the season of Advent we have truly lived out the Spirit of Serviam:

- The **Christmas fairs** raised a total of **£2810.60** for charities including The Common Good for **CAFOD's East Africa Appeal**, **Solidarity for CentrePoint**, Stewardship for **The Young People's Trust** for the Environment, and a school in Sierra Leone
- Our **Christmas Jumper Day** raised **£127.60** for **Jumpers for Jimmy**
- Our Joint Carol Service raised **£558.60** for **The Passage Charity**
- We sent over **120** Christmas gifts to the **Catholic Children's Society** to support families across London

It has been a pleasure to coordinate the chaplaincy team this term; I have been so impressed by their enthusiasm and dedication to the prayer life of the school. However, we welcome the arrival of **Mr Cunliffe** our new school chaplain this month to take over the reins! Mr Cunliffe joins us with a wide range of Youth Ministry experience and a lot of enthusiasm for this new role!

There is much to look forward to this Spring Term, with highlights including: our **St Angela Masses** at Sacred Heart Church, which will include the commissioning of our new Chaplain by the Episcopal Vicar for Education, Fr Victor Darlington – parents are very welcome to join us these masses. Other things to look forward to are **retreats**, **Sycamore**, our faith formation programme open to Years 9-13, the **chaplaincy residential** to **Desanzano House**, and the **Flame at Wembley arena**, the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales. For more details check out this link: CYMFed - Catholic Youth Ministry Federation.

Here's hoping you all had a happy and Holy Christmas.

Kerry Connor
Assistant Headteacher, Catholic Ethos

News In Pictures



Christmas Tree Service



Christmas Fairs



Christmas Carol Service



Senior Citizens Tea Party



Christmas Jumper Day



Christmas Assemblies



Ms Connor; Assistant Headteacher Catholic Ethos



Mr Cunliffe; our new school Chaplain!

PRAYER OF THE 'MONTH'

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas season make us happy to be your children.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE OF THE 'MONTH'

Acts 1:1-9

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with [b] the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.