



Newsletter

Summer (2) 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

June is an exceptional month for Saints and Feast Days. St. Alban, protomartyr of these islands, the nativity of St. John the Baptist, Corpus Christi and The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for example. The lives of the saints, inspired by our Lord remind us to live our lives conscious of God's love for us. Bishop Challoner wrote in his meditations on the feast of St. John, '...these saints...encourage the faithful to an imitation of their virtues, in hopes of arriving one day at their blessed company, by walking in their footsteps'.

Saints are not perfect; we are not perfect, the point is, to try.

Year 11

We bade a fond farewell to Year 11 on Friday 4th of June. They were exceptional in their attitude and behaviour during the exams and enjoyed the traditional shirt-signing assembly with good humour. The prom, held at Oakley Hall on the 20th was excellent, with students looking fantastic and arriving in some style. We wish them and their families all the very best for the future and look forward to seeing them in November for Presentation evening.

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School – 50th Anniversary

St. Bede's opened its doors in September 1969 and has served the Catholic community of Basingstoke faithfully for 50 years. I was privileged to be invited to their anniversary Mass at St. Bede's Church on Friday 21st June. Fr. Chris concelebrated with Fr. Tom Grufferty and Fr. Vincent Harvey, both former parish priests.

The children sang beautifully, with many parts led by the talented Year 6 choir. The musicians were superb and a credit to their teachers. Readers and servers completed their duties with care and dignity.

It was good to catch up with old friends and students, some of whom are now teachers at St. Bede's! We look forward to welcoming the year 6 classes to their transition days on the 4th and 5th of July.

Vocations

Vocation means ‘to be called’. It is commonly used to refer to a vocation to the single life, marriage, priesthood or the religious life. We use the term more broadly in school to speak about the calling we all have to follow Christ or be faithful people. I certainly believe that students have a vocation to use their talents for the benefit, not only for themselves, but also for others and for God. In this way, God becomes visible to us and to our neighbours.

Our diocese has just launched a new website to encourage young (and not so young!) people to explore what a vocation in the Church might mean for them. Fr. John Cooke, formerly parish priest at St. Joseph’s, leads the vocations team. Do have a look at what the site has to offer and please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

www.portsmouthvocations.org.uk

Sister Marie-Anne Marot

The Basingstoke Catholic community bids a fond farewell to Sister Marie-Anne of the Sisters of Divine Providence this month. Originally from France, Sr. Marie-Anne has been resident in the Burgess Road Convent for many years. Many readers will have fond memories of her time at Bishop Challoner helping out Mr Garwood in the languages department with enthusiastic renditions of French songs.

She has been recalled to her motherhouse in France and we wish her every blessing for the future.

Mr Wright

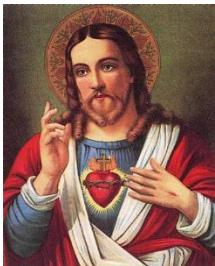
Caritas Portsmouth leads World Refugee Day Assemblies at Bishop Challoner

We were delighted to welcome Catherine Knight from Caritas Portsmouth on Thursday 20 June to mark World Refugee Day by leading three assemblies to Y7 - Y9 to ensure they gained an understanding of the global refugee crisis, with particular reference to Syrian refugees and an exciting Community Sponsorship Project led by Caritas Portsmouth in Basingstoke.

Pope Francis asked every parish and religious community in the West to welcome one refugee family into their community. In response to this, Caritas Portsmouth has begun work with a group of parishioners from the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area to bring a family of Syrian refugees to live in Basingstoke. Our students are already asking how they can get involved and help. Schooling will be an important issue. Bishop Challoner School looks forward to working with the Community Sponsorship team over the months ahead to welcome our Syrian brothers and sisters and help them settle in the area happily and successfully.



'Welcoming Our Neighbour'



Other Assemblies this half term have included Y10 Student Leaders delivering a CAFOD assembly on 'Zero Heroes' in Environment Week; Mary Lee reflecting on Pentecost and the Spiritual Gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit to use for both our own benefit and for the common good; and Mr Wright focusing on this week's Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on Friday.

Singers in Demand!

We are very fortunate to have many gifted singers in the school community and their services have been much in demand this month, whether entertaining the elderly residents at John Eddie Court across the road from the school at the Afternoon Tea Parties organised by our Chaplain or singing equally beautifully in liturgical settings.

Dhanya E, Lottie J and Sinead L gave a stunning rendition of 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' at the beginning of the Closing Liturgy for the Diocesan Conference for Heads and Deputies, which instantly transformed a hotel conference room into a liturgical space, powerfully drawing all present into an awareness of the presence of God in their midst. They also led those present in an uplifting closing hymn, 'Here I am Lord', to send the Heads and Deputies on their way.

Diocesan Annual Schools' Mass

Schools from around the Diocese gathered with Bishop Philip on Friday 7 June at Portsmouth Cathedral for the Diocesan Annual Schools' Mass. The theme was taken from a quote from St Oscar Romero: "The ones who have a voice must speak for those who are voiceless", a fitting sentiment for a Mass at which the newly instituted Romero Awards were presented to primary and secondary schools from across the Diocese in recognition of their actions to implement Catholic Social Teaching in the lives of their schools.

Eight Challoner students sang exceptionally well with Mrs Smith in the Joint Schools' Choir, whilst three students, who had led fundraising in school to support those affected by the terrible flooding in Kerala last summer, sat with Mr Wright and Mary Lee in the body of the Cathedral, later taking part in the school banner procession. On behalf of the school, Alina T also collected its Romero Award from Bishop Philip at the end of the Mass.

Confirmation

At the Confirmation Mass for our North West Hampshire Pastoral Area at the Cathedral on Saturday 8 June, Eleonore T's singing as part of the Pastoral Area's band, Cecilia Sound, drew the congregation and clergy into the presence of God. The instrumentalists all played exceptionally well and the Bishop commended the group on its enhancement of the liturgy on this very special occasion.

Congratulations to the 60 young people from our Pastoral Area, mostly attending Bishop Challoner, who were confirmed that day – we look forward to seeing the fruits of the Holy Spirit at work in their lives.

Cecilia Sound

Cecilia Sound seeks new members: Steve Lake from St Joseph's Parish who runs Cecilia Sound, would welcome new singers and/or instrumentalists who enjoy Praise and Worship Music – the band is particularly in need of a pianist/keyboard player and a drummer. If any students are interested in finding out more about the commitment involved, please contact Mary Lee in the first instance.

Y11 Leavers' Mass

Our thanks go to Fr Chris for celebrating a wonderful Leavers' Mass on the evening of Friday 7 June for our Y11 Leavers and their families! The Leavers' Mass is a mirror of the Welcome Mass we have to celebrate the arrival of Y7s into the Challoner Family. Whilst marking the passage of the students from five years at Challoner onto the next stage of their lives, it reminds them that they are still part of the Challoner story and are always welcome to come back to see their family.

Thanks also go to the PTA for the celebration cake and refreshments that they kindly provided after the Mass.

Exam Breakfasts

Our thanks go to: Fyffes for their weekly gift of bananas; Warburtons for their weekly gift of white and brown bread and crumpets; parents and staff for their donations of jams and spreads – and especial thanks to Mr Hickey for his weekly baking of delicious bread and butter pudding to sustain Y11s through their GCSEs and Y10s through their Mocks!

Calling Y9 and Y10 Entertainers

Now that we have lost our Y11 entertainers for the (usually) fortnightly Elderly Tea Parties over at John Eddie Court, there is the opportunity for Y9s to step up and share their talents entertaining the JEC residents. Many thanks to those Y9s who registered their interest and went over last week to deliver an excellent entertainment of singing, instrumental music and poetry reading. The residents were very grateful and hope to see them again next month! Please let Mary Lee know if you would like to perform again and any new acts from Y9 or Y10 would also be welcomed.

Thanks from the Diocesan Bamenda Committee

Mary Lee attended a meeting of the Diocesan Bamenda Committee on 6 June, which recorded its thanks for the exceptional fundraising for the Emergency in Bamenda by Bishop Challoner School in Lent from the Charity Showcase Evening put on by many of the students from across all years and from the donations on the Lent MUFTI Day. Over £2,000 was raised and is making a huge difference in parishes where there are so many 'Internally Displaced People' being generously accommodated by those who still have homes. Conditions are very difficult and overcrowded, so the funds enabling the parishes to provide additional food, clothing and medical treatment have been greatly appreciated.

This crisis is receiving minimal world media coverage, so anything we can do to raise awareness and encourage continued generosity in our parishes to support our brothers and sisters in Bamenda in their real need would be much welcomed by the Bamenda Committee. Please keep the people of Bamenda in your prayers:

Heavenly Father, bless Fr Rinda and all the Bamandan priests serving us in our Diocese and keep their families and communities back in Bamenda safe. Pour out your Spirit on the people of Cameroon to fill the hearts and minds of all parties, so that peace and justice may be restored to the region and all peoples live in harmony with each other. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Lee

Hampshire Youth Games

Our year 10 Girls Rounders team successfully won all of their games in this year's Basingstoke Schools Rounders Competition. This then earned them the opportunity to represent Basingstoke at the Hampshire Youth Games. The girls played extremely well and were a credit to the School demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and fair play, both highly valued by the event organisers.

The results were as followed:

Bishop Challoner 12.5 v St Johns (Portsmouth) 7

Bishop Challoner 6.5 v St Nicholas (Fleet) 14.5

Bishop Challoner 8 v Perins 11.5

Bishop Challoner 14.5 v Bayhouse (Gosport) 3.5

They girls finished 3rd in their pool.



Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We have just launched to our current year 9 cohort the opportunity to participate in the Bronze level DofE award within School when they return in September. Letters will soon be sent home with further details of how to register, costs and commitments involved. We have space for 42 students and it is highly likely that we will need to hold a ballot. Please ensure forms are returned to meet published deadlines. If you would like further information on the Award please visit www.dofe.org or contact Mrs Cooper for more details.

Mrs Cooper

Eco Schools achievements

The EcoSchools Committee have been busy lately, achieving the Silver EcoSchools award. The team carried out a curriculum review of all departments to see where the environment is considered in our teaching and learning. The school now recycles plastic bottles to try and do our bit to help keep plastics out of the oceans and we no longer use plastic, single use cutlery. We have also been using evidence gathered during the Duke of Edinburgh practice walk to achieve the Woodland Trust Gold Award for awareness and appreciation of our woodland environments.

Miss Taylor



Teen Tech

A group of ten pupils went to the Teen Tech event at the Hampshire Court Hotel on 20th June. We had an informative day which was split into three activities, first was the Insight Exhibition where local Technology companies had stands that pupils could visit to gain an insight into the world of industry. The second activity based in the Challenge Zone saw industries set 30 minute challenges for students. The first challenge by KPMG was to build the highest tower out of paper and straws, and cost it. The second was set by the Police Cyber Crime unit. Lastly, in the Innovation Zone pupils had to innovate a product to make life better. We designed a machine to collect Rubbish, "Bishop Bins" which would sort it and re-distribute to those who could best use it. We won an award for a 'Super Circuit', that explained which components were needed to make the machine work. An excellent day.



The Basingstoke Consortium (ebp south) emailed over later to say, 'It was great to see the students faces engaged and happy. Exhibitors and Ambassadors felt the students were enthusiastic, well- mannered and inspired by the day.'

You can find a summary of the day here, <https://www.ebpsouth.co.uk/news/students-learn-about-the-digital-jobs-of-the-future>

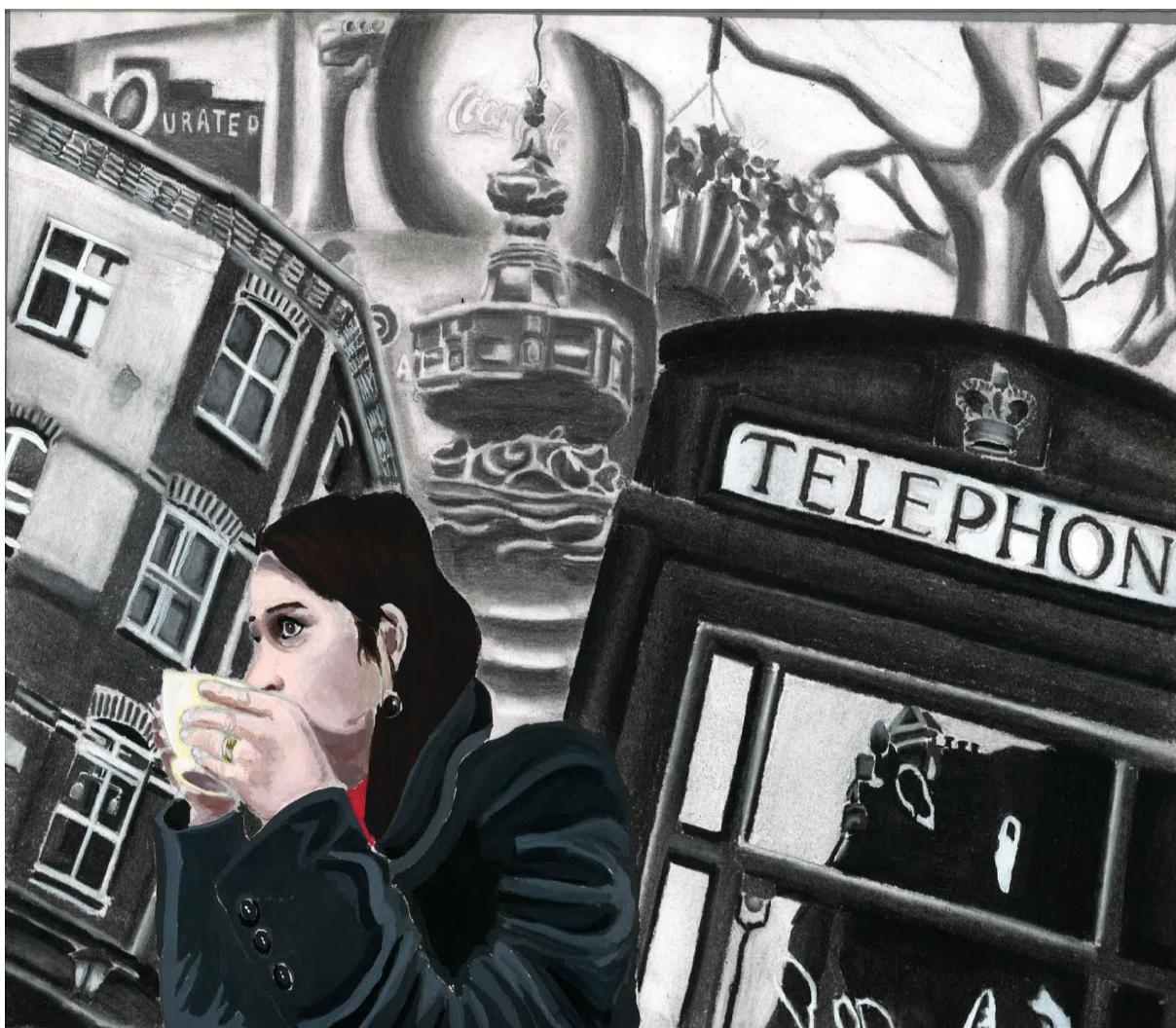
Mr Gough

Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition

The Private View for the annual GCSE Art Exhibition took place on Wednesday 12th June. This opportunity to showcase some of the fantastic artwork created by our year 11 students was much admired by students, staff and parents alike. The work was also recently viewed by our external moderator who commented on the high quality of individual creative response from the students.

Well done to all.

Flyer artwork by Jody D.



Mr Gallimore

Celebrating National Biscuit Day with the Cyber Ambassadors at Bishop Challoner!

On Thursday 6th June 2019, the Cyber Ambassadors held an event at lunch time to celebrate biscuit day and encourage students to think more about their online behaviour.

We ran some fun games like '*bullying or banter*', which asked everyone to vote on examples of social media and debate how it might interpreted. We also asked people to vote on what they thought was the worst problem we face online.



We also had biscuits, sweets and little things to take home like wristbands and badges.

I thought that it went very well and all those who came had a great time.



By Bertille Boyere (Y9 Cyber Ambassador)

Basingstoke and Deane – Mayor's Civic Sunday Service Sunday 14 July 2019 6.30pm

The Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor will be holding her Civic Sunday Service on Sunday 14 July 2019, 6.30pm at St Michael's Church, Basingstoke. Following the service, refreshments will be served in Church Cottage.

Cllr Taylor would be delighted if you would join her on this special occasion.

Free Event – All Welcome



St Michael's Church Office, Church Cottage, Church Square, Basingstoke, RG21 7QW

There will be no parking available at St Michael's Church. Please use one of the local car parks

Concluding Prayer – The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul

Blessed Redeemer, Saints Peter and Paul were leaders and models in strengthening the faith of the infant Church, and I ask them to pray for my faith to grow strong. Saint Paul wrote in his second letter to Saint Timothy, “I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have.” I am still a child in my relationship with You, weak and uncertain, so I ask Saints Peter and Paul to pray for me to grow into spiritual maturity. Help me, O Lord, to increase in faith and trust. Where Your presence is but a spark in me, fan it into a flame that brightens other people’s lives.

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for me. Amen.

