

# Catholic Life at De La Salle



29th Week of Ordinary Time



SOME OF OUR 1719 WITH NEW FRIENDS IN ST CASSIAN'S

Thursday 17th - Sunday 20th October was spent in St Cassian's with Lasallian students, staff, and family to celebrate 50 years of Kintbury retreats! It was an incredible opportunity for our 1719 students who not only met Br Armin, but spent their retreat with him! There's no better place than a full St Cassian's to find out more about our Lasallian mission and the role we each play in maintaining it!

## **This week**

This week was Formation Week again! Each month we spend a week running workshops and sessions to help staff and students in school to connect to their part and role within the Lasallian mission.

If we play around with the word 'formation' we can eventually get to a phrase that sounds just like it, which is 'forming for mission'.

Our ministry to the young people in our care is to try our best to reach their hearts. Our founder is clear in his message that touching hearts is how we see miracles happen in the world.

Formation Week means that all of the sessions we offer happen within a one week window, so as a community, we're being reminded, nourished and supported through our mission at the same time as each other, which we think is quite special.

One of our favourite sessions from the week was our Form Captain Formation! All Form Captains were gathered in their Key Stage and we had a real and honest conversation about the Prayer and Liturgy provision here in school. Luckily for us, the areas our students had pointed out, we were already working on so after half-term we will see a new format to our daily prayer life!

Form Captains have also been added to our Prayer and Liturgy rota and will join us in leading a year group through their first week of Advent!

Formation was put on pause on Thursday as we had a very special visit from the worldwide Lasallian family!

## **Lasallian Visit**

Since Thursday 17th October, we've been nourished with Lasallian spirit by the bucket-load! Of course, our Lasallian faith is always at the heart of everything we do...but there is nothing quite like being surrounded by Lasallians from all over the world to really remind you that you are part of something much bigger!

We have found that through our visit to St Cassian's and hosting Brother (Br) Armin, Br Joel, Br Chris, Br Ben and Br Michael, our students have had their sense of mission ignited and we cannot wait to see where it leads them!

A particular highlight of ours this week was the live recording of our Peer-to-Ear podcast with the brothers joining us on the sofa!

Peer-to-Ear is a podcast designed by young people for young people. Our students take the lead on this project, planning, producing, recording and editing their episodes...before it of course goes through to final edit where it is listened to by staff and approved for publishing! Students use this platform to approach topics that mean a lot to them, from being servant leaders, to discussing racism...we always view our topics with love, compassion and consideration for those who may hear it.

## **Prayer Cabin**

During our visit on Thursday, we had an official opening of our new prayer space in school. We know that we are an inclusive community and we are enriched by diversity...each person deserves to have a safe space to worship their God and so the prayer cabin was installed earlier this year to offer just that for all students!

## **Our Next Theme**

When we get back to school after our half-term break we will be in the 31st week of Ordinary Time. The theme of our prayer and liturgy will be; **You are not far from the Kingdom of God**

as we mark Remembrance. The History department will be leading us in our weekly Prayer and Liturgy, and we will be exploring the words from **Mark 12:28-34**.

## Coming up in Catholic Life

Next half term we will launch several trips running through Catholic Life!

We're holding our first Catholic Life Conference! Respect Conference: Youth29 focusing our lens on Climate Change.

## Student Spotlight

A member of our 1719 who has attended St Cassian's has drafted a wonderful letter explaining his experience, please find our favourite line below:

*We got to see the beauty of young Lasallians, the beauty of ourselves and the beauty of humanity without the worry of being judged.*

## Pray for us...

Loving Father, we place our trust in you. Please guide and protect us as we live hopefully in your presence. You knew us before we were born, you know the plans you have for us. May we be courageous enough to hear your call and follow it to help the brothers and sisters in our global family.

*Catholic Life team*