

Catholic Life at De La Salle



32nd Week of Ordinary Time



ONE OF OUR YEAR 7 FORM CLASSES AT MASS IN ST TERESA OF AVILA

When it comes to making decisions, hosting events or planning projects, our Gospel values and prayer are always central to the things we do as a Catholic Life team. Prayer has been a big theme for us this week as Chaplaincy led year group Prayer and Liturgy, we hosted our monthly Day of Prayer for staff and students and we took a Year 7 form class to Mass with us in St Teresa of Avila.

This Week

As a school community, there are a number of times throughout the year that we have the opportunity to gather for the celebration of Mass. Pre-Covid our school Chapel was host to weekly community Mass, a time for staff and students to be joined by members of our local community with Mass celebrated by Fr, now Bishop, Tom Neylon. With Tom being moved on from St Helens and the huge impacts of Covid, community Mass has not been something that we've been able to re-establish. We do believe that the weekly time of Mass and the opportunity to meet and mix with local parishioners is super important. After consideration and time of prayer we decided that it would be a good idea to get ourselves into our local church to keep that connection alive!

We now take classes from Year 7 and 8 for weekday Mass in St Teresa of Avila with Fr Martin Kershaw (who many of our students already know through their primary school). A huge thank you to Mr Ingham this week for the way he supported Chaplaincy in getting his form class to church!

HOPE 2024 (Repeated information)

We have launched our *Hope 2024* campaign again. This is a project we promote each year and as people of hope we aim to Help Other People Eat (HOPE). This year, we're asking form classes to collect £24. They can decide together if this money will contribute to our Mary's Meals collection or if it will be donated to our own school food pantry to support with our Christmas parcels for families in need. Either option will hugely support important projects.

Although we're going for a coin collection to support these two projects we will, of course, be extremely grateful for any donations of food for our pantry. Please consider if you're able to support in any way, it will be warmly received.

Opportunities

As explained last week, our prayer theme this week was **The Earth You Created**. We encouraged our students to consider themselves as part of creation, and suggested that to get themselves in the right position to do good for the world, they should also look at how they're treating themselves as part of creation. How do they take opportunities to nourish themselves spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. As Catholic life there are a number of dates in our diary that we shared with students! Information will be sent out to relevant year groups over the next week or so!

Prayer and Liturgy

On Tuesday 19th, a number of members of staff will attend a Prayer and Liturgy Launch event. This is a day designed to celebrate a new-ish document called the *Prayer and Liturgy Directory: To Love You More Dearly*. This document guides us as we plan and prepare our pattern of prayer here in school. In a typical week students have access to Form Class Mass, Year Group Prayer and Liturgy, and daily Form Time Prayer and Liturgy. In each of these spaces students have a variety of prayer styles to explore, from meditation and silence, to discussion and open prayer. We also have monthly Days of Prayer where students can gather to pray and have tea and toast together in Chapel.

Our Next Theme

Next week is the 33rd week of Ordinary time. At this time of year we use the colour green within our displays and materials produced for times of prayer and liturgy. This colour is symbolic of growth and freshness. We use green to represent that our understanding of scripture, and our hope is always new, developing and fresh within our community.

The theme of our prayer and liturgy will be: **Judgement** as we focus on the International Day of the Child. We're called by God to become more like little children in our lives and so we're inspired by the young people around us. Year Teams will be leading us in our weekly Prayer and Liturgy, and we will be exploring the words from **Mark 13:24-32**

Catholic Life Team

Opportunities to look out for

- Year 10 Residential to St Cassian's Retreat Centre
- Year 11 Mindfulness Day
- FLAME
- Christmas Party (1719)

Student Spotlight

Students who gathered for our Day of Prayer for the World were asked to write something down that they could do to help protect the planet that we all call home. One of our Year 7 students shared their commitment with others and this is what they had to say:

"I will write to our local MP because I pray that our world leaders understand that if we keep saying but not doing nothing will change for our world."

Pray for us...

Loving Father, help all people to understand that we are pilgrims here on earth. You gifted the world to all people, not a few. May we always be mindful of our role in protecting, caring for and nurturing our common home. We pray for world leaders as they begin their conversations in COP29. May they make meaningful and lasting decisions that will have positive and life-giving impacts on earth.