

# NCC Chaplain's Report March till June 2022

**"A faith without bearing fruit in life, a faith that doesn't bear fruit in works is not faith,"** the pope said in a Mass homily, focusing on the day's first reading from the Book of James (2:14-24).

**Lent:** This March we prepared for Easter. Fr Mark celebrated Masses for various Yr groups on Ash Wednesday. This year the Cafod appeal is to Walk against Hunger. Staff and Pupils were asked to take up something during Lent to help others. The aim was to count our steps walked each day, to find sponsors and raise funds. During April, Muslims will be starting their Month of Ramadan, where they will be also Fasting, Praying and Giving to Charities. Again the Chaplain's Motto is "Faith in Action", calling all people of faith to act to do good. Thanks to Governors if you sponsored any of us.

On Ash Wednesday Fr Mark and I will distribute ashes.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> March we gathered and said prayers for Peace in Ukraine.



We are continuously using the Chapel for lessons and learning sessions. The Subject teacher can use the real objects that are part of the church or used in the sacramental aspects of learning. It is invaluable for those who learn in different ways or who are not Catholic. The chaplain is also involved in classroom lessons and supporting pupils and their learning.

The Chapel is also a place to come to have "timeout" with the Chaplain, to talk about the concerns of the day, week or just to offload.



The Liturgy groups meet each week to prepare for the liturgies coming up for the various Year groups. The badges have arrived and now members of Fides Actio (Thanks Fr Jon for the Latin) are more visible in the school.



**Weekly Masses:** Masses are celebrated by Fr Tom over the past term. It has become almost impossible to have a priest available for Friday Masses. When a priest is not available the chaplain leads a prayer session using the Mass readings. We have celebrated Masses for the various occasions over the past few month: St Patrick, St David, the Annunciation and the Ascension to mention a few. The chaplain is investigating in the sch purchasing altar servers outfits for the lower school.



**FIRM FOUNDATIONS:** Mr Roche organised another coffee morning in the School Conference room in March. Ms Pat Fernandes and her team were able to spend the morning with parents who were seeking advice on how to deal with managing money wiser. Firm Foundations and Advice for Renters invited locals, parents and guardians into school to meet and to discuss with financial advisors. Looking at the possible benefits available, the best fuel tariffs and



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schemes, managing debt. The chaplain has distributed second hand uniform and clothing to the pupils and families in need.

**RECONCILIATION:** During Lent Fr Mark CSSp was available every Tuesday and Wednesday to invite students and staff to be able to celebrate the sacrament of healing and reconciliation. Pupils were offered the 1:1 time in the chaplain's office. Other pupils were preparing with the chaplain in the chapel. Reflecting on relationships with God and others. Huge thanks to Fr Mark. He mentioned the great spirituality and good natured-ness of the students.



The sacrament was also made accessible to the EAL Pathway students. Catholics with little or limited English were able to work together in their home languages and with picture clues. This allowed them to receive the loving grace of God.



**Ramadan & Eid:** Place was provided and supervised for Muslims to observe their prayer times during the month of Ramadan. Mr Roche has provided prayer mats for the pupils to use. These are kept in the chapel. Pupils are asked to return them when finished. Great discussions can be



had with pupils about their Islamic faith and what they perceive as Christianity. All faiths and none find solace and comfort in using the chapel as a silent place. Pupils respect the sacred space and value the hospitality offered. Mr Roche tries to make reference to Islam and other faiths in the teaching of the Catholic church.



Give God 5 minutes of your time every day this year. How?  
Find a quiet place to pray maybe the chapel.

Use the silence to focus your thoughts and heart on God.

Use words if you feel the need. Let God talk to you. We have shown pupils the Rosary and given them a way in to praying with beads. This allows those who learn in a different way to be with God in their different way.



**PRAYER:** Every second Wednesday one of the Yr 7 or 8 forms have prayers in chapel with Mr

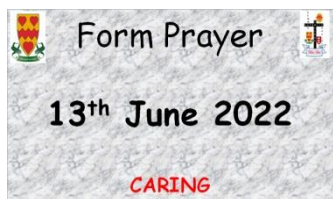


Roche and the Form Tutor. This, the start of the day prayer is a time to reflect and to hear a bible passage and to be guided in simple meditation on it. This could be the recitation of the Divine Office for that morning or linking events, needs and class driven desires to pray for and with the class/form.

Pupils are able to use the Chapel freely throughout the day in their free time. Some pupils are given special permission if they are in special circumstances, eg bereavement, seriously ill friend or relative etc.



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**Form Prayer:** Every Monday of every week Mr Roche provides all staff with a Form Prayer Powerpoint based on a theme for the week eg Easter week, Ash Wednesday & Lent, the Environment, Caring etc. These include quotes for thinking about and

- Week 1 Values 19.4.2022
- Week 3 Endeavour 2.5.2022
- Week 5 Endangered Animals 16.5.2022
- Week 6 The Ascension 23.5.2022
- Week 7 The Environment 6.06.2022
- Week 8 Caring 13.06.2022
- Week 2 Values 25.4.2022
- Week 4 Mary 9.5.2022

thinking on. There is always a prayer and a scripture reading. Each Form Tutor is asked to spend one day with their Form using this extended Prayer and reflection. Daily, the school prayer is recited and prayer. Mr Roche has uses the School prayer as an example to all faiths rather than a solely Christian prayer, aiming to make the prayer inclusive. Pupils are asked to leave out bits that jar with their personal beliefs.

**UKRAINIAN CRISIS:** Newman College has worked with other agencies to support the crisis in Ukraine and in the surrounding countries, where refugees of the war have fled. Newman is a refugee welcoming school and has many pupils who have had to flee from homelands due to wars and political upheaval. Working with local families and groups, the school has been able to play its part in supporting our neighbour in Ukraine.



The Ukrainian Crisis appeal was greatly supported by the Sacred Heart, Quex Rd, Kilburn. The pupils form 6<sup>th</sup> Form went with the school minibus to collect items for wartorn families and packed it away ready for the organisers to collect. May God Bless Ukraine.

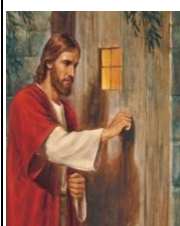


Every day prayers are offered for the people from Ukraine and those suffering the impact of War.

Pope Francis asked Catholics to consecrate of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This we did in Newman. The pupils gathered at the given time and the prayer of consecration was read by the chaplain.



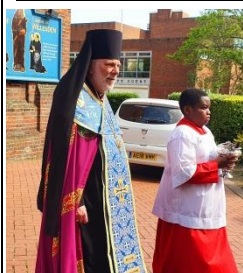
This has awakened in some pupils personal memories of conflicts they have experienced.



**A prayer for Ukraine** Loving God, We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for the entire world. Amen.



**Marian Procession:** Newman pupils turned out for the Procession with Our Lady of Willesden in the local Parish. They carried the banner high and enjoyed the lovely May day. This was an amazing event for pupils as it is not a common practice now in many parished. Some pupils from southern Europe have seen similar events and processions in their home country. The procession ended with Prayers and a homily from the visiting Ukrainian Bishop.



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**FOODBANK:** The Newman Catholic College Foodbank is open every Friday after school. We have an amazing group of pupils volunteering and even more in the wings wanting to help out. It is so good to see their Faith Alive and Active in the personal touch.

The time they give and are willing to give to help others. With the warmer days we are starting to get produce from our own vegetable garden: winter kale and early spinach. Donations are coming in from links with the



wider community, shops and outlets. Many thanks for these. Without them we would not be able to support our families in need. After school in the Food Tech room making orange and grapefruit marmalade to be sold to staff and the money used to support the College Foodbank.



## **Gardening, Enrichment and Mental Health Awareness:**

The vegetable allotment patch beside the school carpark is growing from strength to strength. The Kensal Rise Mutual Aid group are taking the lead on this. The work is outstanding considering that the plot was only started during early summer 2020 after the easing of the lockdown. Volunteers and students help in whatever way possible.



For some students, this is their preferred hands-on learning experience. For some EAL pupils it allows them to get in touch with "the familiar" the homeland experience of growing vegetables. It is a space to care for, to nurture and to respect. The produce from the allotment is going to the Newman Food bank and surplus is then delivered to the Oblates in Quex rd.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Form Enrichment group are focusing more on the appearance in front and behind the school. We have repotted and revamped many baskets and windowboxes. We have planted bulbs and seeds waiting for them to appear. The learning enrichment and fresh air itself is immeasurable.

