

NCC Chaplain's Report Nov 2021 to Mar 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).

Weekly Masses: As the Spring term began, Y11 celebrated the start of 2022. The ever threat of Omicron

Pupils from each year group read, serve and operate the PowerPoint.



meant for regular testing and a continuation of Covid restrictions. Increases winter viruses: colds & flus had their impact on pupils and staff alike, not to mention the families and friends. At every Mass in our prayers we remembered those who were sick (mentally and physically) and those who have passed away. But Masses continued with the 1st one of each term being the Y11 Mass followed by the 6th Formers. We started with a Mass for the Epiphany and New Beginnings. Thanks to the clergy who are able to volunteer on each Friday: Frs Allan, Ruwan, Tom and Albert and other local clergy who are willing to celebrate the Masses with us. Now that Fr Jonathan has arrived in the parish we hope to see him in school for masses and regular pastoral visits. We wish Fr Andrew a fond farewell and wish him all the best in his future journey in faith.

Prayers: The school continues to be a place of prayer. The chapel is the hub of our Spiritual life and love of the Divine. Pupils and staff are able to use the chapel for personal, private prayer. The Chaplain leads group prayer services in the chapel. These are currently for the Y7 & 8 on Wednesdays. Pupils take active parts in the services. These offer time to



reflect, to pray and to develop a relationship with God. I have met with the assistant priest in the Parish Fr Jonathan and have discussed recommencing the morning Masses for the year groups before school on Wednesdays.

time
IN THE
chapel

Liturgy Group: Mr Roche has established Year Group Liturgy Groups. These pupils (2 per form) are involved in organising the Year group Mass as well as the major religious events around the school. This allows the boys to discuss the readings for the Mass, write prayers for the Mass and to participate in a particular way in certain events in the school year. Form Tutors hold the elections and notify the chaplain of the results. The pupils have been asked to design a Liturgy badge or pin. We have used the phrase Fidei Actio.

FIDEI ACTIO
Jm ii:xvii

SVP: We were able and willing to give a helping hand to St Vincent de Paul in Wembley as they assembled "Vinnie Packs" for the homeless over the winter.



Our young gentlemen volunteered to help lack over 300 homeless "Vinnie packs" for this winter. We can change lives little by little. Each pack contained: a woolly hat, gloves, socks, information booklet and a biro etc. Mr Roche drove them to The SEID centre in Wembley



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operating from the Old St Joseph's Social Club. We stood in groups like an assembly line packing, folding and sealing. There was great comradery among the group and the organisers were very impressed. Afterwards we had a drink and a chocolate. (1 Tim 5:18) Well done all concerned. We pray for those who are homeless especially over the winter. The School, as part of the City of Sanctuary, work with Brent Multi-Faith forum to seek accommodation for Brent homeless. This has been halted due to the pandemic but hopefully be able to support in the coming months once restrictions are fully lifted. "Faith in Action" – The group involved were putting their belief and faith into practical action.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

FIRM FOUNDATIONS: Mr Roche, the chaplain, organised a coffee morning in the School Conference room in early November. 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 are holding more free drop-ins during Lent – Wednesday 12:00 to

1:30. We are inviting 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 schemes, managing debt.

If they are on a low income, benefits or a pensioner, they may be entitled to certain discounts and schemes to reduce the cost of your utility bills such as Warm Home Discount worth £140, Thames WaterHelp or WaterSure. Plus they may also be entitled to join the Priority Services Register - a free utility support service to help people with additional needs or in vulnerable situations. This was sent to the Clerk of Gov recently. It was also shared widely with parents and local support groups. We are also working with Sr Silvana (Caritas) on organising further training courses for more organisations to be involved.

The chaplain has also been involved second hand uniform and clothing distribution to the pupils and families in need, working with Ms Sanan and Ms Englishby. As the cost of living increases so does the need.



Cost of living set to see the biggest rise in 30 yrs

Electricity bills set to rise by 54% in April and further 20% this winter!

Make Your Money Go Further

Join Advice for Renters Money for a series of 7 Money Management coffee mornings.

Starting: Wednesday 2 March at 12.00 - 1.30pm
Newman Catholic College, Harlesden Rd, London NW10 3RN

The course will then run for 6 weeks up to Easter with one follow up session after the Easter holidays on 20 April.

We will discuss:

- How to track and what influences our spending
- Budgeting - making your money stretch and what to do if it your budget doesn't balance
- How to save & money saving tips
- Understanding credit
- Dealing with debt - How to get help if you're struggling
- Children and communicating about money
- Utilities & Community Money Mentoring

To book your place [click](#) or call
Pat - 07961 344 786
Email: Money@Advice4Renters.org.uk

Food growing Project: The Mutual Aid / Newman Gardening



teams met with other agencies to look at raising support both financially from Veolia and material wise from local tree surgeons. The Grow for Brent project, which was started in 2020 and has produced

vegetables for the Foodbank is growing to greater success. We have started to develop plots for planting this Spring. Vegetables such as onions, garlic and beans along with cabbages were planted over the winter. The project has been approached by Gyms and GP practices to promote fitness. The enrichment group and the Mutual Aid group work together but separate. The benefits of fresh clean air and manual work has been a joy to many a pupil. Their ability to roll up their sleeves and to literally dig in. The College Allotment site is always willing to have adult and student volunteers to help on weekends. Ask J Roche for details.



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On a Wing and a

With the opening up from Covid restrictions, the chaplain is driving teams to football matches. Great to see the team spirit and growing sportsmanship. The PE dept and 6th Form dept are developing good players. We pray for a win.



GARDENING ENRICHMENT: Enrichment group have been up and running. A new group started after Christmas. Even Santa Claus was involved. The 10 or 12 pupils for the 6th Form are providing 2 hours of gardening work around the school. They are learning new skills and finding the gardening a "good place to think" according to one of them. The advantages of gardening to the mental health of the individual. The laugh, the panter and the good naturedness is matched by the work done. The bravery



develops with work and time; worms are not so scary when you see them over and over again. This group work of the gardens and the hanging baskets around the school as well as the edible garden. This term so far we have prepared plots ready to plant out in March and April.

RE Lessons: We are continuously using the Chapel in lessons and learning sessions. When a class needs to be able to see and handle the real thing. As part of the RE curriculum. The Y7 & Y8 are on a rota to attend the prayer sessions. When the Subject teacher needs to have real objects that are part of the church or used in the sacramental aspects of learning. The chaplain is also involved in classroom lessons and



supporting pupils and their learning.

Julian Bossman (A): Each year on the anniversary of his death, the school: staff and his form and friends gather with the Bosbman family to pray for Julian, his family and his friends. It is great to see that eventhough the pupils are now in 11Paul and are preparing for their GCSE that they take time after school to stand in the College memorial Garden at the Bossman rose along with Julian's father and family members. Prayers are lead by Mr Roche with is class mates and form tutor reading and joining in reflective prayer and silence. May he Rest in Peace.



FOODBANK: The School is suportng families in school that are struggling with food and financial shortages. It operates every Friday from 3.30 till 4.45 and with dedicated pupils volunteering, it works smoothly. Through wind



and rain, frost or gale, the pupils turn up even during holidays and half term to open up and to serve those who ask for support. Dignity and respect. The Foodbank is supported by local contacts who deliver food on Friday before the Foodbank opens. We provided tins to Sufra – who we have supported since 2017, to Quex rd Parish and to the Kilburn Street Kitchen.



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Advent & Christmas: All the school had the 'joy' of having the chaplain deliver the Advent Assembly. This is an annual event which I look forward to as it can set the compass right. What is our direction in life and in a life of faith. This year we made comparisons between the reality of the 1st Advent: the journey to Bethlehem, the condition of the stable and the readiness of Mary and Joseph. We linked that to the current refugee crisis in Calais and putting others first this Christmas. We spoke about Advent as being another step on the **ADVENT**-ure in our life. The true meaning of Christmas is not trees, presents and getting the best deal from Black Friday but Love. Love that reaches out to others, starting with yourself and your family then to others. The Christmas trees were set up in the school and decorated by pupils for Y7 and 6th form. The tree in the lunch hall is a memorial Christmas tree with White lights and pupils and staff are asked to hang the names of loved ones on the tree. The Chapel Christmas tree is in the stair well. It is colourful and lifts the spirit of staff and pupils as they pass.



The Finance Dept along with the Chaplain purchased vouchers from ASDA to be sent out to families in need this Christmas. This money, from the school, purchases £50 Vouchers and these will be able to be directed to the families made known to the Safeguarding team and form tutors. In previous years we tried to deliver physical hampers and to guess the dietary requirements of our families. This year the task was placed into the responsible hands of family members.



Lost Property: Once a term Mr Roche displays the clothes in the lost property boxes. Over the term pupils leave their belongings lying around and the Lost property mounts. An email is sent to families. Pupils identify their belongings and reclaim them. Pupils need to label their belongings.

After two terms in lost property the remaining clothes are recycled into the charities around.



Lent: This March we prepare for Easter. Fr Mark will celebrate Masses for the classes on Ash Wednesday. This year the Cafod appeal is to Walk against Hunger. Staff and Pupils are asked to take up something during Lent to help others. The aim is to count the steps walked each day and to find sponsors. Fr Mark will be visiting the school during Lent to celebrate the Sacrament of Healing and Reconciliation. Pupils and Staff will be given the opportunity to come to the chapel. On Ash Wednesday Fr Mark and I will distribute ashes. 2nd March will have prayers for Peace in Ukraine.



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 all the world. Amen.

