

Catholic Life at De La Salle

31st Week of Ordinary Time



MVP STUDENTS PLANNING AHEAD OF THEIR NEXT SESSION

We've had a quiet but productive week here on the Catholic Life team! We've secured our transport for FLAME (details will be coming out for this event next week), ordered materials for our new classroom *Sacred Spaces*, hosted MVP here in Chapel and attended the FeedTheNeed event at St Helens Town Hall.

This Week

Our students always leave us super impressed when it comes to living out our ethos and mission. Students from across the school use their passions and skills to make a real difference to the community. We see this so often when our MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) group meet to discuss their previous and upcoming sessions. MVP students aim to make a positive impact on the Year 7 form classes that they support and often give their own time to plan activities outside of formal sessions, such as form time team building!

We saw students put their concern into action on Thursday as a number of our SVP students who organise the food cupboard attended St Helens Town Hall for the FeedTheNeed event ran by and for young people. Here we discussed food poverty and the hardships faced by families in the heart of St Helens. Students met the Mayor and members of the Youth Parliament to share their concerns and ask some hard-hitting questions.

This event has inspired our students as they prepare to hold their own conference here in school this month focused on Climate Migration and COP29.

HOPE 2024

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.

Sacred Spaces

We are so blessed in school to have a beautiful Chapel and a wonderful new Prayer Cabin for people of all faiths to find a comfortable and safe space to worship.

We believe that the presence of our students makes a space something sacred and special, with each young person being the face of Christ and a vessel for God's love to be at work in the world. We also recognise that for some people to enter into a time of worship, a visual aid can be beneficial.

For this reason we are making a real effort to create sacred spaces in each of our form classes to compliment our time of daily prayer. Many of our students will be used to this idea from primary school but it is something that we're keen to develop to help students connect with our pattern of prayer a little more.

Opportunities

Next week we will be launching two trips for students across the school. One is FLAME, a national gathering of over 10,000 young people and the other is a Year 10 residential to St Cassian's, our wonderful Lasallian retreat space and home away from home!

Our Next Theme

Next week is the 32nd 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; **The Earth You Created** as our attention turns to COP29, a gathering for World Leaders focused on their commitment to tackling climate change. Chaplaincy will be leading us in our weekly Prayer and Liturgy, and we will be exploring the words from **1 Kings 17:10-16**.

Catholic Life team

Next week in Catholic Life

- SVP meeting after school on Monday 11th November.
- Fratelli Tutti and Faith Formation will take place on Wednesday 13th November.
- Day of Prayer on Friday 15th November.

We will hold our Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November

Student Spotlight

The students who attended the FeedTheNeed event in the Town Hall this Thursday were given an opportunity to speak their mind in the presence of the Mayor of St Helens. Here is a comment made by one of our students:

"The government should pay for people in low-income communities to have financial education resources"

Pray for us...

Loving Father, we think of the lives lost during the First World War and the conflicts that followed throughout history. We pray that, with your guidance, love and support, we might work towards creating a world where violence and suffering has no place.