

Catholic Life at De La Salle

33rd Week of Ordinary Time



SOME STUDENTS AT THE MARY'S MEALS STALL DURING THE "YOUR FUTURE" EVENT.

The *Your Future Event* that is organised by our Careers team here in school is an event in the diary that we absolutely love in Catholic Life. It is an opportunity to network, find out new things, but most importantly, see the sparks of passion and interest in our young people as they explore the possibilities for their future. All called by God, our students start to think bigger about their future plans during this wonderful event!

This Week

The Catholic Life team had a wonderful opportunity this week to attend the Prayer and Liturgy Launch in Liverpool. This was a gathering for those in education who have responsibilities around the prayer life of our schools across the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

The day was to launch a new-ish document called the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. This directory informs a lot of our practice surrounding times of worship within our community. Quite often, events like this can turn into a lot of listening, some note taking and then an attempt to implement grand ideas into our own school.

This time things were different, we were guided through our day by Jo Boyce; a member of CJM music and one half of Boyce and Stanley...if you don't know who they are, you need to ask us from some tips on your playlists!

We, as a team, had time to reflect and pray through the document, really creating a space to see how we can best use this document to meet the needs of our own school community.

We continue to develop our provision around prayer.

Your Future

Each year, our careers team pull together an incredible day for our students to meet a wide range of colleagues from local organisations and businesses who are able to discuss employment opportunities, apprenticeships, college applications and university pathways. A new addition for this year was voluntary experiences and, of course, we saw an opportunity to promote our Catholic Life within the event through this avenue. We were joined by VIDES UK, Mary's Meals and SVP who shared so wonderfully with our students. A particularly lovely moment was when some of our older boys went to visit the Mary's Meals stall to make it known that they had participated in a charity football match for the organisation just before half term.

Opportunities

Today we have had a ParentMail sent home to promote FLAME. This event takes place every 2-3 years and is designed to bring young people from our country together. Over 10,000 young people will be in attendance and we have a nice chunk of tickets this year to join in the celebrations once more! More information can be found on the letter via ParentMail. Please do get your expression of interest in asap so we can move forward with allocating places for the event.

We have also shared a ParentMail for our Year 10 St Cassian's Retreat that will take place in January. This is a retreat that we offer every year and it is always so enjoyable to return to our home from home to connect with our Lasallian family.

Year 11 have an opportunity to take part in a mindfulness day ahead of Christmas. This will help students to realign themselves before the big run-up to the GCSE season. During the day students will have mindfulness and relaxation sessions as well as an introduction to some mindful revision to keep our focus on their next steps.

Our Next Theme

Next week is the 34th and final week of Ordinary time for this year. 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; **Christ the King** as bring this liturgical year to an end. The feast of Christ the King is also known as World Youth Day, a real celebration of the gift of the children in our lives. SLT will be leading us in our weekly Prayer and Liturgy, and we will be exploring the words from **John 18:33-37**

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

This week in form time Prayer and Liturgy, we were celebrating the positive contributions of young people all over our community who stand up and make a difference with their voice, our student spotlight goes to a student who was a big focus within our time of prayer:

Heather, in Year 9, wrote a powerful and relevant email to our local MP about a topic that was incredibly close to home. The MP was moved by Heather's email and delivered a hand written letter to school in response. Well done Heather!

Pray for us...

Loving Father, you call people in your Church to become more like little children. Help us to be good examples in our thoughts, words and actions so that we can inspire others to be more like us. We pray today for children around the world who struggle to access their childhood in the same ways that we do, may you protect them and send adults into their life that can provide care and love.