



St. Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig ac Anglicanaidd Sant Joseff

ISSUE 9 FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 2019

Reflection by Sister Maggie

Ash Wednesday

On 6th March we celebrated Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Church's calendar which we call Lent. This is predominantly a time of repentance when we acknowledge our failures and promise to make a greater effort to act in accordance with the values that Christ taught us.

The service for Ash Wednesday was very simple in content. We acknowledged our own failures and took time to reflect on these. Each person received ashes on their foreheads marked in the sign of the cross. The ashes on our foreheads mark us as people who recognise our weaknesses and our sinfulness who are trying to be more committed to Christ.

In Lent itself there are three main elements which mark it as a time

of preparation for the Feast of Easter.

The first is **prayer** which is not merely words, it is the raising up of the mind and heart to God, so that we can be increasingly aware of God's spirit guiding and inspiring us to be faithful to the life giving values which Christ taught us.

The second element of Lent is **fasting** – doing without in some things we enjoy in order to control our selfish behaviour and to rely on God more and thus becoming sensitive to the needs of others, even in a small way.

This helps us take more time for prayer and reflections.



There is also the other more important element of fasting which is doing without some food so that we can help others in their need. This attitude leads us naturally into the last third element of Lent: **Almsgiving**.

An excellent example of Almsgiving is the CAFOD Lent fast day which was held on 15th March in school as well as in parishes, where children and adults try to refrain from eating some food – "give up something" as we say, so that the money saved by depriving ourselves of some food, we are able to use for others in their needs.

The organisation of CAFOD will ensure that the money saved from denying ourselves some food can be used to serve the starving people of the world.

Catholic Eucharist

A Catholic Eucharist was celebrated on 19th March in

honour of St Joseph on his Feast Day. The theme chosen for this mass was "Whatever your work is put your heart into it" taken from St Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Our Celebrant for the Mass was Father Paul Shaw, the Chaplain of Chester Catholic High School. It was the first time he came to celebrate the Eucharist with us. He was accompanied by Father Bernard Lordan and Deacon Steve Davies.

As the opening hymn was sung Priest Deacon and alter servers led the procession in the sports hall followed by our governors and other visitors. The first hymn was "Let our praise be your welcome". Our Year 11 pupils then provided us with a very relaxing and energising welcome. Our first scripture reading was as our theme, St Paul's letter to the Colossians. The second reading was from St Mathew's Gospel which speaks of St Joseph as a man of honour called to take care of Mary and Jesus.

The homily was given by Father Shaw on our theme. As he shared his reflections it was obvious that he felt "at home" with the pupils. In fact he knew quite a number of our past pupils by name because they had been in the Catholic High Sixth Form. The pupils responded very enthusiastically - it was a joyful and encouraging.

The very centre of the Eucharist is of course when staff and pupils come forward to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. This is always done with great dignity and reflection.

The celebration culminated with our final hymn "How great is our God".

Year Assemblies from 9th-12th April

This year the theme chosen for our Lenten Reflection was the **Last words of Jesus on the cross.**

Staff prepared and led the Assembly by reflecting on the last words of Jesus on the cross. Three pupils helped by controlling the PowerPoint and another two using simple movements to tell the story.

To set the scene there was a display which showed a large empty cross surrounded by seven candles already lit. These represented the seven last words of Jesus, as he lay dying on the cross.

After each reflection a child held up the lit candle – paused - then blew it out reminding us that the words were of Jesus dying. When it came to the last of the seven words: **"Father into your hands I commend my spirit"** two pupils knelt in quiet reverence by the side of the cross. After a few moments they stood up, lifted the cross and placed it in a stand so that it stood tall and empty. They then gently draped a white cloth on the arms of the cross representing the Risen Christ.

The final movement was to light the large central candle to proclaim the **resurrection of**

Christ triumphant over death. The beautiful hymn: "Born for this" was played. Everyone gazed at the candle and listened to the words.

When the hymn was finished the two children by the cross held their position in silent contemplation with staff and other pupils involved until all those watching had left the social court in silence.



This whole experience was certainly not a mere performance, it was a gentle and moving expression of shared faith.

After one of the Assemblies a pupil came to me spontaneously to say that she felt the

Assembly gave her courage and more understanding about Jesus and his love for us.

She brought me this message which she wrote out herself.

"Personally I thought that the Assembly was really inspiring with the lovely lighting from where I was sitting in the social court. I loved how we had a chance to reflect on the crucifixion. The whole thing was amazing and I want to thank Sister Maggie and the other staff for making us think about what Easter is really about. I hope that everyone has a happy and safe Easter".

Cerian Jones, 10 King

School Getaways...

Pantasaph

The first week after half term Year 9 pupils enjoyed the wonderful opportunity of a day at Pantasaph, a Franciscan Friary near Holywell, which welcomes people from all over the country to visit and to pray in its beautiful setting. The pupils really enjoyed the experience of a Day of Retreat and they engaged with lots of enthusiasm in all the activities and prayer times which all centred upon the themes of choices and bridges.

Miss R Massey

Here's what the pupils had to say...

I loved Pantasaph as it was amazing, I wish I could go every year. I loved the service at the end but my favourite parts were playing rock, paper, scissors and the heads or tails game which I won! I would love to go back.

Diogo Almeida, 9 Romero

Pantasaph was really amazing! We did lots of fun and different activities which all related to the topic of 'choices'. I think that the day was excellent and when we had a service at the end it was wonderful to participate.

Emma Samuels, 9 Devereux

I had a really great time. We did lots of fun activities that helped our teamwork. The theme of the day was bridges and it taught us that sometimes we need to take a leap of faith and trust in God. The best part of the day was hanging

out with other people I don't normally hang out with. Pantasaph was a great opportunity to get to know others from my year group and just have fun. We built bridges, played Pictionary, watched a couple of movie clips, played rock, paper, scissors and had a reflection at the end where we sang songs, prayed and some of us performed a dance. Pantasaph was a great day and all of Year 9 really enjoyed it!

Katie Hill, 9 Romero

We did lots of amazing and fun activities at Pantasaph. They taught us that during our lives we make lots of decisions and choices. The theme was bridges and we watched two movie clips; one from Shrek and the other from Indiana Jones. It taught us that we should just take a leap of faith and God will help you on your way, and it's not the prettiest things we should have. The best part of the day was when myself, Annie, Jess and Aled went on the trail and Annie slipped and I had to catch her; we were laughing so hard we fell over! I loved how we went into groups that were with people you wouldn't normally go with when building the bridges – our group won! Pantasaph taught me so much but the only thing I would change is to make the day longer!

Ella Kyffin-Jones, 9 Devereux

Skiing Trip to Andorra

On Saturday 23rd February, 48 pupils from St Joseph's and 6 staff left Wrexham for the

mountains of Andorra. We arrived at Vallnord the following day for a quick ski fit at the top of the mountain and settled in to our lovely hotel.

On the first day we met our instructors and were straight on to the slopes. We were all amazed by the warm temperatures and soon got a sun tan. The weather was fantastic all week.

We were skiing for four hours a day and we all made good progress. All the groups managed to use lifts very quickly and were tackling blue runs while the top groups were skiing down red and black runs. The ski instructors were excellent and helped everyone ski competently with style and finesse. Many pupils, even beginners, were all turning confidently and most had even mastered parallel turns.

On the last day, most pupils visited, via a network of lifts, the next resort along. This was a fantastic opportunity to ski in another area. We all had fun crossing the mountain in a big gondola singing pop songs.

All pupils who participated were awarded with certificates outlining the skills that they had learnt during the holiday. These were awarded during a ceremony on the last day.

The evenings were always fun with activities that included Worship, bowling, pizza night and a disco. We all enjoyed the holiday and the experience of being in a community setting for the week.

The hotel was fantastic along with excellent food both off and on the slopes. The week went very quickly and all the pupils and staff had a wonderful time.

Mr N Donlon

Here's what the pupils had to say...

"I really enjoyed this trip. It was such an amazing experience! I learnt a lot from the instructors and feel like I improved loads too. I can't wait to go next year!"

Katie Maclean, 9 Devereux

"I loved the skiing trip, I had so much fun with everybody. The instructors were really encouraging and I learnt a lot."

Mia O'Brien, 9 Devereux

"I had an amazing time skiing and learnt so much in just a short space of time. I made so many friends!"

Amy Brook, 9 Devereux

"Mr Donlon was a great laugh and he had done really well organizing it. I enjoyed it and would recommend anyone to go."

Oliver Evans, 10 Kolbe

Here's what Mrs Williams had to say...

"Fantastic weather, great resort and a brilliant bunch of pupils who all skied well and made excellent progress."

Phoenix Course

Earlier this term, 14 Year 9 pupils attended the Phoenix Project which was run by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

They spent five days climbing ladders, learning how to use fire

hoses and putting out fires as well as all other aspects of the role of a firefighter. Time was also spent in the classroom tackling difficult issues surrounding peer pressure and many other issues which are relevant to young people today. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the week and many have been inspired to think about what they would like to do when they leave St Joseph's.

Mrs S James, Head of Year 9

We enjoyed the Phoenix course because we learnt to work well with different people and communicate well in a team. We learnt the consequences of setting fire to a field and the consequences of texting or drinking when driving.

*Declin Davies and Celsie Hewitt,
9 Romero*

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and it has given me a great insight into the role of a firefighter. It has inspired me to be one when I am older.

Maddie Hough, 9 Cassidy

The course helped me with my confidence and as a group helped to make new friends. I had an amazing week and it made me think about being a firefighter.

Leah Burke, 9 Cassidy

'Les Miserables'

On Thursday 21st March, the GCSE Drama groups and a number of staff went to the Palace Theatre, Manchester to see an amazing production of 'Les Miserables'. Everyone in the audience was enthralled from start to finish and Mrs Ellis is still singing the songs now!

Reviewing this production will form part of the Drama GCSE examination and they have already responded like true Theatre critics. It was an absolute pleasure to be with the pupils who behaved impeccably and responded throughout. Here is the email from the coach company: 'the driver wanted to express what a pleasure it was to take the young students last night to Manchester. He said the young students, were a credit to the school, their parents and themselves. They were so very well mannered, so very polite, and friendly and their behaviour was outstanding'. Yet again, our pupils make us very proud!

Mrs M Clark

Here's what the pupils had to say...

"Last Thursday, the two GCSE drama classes went to see 'Les Miserables' in the Palace Theatre in Manchester. We were all so excited to go and from the first note of the prologue we were all amazed by how good all of the actors and musicians were. The whole show was amazing from start to finish. I wish I could watch it all over again, and I want to say thank you to Mrs Clark on behalf of everyone who went for organising such a fantastic trip for us."

Millie Davies, 11 Romero

English Workshop

On Thursday, 21st March a group of pupils took part in an English workshop for More Able and Talented pupils at Elfed High School. Mr Pandya an English

teacher from Elfed High led our pupils, together with pupils from Elfed High through a series of activities to enhance their English skills. Pupils participated in a range of tasks which included; drama, poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing. Pupils had a fantastic day and were able to bring new skills back to St Joseph's to use in the classroom.

Mrs R Langford

Here's what the pupils had to say...

The trip was great. I really enjoyed the games because they boosted my confidence. I learnt some new writing techniques that I will definitely use in my work.

Nadya Kuzak, 8 Cassidy

I liked doing different activities to help write a good story. I learnt how to write a good poem and present it in different ways.

Hannah Bond, 8 Romero

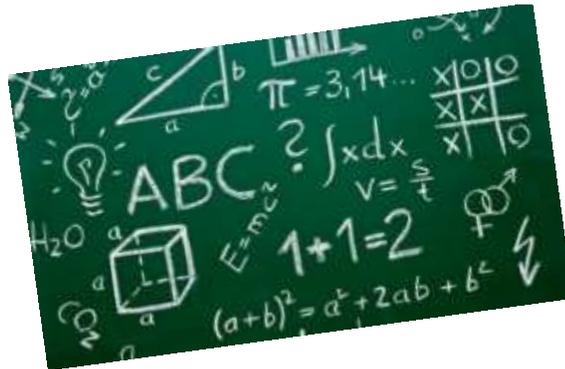
The workshop was definitely a game changer for me. There was a lot that I learned which I would be able to bring back with me for future English lessons. It was also a fun day too! We played games but every aspect of it was English related. It was a good way to interact but to enjoy with people who love English just as much!!

Daphne Pangilinan, 8 King

Maths pupils visit London

The Maths trip to London was, as usual, a brilliant success for raising the profile of maths for pupils in Year 8.

The trip started very early on Thursday 7th March and we arrived in London at lunchtime. The pupils had maths workbooks to look at and fill in whilst we walked over Westminster Bridge, around Parliament Square, up Parliament Street to Trafalgar Square. Next was our flight on the London Eye which was very enjoyable despite the windy weather! We all then enjoyed, a very needed dinner at Pizza Express before heading back to the hotel, where the pupils enjoyed a London maths quiz.



The next morning we made our way to the Emirates Airline Experience, where we made our way across the Thames by cable car. The pupils got to look around the Emirates Experience Centre looking at how airplanes are made and how they operate. To finish off the trip we walked through the busy streets of London to Hamleys and the pupils got to experience the pleasure of the famous toy store.

As always, this trip was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils. Thanks to Mr Timbrell and Dr Heath for accompanying the trip and thanks to all the brilliant Year 8 pupils who made this trip excellent by their superb behaviour and enthusiasm - as always they made St Joseph's

School proud. Diolch yn fawr I iawn.

Mrs V Jobson

Here's what the pupils had to say...

"The Maths trip was a great experience. We would recommend it to all the Year 7s next year. We enjoyed the London Eye, London Eye 4D experience, Cable cars and the lovely hotel."

Alexis Jackson, Blathnat McClean, Jaime Corcoran, 8 King and 8 Devereux

"The London was so fun but scary. At the end of the

first day we went to Pizza Express and had really tasty food. We had a really fun time and was a great experience."

Alec Bogucki and Oliver Sciuk, 8 Cassidy

National Reading and Numeracy Tests

Letters have been sent home advising that Years 7, 8 and 9 will be sitting the National Reading and Numeracy Tests on Wednesday, 1st May and Thursday, 2nd May. Please note the importance of your child's attendance on these days.

Mrs C Lunn, Data and Exams Manager

GCSE Art Exam

The GCSE Art examination is taking place on **Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th April** and pupils must arrive by 8:45am on both days. Detailed instructions have been given.

Easter Revision Classes

The following revision classes are taking place over the Easter holidays:-

Monday, 15th April

Biology (Right 1, 2 and 3)

9am-12 noon

Tuesday, 16th April

Design and Tech 9am-1pm

Drama 9am-12 noon

Wednesday, 17th April

PE 10am-12noon

Biology 10.30am-12noon

Thursday, 18th April

Maths (Set 1) 9am-1pm

Maths (Set 2) 10am-12 noon

School Meal Charges

In line with Wrexham County Borough Council policy on fees and charges, it is the intention to increase the cost of school meals. From Monday 29th April 2019, the cost of the meal of the day and the free meal allowance will be £2.45 and there will be an increase of 2% on all cash cafeteria individually priced items.

Together Creating Communities

This year we, the TCC group in St Joseph's, have been working on the following issues;

Single Use Plastic & the Environment - we want to raise awareness of the environmental impact of single use plastic and reduce the amount in the environment. Firstly, we asked the canteen for single use plastic cutlery in the dining room to be removed, and straws to be available on request only, which reduced the amount of plastic that is used there. We are in the process of planning a PSE session on the subject of "Single Use Plastics and the Environment" to deliver to the Year 7s in PSE during May. We invited the Councillor Mark Jones into school to talk about what is happening in Wrexham to tackle the issue in the community. We attended a Plastic Free Wrexham Campaign meeting where we learned of the steps being taken to become a plastic free town and we have been given permission from Mr Wilkinson to begin the process of becoming a Plastic Free School.

Bus Passes - we are trying to get pupils who need them to be allowed to have two bus passes, so they can get on the bus to school from wherever they happen to be staying. Some pupils stay with their Mum some days and their Dad on other days and they are unable to use their passes from both places. We met

with Councillor Phil Wynn, who is the Lead Member for Education in Wrexham Council, to discuss this matter. We found out that you can apply to have two passes and decisions are made based on circumstances and officers are aware of the issue across Wrexham.

Some members of our TCC group in school are part of TCC's youth group which involves other young people from different member groups. Anyone from school is welcome to attend this group which usually meets on Wednesdays 6-8pm (please contact TCC on 01978 262588 for more information). Within this group and at school we have been working on:

Mental Health Issues - We want all schools to become more aware of mental health issues, to understand mental health better and to promote good mental health within schools. One of the aims of our mental health campaign is for all schools to ensure they have staff trained in Mental Health First Aid. We have had several meetings and joined



with St Christopher's School to meet with Mark Isherwood AM to discuss our campaign. The AM agreed to support our campaign, as well as sign a petition campaigning on the issue of

mental health first aiders and offered to put a question to the Education Minister Kirsty Williams. Some of the staff at St Joseph's are attending Mental Health First Aid Training next term and organisations such as Mind are invited into school to work with pupils in Year 11. We want to encourage all schools to take part in this campaign.

Town of Sanctuary - We want to make our town a more welcoming place for refugees and to have Wrexham officially recognised as a 'Town of Sanctuary', to do this we are asking the community to sign a pledge in support of this campaign. Pledges can be found on the TCC website or collected from the Association of Voluntary Organisations (AVOW) in Wrexham. We attended the 'Town of Sanctuary' launch event, and spoke about our work to make St Joseph's the first School of Sanctuary in North Wales, to support this campaign. We also interviewed a refugee on local radio show SIEMA Good Vibes, on Calon FM, and asked her to describe her life experiences as a refugee and find out if she is settled in Wrexham now. We are glad to say that she feels that Wrexham has welcomed her after her terrible ordeal. The radio show will be broadcast on Friday 12th April at 1300. You can also listen to the show for one week afterwards through the Calon FM website.

The TCC Group

Here's what Mr Timbrell had to say...

I had the privilege to be present for a TCC event, meeting

Assembly Member Mark Isherwood at St Christopher's school. The pupils from both St Christopher's and St Joseph's were well prepared and professional with their deliveries of their ideas and it was obvious how much work and passion had been put into their proposals. St Joseph's students were promoting their proposition to have trained Mental First Aiders in schools, with trained staff to respond to anxiety and depression within the school setting. The Assembly Member was impressed and enthusiastic to raise it in the Welsh Assembly.

Meet St Joseph's new Governor

Parent Governor elections were held during March and as a result Mrs Claire O'Brien was duly elected on 15th March.



"Through my role of Parent Governor, I hope to continue relationships between parents and the school. I share St Joseph's vision that all children are individuals and should be supported and encouraged to develop not only on an academic

level but also on a social, emotional and spiritual level.

Thank you for your support. I am looking forward to representing parents on the Governing Body of St. Joseph's."

Bags2School

We have arranged a Bags2School collection for **Tuesday, 7th May**. Bags have been distributed to most pupils today but if you have not received a bag and would like to donate, please send items in a household bin bag.

Bags2School accept the following items: clothing, paired shoes, handbags, hats, scarves, ties, jewellery, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and bedding.



Please do not bring Bags2School into school before Friday, 3rd May.

Thank you.

Collection of Art Portfolios

We have a number of art portfolios belonging to pupils who left St Joseph's last summer. If you have not collected your portfolio please could we kindly ask that you do so before Friday, 3rd May. Thank you.

Mrs M Woodward, Head of Art

Contacting the school

Our preferred method of communication is a pre-organised, mutually convenient meeting. Contact with staff can be arranged via the school at

mailbox@st-joseph.wrexham.sch.uk

or through a request made at the school office.

We will try to ensure that, where possible, phone calls will be replied to on weekdays within 48 hours as staff are unable to reply when they are teaching, in meetings or on duty.

Please be role models of polite and tolerant behaviour when visiting our school. Aggressive and abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Thank you for your co-operation.

Mr Wilkinson

Follow us

Please follow us on twitter - we currently have 557 followers, let's increase this over half term!



@SJ_WXM

Don't forget to download the school app by visiting stjosephs.wales

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 29th April
School opens to pupils

Thursday, 2nd May
Year 11 Service of Celebration

Monday, 6th May
May Day – School closed

Tuesday, 7th May
GCSEs begin
Year 8 Examinations begin

Wednesday, 8th May
Year 7 Geography River Trip
Year 7 Cricket Tournament

Monday, 13th May
Year 7 Examinations begin

Friday, 24th May
School closes for half-term

Monday, 3rd June
School opens to pupils

Tuesday, 4th June
PTA meeting 6.45pm

Thursday, 6th June
Glan Llyn Information Evening

Thursday, 20th June
Year 11 Prom 6.30pm

Monday, 24th June
New Intake Evening 6.30pm

Thursday, 4th July
Year 8 International Eisteddfod

Friday 5th July
Years 7-9 Activities Day

Monday, 8th July
Years 7-10 Sports Day
Evening of Excellence 7pm

Thursday, 18th July
School closes for summer



Contact Details

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