

## Message from the Head Teacher



### It's been another busy week here at St.Columba's!

On Tuesday we hosted one of three Picnic & Praise events for the Archdiocese.

More than 300 Primary Schools students joined us for a day of fun and worship. Fred and Mr Southby entertained and taught them the songs for Mass before the picnic and then lead the joyful Mass, celebrated by Fr Richard Plunkett, in the afternoon. Thirty of our Year 7 students helped throughout the day – especially during the picnic making sure everyone was looked after, happy and got an ice lolly. Any rumours that I may have had three ice lollies can't be proven! It was a great day and our guests left us with a very positive impression of life here at St.Columba's.

On Wednesday evening we had our leavers Mass celebrated by Fr Christian. It was lovely that so many students and their families came back to worship together and share memories of five happy and successful years. Fr Christian impressed us all with his rendition of "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" by Whitney Houston and offering to explain the Off-side rule to Fred.

Next week we have our "taster-days" for students joining us in September. More than 160 young boys will join us on the start of their journey to become successful and happy men.

Mr Fisher

## Fred's Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father. You protect us from all evil, help us to share that protection, with those who are sick, with all those who are living on the streets. The vulnerable in society, who are unable to care for themselves. Let those who do not believe in you See that the Holy Spirit is alive and working in us as we do you will. Amen

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)



## Special Revision Days

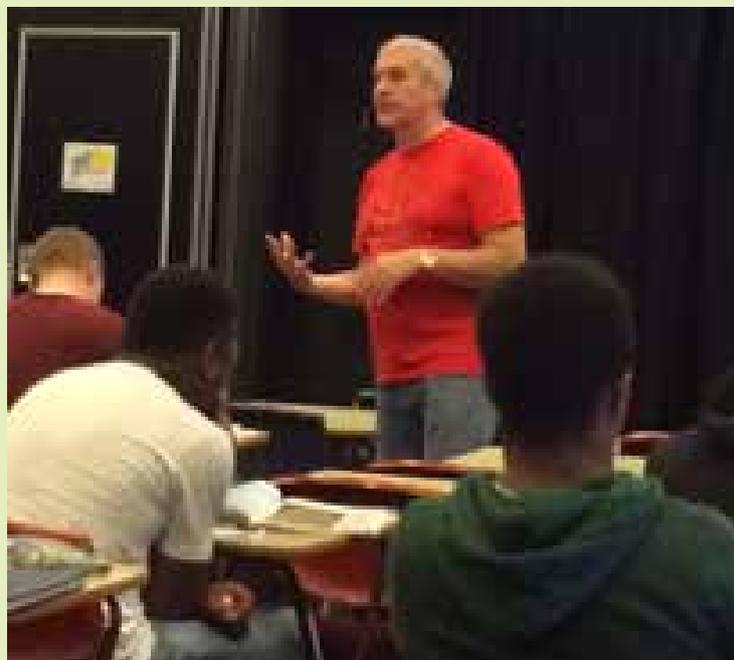
For St Columba's Boys, Saturday's are usually spent either catching up with much needed sleep, playing Football or going shopping but on Saturday 9 May and Saturday 6 June this was all put on hold.

Two very important revision days were held for Year 11. Over 100 boys for Roman Catholic Christianity and 80 Boys for St Mark's Gospel took part in an intensive booster session in preparation for the final exams. The aim for the RE Department was to finally

reinforce what had been taught over the past two years by comprehensively covering the past taught material.

The session for both courses on both days were broken up into four sections and delivered by Mr Shoebridge and Mr Fernandes. Needless to say that by the end of each day, the boys were even more confident of passing both exams.

A really great effort from everybody who attended, we are hoping for some great results.



## Faraday Schools Project

On Wednesday, Mr Southby and I took fourteen boys and two to the University of Reading as part of a combined RE/Science project run by The Faraday Schools Project. We have completed some research work with them previously when Dr Riga came down from Cambridge University

and carried out some 1-2-1 interviews with students from Years 10 and 11 boys as well as staff.

Yesterday we participated in three workshops, 'How to clone a planet' where we discussed the moral, ethical and scientific issues around cloning and cloned a piece of cauliflower each. The second was 'All you need is science. Or is it?' which took the

form of a lively debate about how all too often the 'big question' are reduced to a very simplistic level and that quite often they need to be looked at from many different points of view. Lastly we attended 'Extra sensory deception'. This was part magic show, part illusion part philosophical discussion on belief. All the boys participated in the workshops and other activities

and enjoyed their experience of more mature debate and of visiting a university campus.

Also as we have participated in the project, all students from Year 9 upwards are offered the opportunity for a residential course at the University of Reading to be held in early August. Please see the attached flyer for details.

Mr Shoebridge  
Head of RE



## Vote CRiBS!

As you may know the charity CRiBS has their big blue bus on site and many students have visited it over the past week. CRiBS are looking to win a pot of £5,000 to keep the bus roadworthy and you can help make this possible by voting online. Just go to [www.cribsonline.org](http://www.cribsonline.org) and click on the One Family link before 29th June.

Imagine how many votes the charity could receive if every family member linked to St Columbas voted!



*Please take just a few minutes to vote and keep the big blue bus on the road!*

Voting is open until 29th June for an award of £5,000 to keep our Big Blue Bus on the road.

Please vote for us at: [onefamily.com](http://onefamily.com)  
Vote today before time runs out!



*Visit our website just scan our QR code here!*

### LUNCH MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING

30th June 2015

Breakfast: 7.45am - 8.15am

Hot Snacks, Filled Rolls & Baguettes served daily

#### MONDAY

Chicken Chasseur with Parmentier Potatoes  
✓ Tuna and Sweetcorn Bake

#### TUESDAY

Chicken Chow Mein (Beansprouts, Celery, Mushrooms and Soy Sauce)  
✓ Thai Fish Curry

#### WEDNESDAY

Jerk Chicken, Rice and Peas and Salad  
✓ Spaghetti Milanaise (Tomato, Ham and Mushroom)

#### THURSDAY

French Lamb Stew  
✓ Cheesy Leek with Cous Cous and Salad

#### FRIDAY

✓ Fish & Chips



*Our school is an inclusive place of learning that celebrates and welcomes diversity.*

*Every member of our community is a unique and special creation of God and is known, cared for and valued for the contribution they make.*

*Every student is challenged and supported to achieve his best.*

A horse weighs 600kg plus  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its weight. What does it weigh?

A four-digit number is "lucky" if its digits add up to 6 and no digit is 0. Find all ten "lucky" numbers.

Using all the digits from 1 to 5 once only, make two numbers which multiplied together give the largest number possible.



## MONEY MATTERS

Fact Sheet FC2

SAVINGS AND LIFESKILLS | 

### The Credit Crunch

You may have heard people talking about the 'credit crunch'. Your parents and teachers may refer to it, and the newspapers are still full of it, but what does it mean?

#### The credit crunch

A credit crunch is a worldwide reduction in the amount of money that is available for people and businesses to borrow to pay for things. So how and why did the recent credit crunch happen?

#### How financial organisations work

Banks rely on people depositing money into their savings accounts. They have to keep a percentage of this money safe, called 'capital reserve', but they use the rest to make investments and lend to people and organisations. They also lend large amounts to other banks and building societies. They make money by charging interest on all the money they lend.

#### How did the recent credit crunch start?

This 2008 credit crunch started in United States of America where most of their economy is funded by loans from banks:

- People borrowed money (e.g. for mortgages to buy houses or for investments).
- Businesses borrowed money to expand.
- Banks even lent money to people on low incomes and with poor credit ratings, who found it difficult to keep up their repayments.
- Some people who had taken out mortgages couldn't keep up with their repayments and banks had to repossess their houses to resell to get their money back.
- Businesses saw a drop in sales because many people were having financial problems and some people even lost their jobs as well as their houses.
- So businesses also had difficulty repaying their debts and loans.
- The Stock Market (where shares in companies are bought and sold) began to have problems, as people were unable to invest their money.
- Banks started to ask for the money they had lent each other back, but almost every bank was in the same situation.
- Banks all over the world are connected, as they lend and borrow from one another. When the American banks reduced lending, financial organisations around the world were forced to do the same.
- As you can see it is easy to get into a downward spiral of economic activity.

Cont'd

Financial Capability

## Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Activity	Dept	Audience	Day	Time	Staff	Location
Basketball Team Training	PE	Year 7	Tuesday		HMN	
Cricket Team Training	PE	Year 7	Tuesday Thursday		RDY REE	
	PE	Year 8	Thursday		RDY REE	
Fitness 'Insanity' Club	PE	Year 9	Tuesday		HMN	
	PE	Year 10	Tuesday		HMN	
Interhouse Competitions (Rotation)	PE	Years 7,8,9,10	Wednesday		HMN RDY	
GCSE PE Revision	PE	Year 11	Monday		RDY	
Youth Club	PE	Years 7,8 ,9	Friday		REE	
Art Club	Art	Years 7,8,9	Wednesday		CMN DAR	
	Art	Years 10,11	Thursday		DAR	



## Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Activity	Dept	Audience	Day	Time	Staff	Location
KS3 Club	Design Technology	Year 7 Year 8 Year 9	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	Yr11 Mentors NCS lead	DT2
KS4 Sessions	Design Technology	Year 10 Year 11	Wednesday	2.30-4.00	LBY NCS CBE	All Workshops

Please note: Workshops will be open Tuesday and Thursdays for Year 11 pupils on request by invitation

Guitar Club	Music	All abilities welcome	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	ADR	MU1 MU2
GCSE ensembles	Music	Year 10 / 11 timetabled	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	DSY AAD	MU2 Practice Rooms
Urban Music Workshops	Music	First come, first served	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	AAD ArtsTrain	MU1
GCSE ensembles	Music	Year 10 / 11 timetabled	Thursday	2.30-3.30	DSY AAD	MU2 Practice Rooms
Music Boosters	Music	Targeted groups	Selected dates: Monday or Thursday	2.30-3.30	AAD	MU1
Singing and Keyboard	Music	All abilities welcome	Thursday	2.30-3.30	Ollie Jerreat	MU1

Drama Club	Drama	All students	Wednesday	2.45-3.45	GDE	Theatre
	Drama	All students	Tuesday	2.30	GDE	ENS
Additional Rehearsal	Drama	All students	Wednesday	2.45-3.45	GDE	Theatre

ECDL Provision	Computing	Year 11	Wednesday	2.30-4.00	LWS	IT 1
Computing Club	Computing	Years 7,8,9	Thursday	2.30-4.00	LWS	IT 1

## Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Activity	Dept	Audience	Day	Time	Staff	Location
School Report Journalist Club	English	Years 7,8	Thursday	2.30-3.30	LGN	EN7
Debating Society	English	Years 9,10,11	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	NFN	EN4
GCSE English Targeted intervention	English	Year 11	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	ACN CKY LGN NFN	EN7
<b>Home Learning Support</b> (A maths specialist is available every day to support you with your home learning)	Maths	All years	Monday	2.30-3.00	Please refer to the maths department noticeboard for daily locations	
	Maths	All years	Tuesday	2.30-3.00		
	Maths	All years	Wednesday	2.30-3.00		
	Maths	All years	Thursday	2.30-3.00		
	Maths	All years	Friday	2.30-3.00		
Year 11 Targeted Learning	Maths	Specific Year 11 students (by invitation only)	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	All Staff	Maths Dept Please refer to the maths noticeboard for daily locations
<b>Rubik's Club</b> (Learn to solve a Rubik's cube plus other Rubik's equipment)	Maths	Years 7,8	Friday	2.30-3.30	Mrs Turner	MA1
<b>Maths Club</b> (Enriching maths activities)	Maths	Year 7	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	Mrs Turner	MA1
RE Homework Club	RE	Years 7,8,9	Tuesday	2.30-3.15	SSE, JFE, DSY	RE 1
Film Club	RE	Years 7,8,9,10	Thursday	2.30-4.30	SSE	IT 1
Targeted GCSE boosters (6wk revolving programme)	RE	Years 10,11	Thursday	2.30-3.15	JFE SSE	IT 1



**Encountering Christ**  
 Prayerfully preparing for the  
 Sunday Mass and praying in  
 particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 - The Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

**1** Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



**2** Read

**Taken from the Gospel for 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (Matthew 16:13-19): Peter the Rock**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But you,” he said, “who do you say I am?” Then Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ,” he said, “the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.”



**3** Reflect

**After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.**

*This is one of the very rare saints' days to displace the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, which shows its importance. In a way it is still a Feast of the Lord, for it is the feast of the Church. Peter is to be the Rock foundation of Jesus' own people, for that is what we are. Christ has called us together as his own people, and he has promised that he will always be present in this Church, 'when two or three are gathered together in my name'. So Christ is present even in an ordinary household trying to live together with Christ at their centre. Here Jesus makes the promise to Peter that what he binds on earth will be bound in heaven; his decisions will hold firm in the eyes of God. Later Jesus makes the same promise to the community itself. So Peter is the spokesman for the Christian community, voicing the decisions of the Church. At his last meeting with his disciples the risen Christ promises to be with them 'till the end of the ages'; the bishops, as the successors of the apostles, are the channels of Christ's presence among us now. So today is the celebration of Christ among us, his people.*

**How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**4** Respond & Request

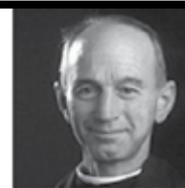
Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church  
 Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015



## First Reading: *Peter's Narrow Escape*

### Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get up!" he said "Hurry!" - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on your belt and sandals." After he had done this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak round you and follow me." Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me."

*This story is delightfully told: Peter is like a sleepy child, woken in the middle of the night. There are perhaps too many escapes from prison in the Book of Acts; Luke obviously enjoys this kind of story, and so would his audience. However, such narratives demonstrate the special protection which God exercises over the infant Church. Once James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, had been executed, if Peter had gone too, the community would have been dangerously bereft. The presence of the angel signifies a special protection and divine intervention to ensure the continuance of the Church. Peter has already been leading the Church (he has introduced the centurion Cornelius, the first gentile convert) and he still has to take a leading part at the Council of Jerusalem, thereby ensuring the liberty of gentile Christians from observance of the full Jewish Law. After that Peter disappears from the scene. The tradition is strong that he was martyred in Rome, but we do not know where his apostolic role took him. Paul tells us that, while he himself was entrusted with the mission to the gentiles, Peter was entrusted with the mission to the Jews. The Jewish Christians were an important group among the first generations of Christians.*

**What do stories like this in the Acts of the Apostles tell us about the special place Peter occupied in the early Church?**

## Second Reading: *Paul in the Evening of his Life*

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Second Letter to Timothy was probably written in Paul's name, rather than being directly authored by him. As Paul frequently does, this passage uses the images of sport, so popular in the ancient world: the arena, the race-track and the winner's crown. Paul gives full expression to his consciousness of the Lord's power to save, and also to his longing for the completion of his own life in the Lord, balanced (as always) by his eagerness to do the Lord's work in his mission here and now. This longing is at the heart of every Christian. Despite a human fear of death, we know that in the end we will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. The early Christians saw this 'Appearing' of the Lord in terms of a royal procession in the clouds, signalling the end of the world, but what we look forward to is not so much the dissolution of the universe but to a personal meeting with the Lord. This meeting will be awesome and daunting because we will be brought face to face with ourselves and see ourselves as we truly are - including all those faults and failures which we refuse to admit even to ourselves, yet we will be conscious of the overwhelming comfort of forgiveness in the divine love.*

**What will it be like at the Lord's 'Appearing'? Is it something for which you too long?**

“ We will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. ”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*

w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)