



Message from the Head Teacher



Last week we had an extremely useful evening for Yr 11 students and their families. The aim of the evening was support for success; we want our students to achieve their very best in their GCSE examinations. I am convinced that if they use the advice that was offered, success is guaranteed! It came as no surprise that 80% of families attended. Elsewhere in Weekly News, Mrs Turner explains about online support for success provided by the school and how all students, not just Yr 11, can access and benefit from that support.

As part of the ongoing support for success, next week Yr 11 start their Pre-Public Examinations. These examinations are a crucial part of the preparation for the final examinations in the summer. The exams will help identify areas which could benefit from extra work and give students a much better idea of the conditions that public exams have to be taken in.

Last night we had our annual celebration of GCSE success with last year's Yr 11 students returning to receive their certificates and prestigious awards. I will report on these next week.

As a Christian community it is always a pleasure to celebrate together. Over the next few weeks we have many celebrations to look forward to. On Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 December, Yrs 7 and 8 respectively will have assemblies delivered by our friends in CRiBS. Then we start our run of Commendation Assemblies on Wednesday 14 with Yr 9. Our Commendation Assemblies recognise students' achievements on a termly basis and parents are invited in to witness their sons' success. Yr 10 is on Thursday 15, Yr 7 on Monday 19 and Yr 8 on Tuesday 20 December. Yr 11 have an assembly devoted to their PPE exams, providing further support for success.

Once again we will be providing a free Christmas Lunch to each student in the school during Period 4 ahead of the normal lunch break. Students will be served by staff and they will have lunches on the following days:

- Yr 9 Wednesday 14
- Yr 10 Thursday 15
- Yr 11 Friday 16
- Yr 7 Monday 19
- Yr 8 Tuesday 20

Fred's Prayer for the Week

Come, Holy Spirit,
shine your light upon our conscience
and lead us away from sin and darkness
into the light and life of Christ.

Amen

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)

The Christmas Carol service is on Thursday 15 December at 7:00pm in the school hall and Yr 7 will be receiving their 'Welcome Badge' during the service so we hope to see as many of them as possible there!

After all those details, you will no doubt be relieved to learn there are now only 30 sleeps until Christmas.....



Mr N Fisher

[Click here to link to the SIMS Learning Gateway](#)



DEC
DIARY DATE

CAROL SERVICE

7:00pm
Thursday 15 December
ALL WELCOME

Online Learning

At our recent Yr 11 Examinations Success evening, parents were shown some of the Online Learning packages pupils can use to enhance and extend their learning at home when studying and revising for GCSE examinations. These include GCSEPod, Doodle, PiXL Maths App, Pixlit, MathsWatch and Kerboodle. They were also shown how to access these subscription sites using student specific logins. The presentation used is available on the school website on the 'Students' tab.

However, it's not just Yr 11 that can access these packages; the whole school can access GCSEPod, Doodle and Mathswatch and use these websites for home learning, with PiXL Maths App coming soon for all boys at St Columba's. Younger students also have TTRockstars to practise speed and fluency in times tables - a required skill for many subsequent maths topics.

Should any student have difficulty logging on to any of these sites, please come and see me.

Mrs Turner
Assistant Head Teacher



D

Monday

Spanish Chicken and Paprika Potatoes

Vegetable Paella

Seasonal Vegetables

Banana Cake served with Custard

N

Tuesday

Roast Chicken served with Roast Sweet Potato and Yorkshire Pudding

Quorn chilli served with Potato Wedges

Seasonal Vegetables

Jam Sponge served with Custard

E

Wednesday

Traditional Oven Baked Chicken Casserole served with potatoes

Lamb Rogan Josh served with Rice

Chick Pea Dhal

Seasonal Vegetables

M

Raspberry and White Chocolate muffin served with Chocolate Sauce

Thursday

Meatballs and Spaghetti with Garlic Bread

Spicy Bean Burger served with Potato Wedges

Seasonal Vegetables

Italian Lemon Cake

Friday

Fish and Chips

Barbecue Chicken served with Spicy Wedges

Ariabatta Pasta Bake or Cheese Omelette

Baked Beans

Strawberry Smoothie

Available Daily

A wide selection of Hot Snacks, Rolls and Sandwiches

WEEK COMMENCING 28.11.16



Our Lady's Film Group

Our next film evening will be on Wednesday 14 December when we will show an inspiring movie on BI Duns Scotus, the Franciscan priest and theologian who won a famous debate against the Dominicans in the 13th century in defending Our Lady's great privilege of her Immaculate Conception.

The film employs subtitles, will be shown in St John Fisher Bexley Church Hall, free admission light refreshments served, bar, and stall selling home-made crafts with a Christmas theme.

All welcome. Arrivals from 7pm for 7:30pm start.

Our Lady's Film group is pleased to show

BI Duns Scotus

Wed 14th Dec 2016; 7pm for 7.30 pm start



inspiring movie of the holy Franciscan priest and theologian who won a famous debate against the Dominicans in the 13th century in defending Our Lady's great privilege of her Immaculate Conception, preparing the groundwork for the Church's dogma

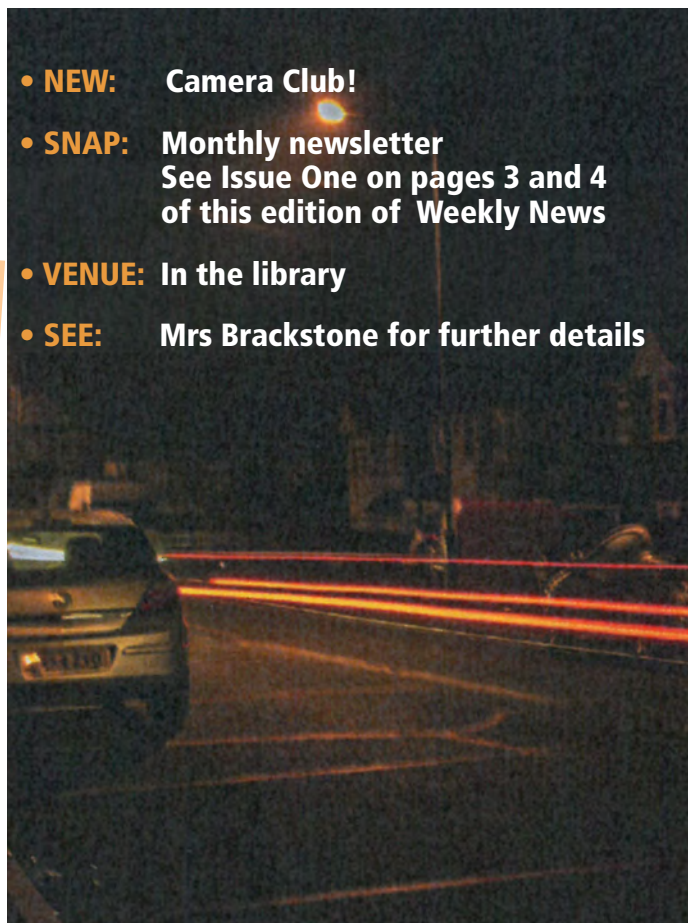
FREE ADMISSION - ALL WELCOME
SUB-TITLES

 St John Fisher Church Hall
48 Thanet Road
Bexley, DA5 1AP

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stfisher@fiscali.co.uk
www.freewebs.com/stjohnfisherchurch

Camera Club

- **NEW:** Camera Club!
- **SNAP:** Monthly newsletter
See Issue One on pages 3 and 4 of this edition of Weekly News
- **VENUE:** In the library
- **SEE:** Mrs Brackstone for further details



Parents' Evening Dates 2017

JAN
DIARY DATE

YR 11 PARENTS' EVENING

3:30pm
Thursday 19 January 2017

FEB
DIARY DATE

YR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

3:30pm
Thursday 2 February 2017

MAR
DIARY DATE

YR 8 PARENTS' EVENING

3:30pm
Thursday 9 March 2017

FEB
DIARY DATE

YR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

3:30pm
Thursday 23 February 2017

MAR
DIARY DATE

YR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

3:30pm
Thursday 23 March 2017

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME AUTUMN / SPRING TERM

Day	Year Groups	PE CLUBS
Tuesday	Yr7, Y8	Rugby Training HMN FUY
Wednesday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9, Yr10, Yr11 Yr7 Yr11	Rowing Club REE *Basketball Training/ skills session RCN HMN Football Training (ad hoc) AJN
Thursday	Yr8 Yr10 Yr11	KS3 Basketball team training REE KS4 Basketball team training RDY REE Fitness Suite HMN
Friday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9,	*Youth Club RCN REE RDY HMN

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Tuesday	KS3, KS4	Choir Mr Watson Miss Foot	2:35 - 3.15pm	Mu1
	Yr10 Musicians	Rock Band Miss McPartland	2:35 - 3.15pm	Large Practice Room
	GCSE Music Students	GCSE Band Rehearsals Student Led	2:35 - 4.00pm	All Practice Rooms
Thursday	Students taking drum lessons only	Drum Practise	2:35 - 3:15pm	All Practice Rooms
TBC	All who play	Woodwind Band	TBC	Mu2

Day	Year Groups	DRAMA CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Auditions and Play Rehearsals	2:40 - 3:40pm	Mu1

Day	Year Groups	ART CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	Come and Create!	2:30 - 3:30pm	Ar2

Day	Year Groups	ENGLISH CLUB	Time	Room
2nd Friday of month	All welcome	Writing Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	En3
Last Friday of month	G & T	Book Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	En3


Day	Year Groups	STEM CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths	2:35 - 3:00pm	Sc1

More on next page!.....

Day	Year Groups	RE FILM CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	New! Starts 21st September See Mr Shoebridge	2:30pm	RE1 

Day	Year Groups	CHESS CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Come and make your move!	2:30 - 3:15pm	Sc1

Day	Year Groups	DEBATE CLUB	Time	Room
Tuesday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Practice your debating skills	2:30 - 3:15pm	En4

Day	Year Groups	RE	Time	Room
Tuesday	All welcome	KS3 RE homework club SSE	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE1
	All welcome	GCSE catch up sessions JFE	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE2
	All welcome	Boy's Bible Club FOU	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE3 

Day	Year Groups	POETRY CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	The "GET DOWN" begins....!	2:35 - 3:30pm	En6 

Day	Year Groups	BBC SCHOOL REPORT	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Become an ace reporter!	2:35 - 3:05pm	En7 

Day	Year Groups	STEP INTO DANCE	Time	Room
Thursday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Create, perform, develop!	2:45 - 3:45pm	Iona Theatre 



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 27th November 2016 - The First Sunday of Advent

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

The Gospel for Sunday 27th November 2016 - Like a Thief in the Night (Matthew 24:37-44)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the house-holder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'



3 Reflect

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

In each year of the three-year cycle the Advent Sunday gospel-readings have the same pattern: the first is about the final Coming of Christ. In the second John the Baptist is preparing a community of repentance to welcome Jesus' mission. In the third John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah. On the fourth Sunday we look to Mary preparing for the birth of her Son. In this Sunday's reading about the Second Coming the accent is the same as in the Paul's letter to the Romans (today's second reading): we have a pressing and urgent need to take action without delay. The Second Coming will be sudden and unexpected as when a thief breaks in at night and no protective preparations have been made; it will also seem random and apparently without discernible cause, as when one person is taken, another left behind. We do not even know whether that final confrontation (when each of us is brought face to face with the awesome presence of God) will be a unique event for each of us at death, or whether it will be a group event, as is suggested by Matthew's parable of the sheep and goats sent to right and left. There is no time in eternity, no waiting-room! It will not be as any human mind can envisage it.

Should we look forward to or dread the final meeting with the Lord?

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 27th November 2016



First Reading: *The Vision of Peace*

Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation; there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

With the beginning of Advent we focus on the coming of Christ, in history (that is, at Bethlehem), in mystery (that is, in the Church) and in majesty (that is, at the end of time). Today's first reading helps us to reflect on the peace which Christ brings, and for which we all yearn. The hill on which Jerusalem lies is not a particularly high one, but when Christ comes it will become like a towering mountain (as in Isaiah's vision), dominating the whole country. All nations will realise its importance and come to Jerusalem as the source of all salvation. Teaching about the salvation of the gentiles, which first comes to the fore in the writings after the exile in Babylon, reaches a high-point in today's reading. The permanent ending of war and strife is signalled by the re-moulding of the weapons of war. You can't make war if you have converted your tanks into chicken-houses and your aircraft-carriers into skateboard-parks – the modern equivalent of swords into ploughshares and spears into sickles. So Advent is a time of peace, peace between nations but also peace between families and within families, a time for reconciliation of quarrels as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

What can I do this Advent to increase peace?

Second Reading: *The Time is Near*

Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Each year there must really be a coming of Christ into our lives and our society.”

After his great exposition in the Letter to the Romans about the saving work of Christ, Paul goes on to encourage the Christians of Rome to be faithful. With the Resurrection the final era of the world has begun. There is no room for delay: the night is nearly over and the children of light are coming into their own. Paul sees a pressing need for action, and much of his moral advice, especially in First Corinthians, is grounded on the assumption that the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world is imminent. Did Paul get it wrong? He never says exactly how imminent it is, how soon the Second Coming will occur, but we can safely say that he would have been surprised to discover that two thousand years would pass without any sign of it happening. However, it is equally safe to say that timing is not his concern. The Second Coming remains imminent, in that there is no time to delay in mending our ways and preparing for this event. We are given an important reminder of this by our celebration of Christmas. Each year there must really be a coming of Christ into our lives and our society.

How can Christmas be to me a coming of Christ?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

