



## Message from the Head Teacher

### Anthony James Fitzgerald "Ant"

1998-2016

Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.  
Amen.

Yesterday I attended the funeral mass for Anthony Fitzgerald. He was only 18.

He was a St Columba's Boy and will always be a St Columba's Boy. St Stephen's Church was full of mourners; they were full of respect and love for Anthony and his family. I couldn't help but think that this is wrong; we should not have been together because someone so good is no longer with us.

He was so young but he had achieved so much - I'm not thinking about things that can be easily measured, I'm thinking about the obvious and positive impact that Anthony clearly had on so many people.

His sisters, Laura and Marie, gave such a beautiful eulogy that reminded us all about what a wonderful young man Anthony was. They have set up a "JustGiving" page to remember Anthony and to raise funds for CRY. CRY stands for Cardiac Risk in the Young. Each week at least twelve young people in the UK die suddenly as a result of undiagnosed heart conditions.

## Fred's Prayer for the Week

God our Father, your power brings us to birth,  
Your providence guides our lives, and by  
Your command we return to dust.  
Lord, those who die still live in  
Your presence, their lives change but do not end.

We pray in hope for our families, relatives and friends,  
and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ, who died and now lives, may they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away.

Unite us together again in one family, to sing  
Your praise forever and ever. Amen.

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)

There is nothing we can do to change what has happened but as a community we can improve the future by raising money for the charity that the family have chosen. It is already over halfway towards its target of £10,000! Our student council were understandably upset to learn of Anthony's death as he remained part of our community even after he left the school.

As a result, they were unanimous in their support and have insisted that money raised on our non-uniform day be given to CRY.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AnthonyJamesFitzgerald>



Mr N Fisher

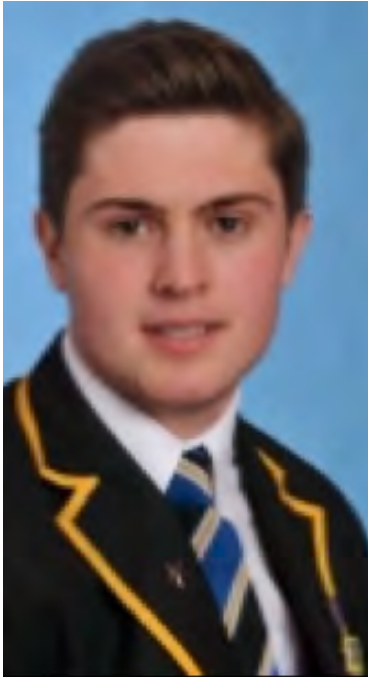


## Non Uniform Day Tuesday 13 December

We ask that any student who would like to wear their own clothes on Tuesday 13 December to bring at least £2 to support CRY.

# Anthony James Fitzgerald "Ant"

1998-2016



D

## Monday

Midwestern Sausage  
Five Bean Casserole and served with Wedges  
Spicy Bean Burger

Seasonal Vegetables

American Style Apple Pie  
served with Vanilla Sauce

N

## Tuesday

Barbecue Chicken  
African Beef Stew served with Spicy Jollof Rice

Seasonal Vegetables

Banoffee Cake

E

## Wednesday

Lamb Moussaka  
Chicken Kebabs and Rice Vegetable Kebabs  
served with Salad

Seasonal Vegetables

Butterscotch Mousse

M



## Thursday

Roast turkey served with  
Roast Potatoes and Stuffing

Cheese and Onion Slice  
served with Roast Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

Steamed Syrup Pudding

## Friday

Fish and Chips

Chicken Tikka Masala and Rice  
Fish Burger served with Wedges and Baked Beans

Iced Crossaint

*Available Daily*

A wide selection of  
Hot Snacks, Rolls and Sandwiches

**WEEK COMMENCING 12.12.16**



## Lost Property

Above is just some of the lost property we have in the Office. Due to space restrictions we will be donating all lost property to charity in the first week back in January.

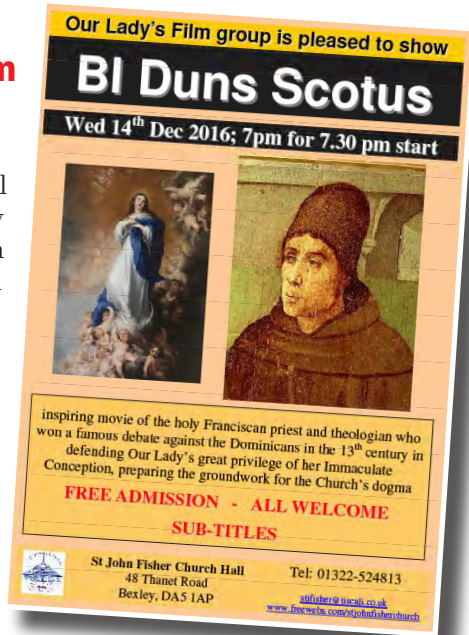
It would be helpful if parents could please ensure that names are in or on everything that a student could lose!



*Click here to link to the SIMS Learning Gateway*

## 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 a 7:30pm start.



## Christmas Lunch Schedule

**Yr 7**  
Monday 19 December

**Yr 9**  
Wednesday 14 December

**Yr 11**  
Friday 16 December

**Yr 8**  
Tuesday 20 December

**Yr 10**  
Thursday 15 December

We do not charge the students for this - it's simply celebrating Christmas together like a family.

## Parents' Evening Dates 2017



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME AUTUMN / SPRING TERM

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

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Tuesday	KS3, KS4	Choir <b>Mr Watson Miss Foot</b>	2:35 - 3.15pm	Mu1
	Yr10 Musicians	Rock Band <b>Miss McPartland</b>	2:35 - 3.15pm	Large Practice Room
	GCSE Music Students	GCSE Band Rehearsals <b>Student Led</b>	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 All welcome All welcome	KS3 RE homework club <b>SSE</b> GCSE catch up sessions <b>JFE</b> Boy's Bible Club <b>FOU</b>	2:30 - 3:15pm 2:30 - 3:15pm 2:30 - 3:15pm	RE1 RE2 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 



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

**1** Relax & Remember

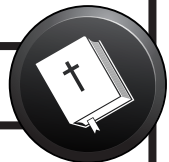
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this 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

**Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - Emmanuel (Matthew 1:18-24)**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel", a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



**3** Reflect

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

*Matthew begins his Gospel about the birth of Jesus with a long and elaborately formal genealogy of Joseph. But Jesus is the son of Mary, not of Joseph! The whole point of this story is that Joseph is not the genealogical father of Jesus, but adopts Jesus into his line, the line of King David. At first Joseph is hesitant to do so, presumably thinking that he is unworthy to acknowledge the child as his own, and unworthy to bond with Mary who is with child by the Holy Spirit. But the angel insists that only Joseph can do this job ('Do not be afraid,' he says). As soon as the child is born, he is given the name Jesus, and is given it by Joseph. It is the father's prerogative to name a son, and by so doing Joseph takes the child as his own. We hear little more of Joseph, but what a joy it must have been to have Jesus as a son! What a relationship there must have been! What responsibility too! When Jesus calls God his 'Father', he is using something of the concept of 'father' which must have been formed in his mind by his adoptive father, Joseph, the perfect ideal of the loving parent. **Why is it important that Jesus should be adopted into David's line? What sort of father would Joseph have been, and what can we learn from him?***

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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016



## First Reading: *The Virgin is with Child*

### Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered, 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

*The readings of the last Sunday of Advent always focus on Mary, as she waits for her child to be born. The prophecy in this first reading was given in 736 BC, when King Ahaz of Judah was about to be forced into an alliance, in a vain attempt to oppose the crushing military power of Assyria. Isaiah goes to him and warns him that the alliance would be fatal; he had better trust in the Lord. Isaiah promises a sign, which Ahaz refuses. He does not want to be convinced! What is this sign? The original Hebrew reads, 'A girl is with child and will bear a son', indicating that within a few months the threat will vanish and Jerusalem will be convinced that God is on their side – hence the boy will be called Emmanuel, in relieved gratitude. But the Greek translation of the Hebrew, made some 200 years before the birth of Jesus, translates 'The virgin is with child', which the evangelist Matthew sees as a prophecy of the birth of Jesus from the virgin Mary. The symbolic name Emmanuel then becomes a promise of the presence of God in the world at our side.*

**Why do you think King Ahaz was reluctant to ask God for a sign? Do you believe that God still gives signs today?**

## Second Reading: *The Son of God in Power*

### Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

*This reading gives us the beginning of the great Letter to the Romans, in which Paul lays out the saving work of Christ. After proclaiming his apostolic office, Paul presents Jesus to us. In his introductions to the letters, Paul always briefly mentions or hints at the subject with which he is especially concerned in the letter. So here it is the dual aspect of Christ. If he were not both wholly human and Son of God, then Jesus' supreme act of obedience on the Cross would not have saved us. And yet, it is by his resurrection that he lifts his followers to perfection in the divine life, for we are baptized into his death and rise in his resurrection. According to his human nature he is a descendant of David, wholly human. At the same time he is Son of God in power through his resurrection from the dead. Paul does not, of course, suggest that before the resurrection Jesus was not Son of God, but in some way the resurrection manifested Jesus' full power as Son of God. The Incarnation (God becoming flesh) is the basis of all the theology of Salvation (humanity sharing fully in the divine life).*

**After describing himself, St Paul goes on to give a brief description of Jesus' life. How would you briefly describe Jesus' life? How would you describe your own Christian mission?**

“Both wholly human and Son of God.”

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)