



right2read



Message from the Head Teacher

Only a week to go until our Open Day. We have every right to be proud of St Columba's and it is a joy to show our visitors how wonderful our school is. The very best thing about St Columba's is our students; we have great staff and great buildings but it is the students that make a great school. We remain very proud of them and try to take every opportunity to commend them.

One of our responsibilities as a school is to instill "British Values". I know that this term can irritate some people because you could interpret it mean than British values are in some way inherently better than the values of other societies. It is easy to forget that in our country we are blessed with a democratic parliamentary system ... even if we may not agree with the majority of electors. We are blessed with a legal system that supports individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. For all of us, including our students, it is easy to forget that we

live in a country where these values exist but I'm sure there are many millions of people who share this planet with us who are envious of what we take for granted.

This week we have celebrated, as usual, many sporting successes. There are opportunities in our school for everyone to experience success - is your son making the most of these opportunities?

Year 7 students continue to settle in well and are confident and comfortable around the school. For the first time this year, we asked the new Yr 7 to bring their exercise books from primary school in with them on their first day (see pictures opposite). This has enabled our teachers to get a clearer idea of what our students are capable of by viewing their previous work. The universal response from staff has been that they are very impressed with students' capabilities!

This week we had our annual visit from students from Germany. Our education systems are different in

Fred's Prayer for the Week

Father, forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy. In both we have failed ourselves, and you.

Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow the way that you first trod. Lead us to the Cross and meet us there. Amen

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)

many ways but our attitudes to the care of children are the same. Sadly this year we weren't able to get a photograph but we were delighted with our student ambassadors who guided them around the school with the able assistance of Johanna and Fiona, Koru students with CRiBS who helped with translating.

Our Right 2 Read focus continues this year because there can be no doubt in the educational value and joy reading can bring. Do you know what book your son is reading? Have you had a chat about it?



Mr Fisher



Yr7 FAIRPLAY HOUSE WEEKEND
a few places remaining!
13-15 October
£139
all inclusive!
Payment on Parent Pay only
Mr J Woodcock



Mr Olowofoyeku, impressed by Yr 7 students' abilities!

OPEN DAY

Open mornings throughout October
check website for details



Saturday 7th October
9:30am - 12:30pm

Head Teacher talks at
10.30 and 11:30am



Halcot Ave, Bexleyheath DA6 7QB
www.st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk

01322 553236

@stcolumbasCBS



D

Monday

Sausage and Mash with Yorkshire Pudding
with Onion Gravy

Quorn Sausage served with Mashed Potatoes
and Yorkshire Pudding

Seasonal Vegetables

Blueberry Muffin served with Custard

N

Thursday

Chunky Beef and Vegetable Casserole
served with Potatoes

Thai Green Curry
Vegetable Chow Mein

Seasonal Vegetables

Jaffa Cake

E

Tuesday

Chicken and Bacon Pie with Roast Potatoes
Cheese and Mushroom Pie

Seasonal Vegetables

Apple and Pear Crumble served with Custard

Friday

Fish and Chips

Southern Style Chicken and Potato Wedges
Cheesy Pasta Bake

Baked Beans

Pain au Raisin

S

Wednesday

Sweet Chilli Chicken and Egg Fried Rice
Vegetable Stir Fry

Seasonal Vegetables

Chocolate Cake served with Chocolate Sauce

Available Daily

A wide selection of
Hot Snacks, Rolls and Sandwiches



WEEK COMMENCING 02.10.17

Science Taster

On Wednesday of this week, we were very happy to have St Thomas More pupils visit us for a Science taster session with Mr Bhana, Head of Science and Mrs Shipp. As you can see, the pupils looked very cool as well as having their

vision well protected! The Science Taster Sessions run throughout the year and we love having pupils from our feeder schools visit us to get a flavour of education at St Columba's. Even if the girls won't be joining us!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PARENTS' EVENINGS

YEAR 9
Thurs 22 February '18

YEAR 11
Thurs 18 January '18

YEAR 8
Thurs 8 March '18

YEAR 10
Thurs 1 February '18

YEAR 7
Thurs 22 March '18

Your Bottles Please!

Can any parent donate one of these bottles for use in Chemistry. They are found in work places and sometimes thrown away. They must be: 16 litres to 20 litres capacity and Polycarbonate 7.

If in doubt please send to the Chemistry Department and we can check it!

Many thanks!

Mr JWoodcock



Schools Bible Project 2017

During the summer term, last year's Yr 8 participated in a competition run by Christian Projects called the Schools Bible Project 2017. The aim was to write an essay about a Bible story from

the perspective of someone who was actually present. Last week, the Yr 9 Assembly was visited by Christian Projects' Chairman, Mrs Joanna Bogle to speak to students about the competition.

She was refreshingly honest about the standard of some entries received – not from St Columba's! – and fulsome in her praise of the entries received from our students.

Joanna presented awards to eight of our students shown below. Well done to all eight!

Mr Shoebridge
Head of RE



Mrs Joanna Bogle speaking to Yr students in Assembly last week.



The winners of the Schools Bible Project 2017

from (L to R): Finn, Tony, Kevin, Emmanuel, Mrs Bogle, Davide, Chief, Olu and Thomas

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME AUTUMN TERM

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

Day	Year Groups	BBC SCHOOL REPORT CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Creating the News! Mr Dennis, Miss Cox	2:30 - 3:15pm	Ar2

Day	Year Groups	DEBATING CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	Yr9, Yr10	Practice debating skills Miss Ransome	2:30 - 3:15pm	En4

Day	Year Groups	ENGLISH CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Writing Club Ms Keevey	2:30 - 3:15pm	En3
Last Friday of month	G & T	Book Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	En3

Day	Year Groups	IT	Time	Room
Wednesday	KS4	Computer Science Club Mr Williams	2:30 - 3:30pm	IT1
Thursday	KS3	Computer Science Club Mr Williams	2:30 - 3:30pm	IT1

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Wednesday	Yr7-10	Guitar Club Mr King	2:35 - 3:35pm	Music Office
	Yr7-8	Keyboard Club Mr Watson	2:35 - 3:35pm	Mu2
Thursday	All years	Choir Mr Watson	2:30 - 3pm	Mu1
	Yr7-9	Drum Club Mr Watson	3 - 4pm	All Practice Rooms
Friday	KS3	Music Tech Club Mr Watson &	2:35 - 4.30pm	Mu2
	All years book with Mr Watson	Band Practice Mr King	2:35 - 4.30pm	All Practice Rooms

MATHS REVISION

Year 11 maths revision will be taking place every Tuesday after school in the maths department.

Students are invited to attend the sessions with their maths teacher as follows:

11M1 - Mr Jesuratnam

11M2 - Mr Williams

11M3 Higher - Mrs Teji

11M3 Foundation - Mrs Turner

11M4 - Mr Woodcock

Day	Year Groups	PE CLUBS
Monday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Indoor Tennis Mr Creighton
Tuesday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Rugby Training – Field Mr Donnelly Mr Eldrige Mr Martin 2:30 - 3:30pm
Wednesday	All years	Indoor Rowing - Fitness Suite Mr Eldrige 2:30 - 3:30pm
Thursday	Yr7, Yr8	Softball / Rounders Mr Eldrige
Friday	All years	Youth Club – Sports Hall Mr Donnelly / Sports Leaders

Day	Year Groups	RE	Time	Room
Tuesday	All welcome	KS3 RE homework club Mr Shoebridge	2:30 - 3:30pm	RE1
	All welcome	GCSE catch up sessions Mr Fernandes	2:30 - 3:20pm	RE2
	All welcome	Boy's Bible Club Mr Olowofoyeku	2:30 - 3:20pm	RE3
Wednesday	New members welcome any time	RE Film Club Mr Shoebridge	2:30 - 4pm	RE1
Thursday	Yr 9, Yr10	RE homework/catch up club Mr Olowofoyeku	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE3



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

Film Evenings 2017

Our next film evening will be on Wed 11th October when we will show the final part of a movie on St Padre Pio, the Capuchin friar who had such great spiritual gifts as mystical prayer, bilocation, reading souls and the stigmata. The film reveals the amazing details and events in his life as a boy and throughout his 50 years as a monk, the frequent attacks of the Devil and the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church. There will be a re-cap and it is not essential to have seen part one.

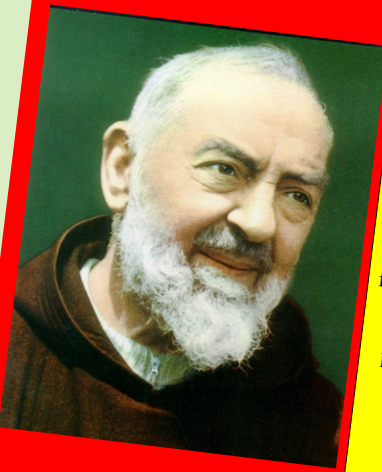
The film includes subtitles, will be shown in St John Fisher Bexley Church Hall, admission is free, light refreshments will be served, bar open, charity stall, and all are welcome.

Arrivals from 7 pm for 7:30 pm start.

Our Lady's Film group is pleased to show

St Padre Pio

Weds 27th Sept & 11th Oct 2017; 7 pm for 7.30 pm starts; 2-part movie – watch either or both parts (part 2 will feature a recap)



movie on the incredible life of Padre Pio, the Capuchin friar who had such great spiritual gifts as mystical prayer, bilocation, reading souls and the stigmata. Film reveals the amazing details and events in his life as a boy and throughout his 50 years as a monk, the frequent attacks of the Devil and the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church

FREE ADMISSION
ALL WELCOME
SUB-TITLES

St John Fisher Church Hall
48 Thanet Road
Bexley, DA5 1AP
Tel: 01322-524813
stfisher@stjohnsbexley.org.uk
www.stjohnfisherbexley.org

Date	Arrivals	Film Starts	Film
Wed 11 Oct	7.00pm	7.30pm	St Padre Pio (Part 2): Movie on the famous stigmatic monk - will feature a recap of part 1.
Wed 15 Nov	7.00pm	7.30pm	Saints John of the Cross and St John Vianney: Movies on Spanish mystic and Carmelite reformer and "Cure d'ars" - the patron saint of parish priests.
Wed 6 Dec	7.00pm	7.30pm	"Servant of God" Fr Solanus Casey: Documentary on gentle American Capuchin friar and priest known during his lifetime as a wonderworker.

St John Fisher Church Hall,
48 Thanet Rd, Bexley DA5 1AP
Tel: 01322 524813
www.stjohnfisherbexley.org



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 1st October 2017 - The Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 1st October 2017 - Doing the Will of the Father (Matthew 21:28-32)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



3 Reflect

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

Matthew loves to tell parables of Jesus which contrast 'goodies' and 'baddies' like these two contrasting sons. Matthew's parables put everything in black-and-white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding-attendants, sheep and goats, etc.). Luke uses a different kind of parable, in which the characters - just like ourselves - often do the right thing for the wrong reason. The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down. Did the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both change their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son? Both times the 'goodie' son ends up bad, and the 'baddie' son ends up good, but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated, and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back. The lesson in Matthew's story is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount, 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven'. It is no use simply saying that Christ is our 'Lord'; we have to express it in our behaviour.

What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?

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 1st October 2017



First Reading: *The Justice of God*

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The prophet Ezekiel was speaking in Babylon during the exile of the Jews there after the destruction of Jerusalem. Not surprisingly, the second generation of exiles was questioning why they should suffer for the failures of their forefathers. This was, however, a new phase in the development of morality among the people of Israel, for beforehand the sense of solidarity with family or clan had been so strong that it was assumed that punishment for the sins and failures of an individual would affect the whole clan or family. Now the individual is to be held responsible for his or her own sins only. Furthermore, the individual cannot simply rely on good deeds of the past, nor feel irremediably condemned for failures in the past. Conversion in both directions is possible: just as the good person can become evil, so the evil person can change direction. At the end the Lord promises a new heart and a new spirit, so that even the sinner can repent and live.

In what ways do you take responsibility for your own sins?

Second Reading: *God Emptied Himself in Christ*

Philippians 2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

St Paul quotes an ancient Christian hymn celebrating the triumph of Christ (the hymn begins "His state was divine ..."): it describes his self-emptying and his exaltation and vindication by the Father. In the first half of the hymn Paul shows the warmth of his joy as a pastor in the fellowship of his young community at Philippi. He also gently chides them for their vanity, and the reason why he includes the hymn is to show that the path of humility is the way to exaltation.

How may we have the same mind as Christ Jesus?

“The path of humility is the way to exaltation.”

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org