



## right2read



### Message from the Head Teacher

Everyone enjoys being part of a success story and that is the experience of people associated with St Columba's. Obviously I have to admit to a positive bias! However I'm pleased that I am not alone in my opinion. This week alone I have received letters from parents and grand parents thanking the staff for the great work with their children.

At the Yr 11 Parents' Evening last week we did our usual survey of parental opinions and 96% of respondents were either happy or very happy with their experience of St Columba's. In the same survey 100% of respondents described the teaching as good or better. When senior staff visit lessons around the school we see terrific teaching and stunning students.

Parents' Evenings for other year groups are coming up and dates have been in Weekly News for months. Please make every effort to come along. We believe that we work best when we work together with you for the good of your boys. We also value your feedback on how we are doing.

Every reply that we receive is read and if you leave your name we can come back to you if necessary on a particular issue.

Our validated Progress 8 score shows that our students make more progress than boys' average across all schools nationally. That's great but I'm more concerned about the individual child and their happiness- see opposite

None of us are perfect and I acknowledge that I can irritatingly never be satisfied with what I've got and I always want a bit more.... 96% positivity is great but I want 100%!



Mr Fisher

**HAVE YOU GOT YOUR SUPER 6**

- PEN
- PENCIL
- RULER
- CALCULATOR
- PLANNER
- READING BOOK

### Fred's Prayer for the Week

Body and Soul, I am waiting quietly for God.  
God is my strong foundation,  
and in God I feel safe. I know he can hear me,  
he is with me, always now and for forever.  
I will continue to sing to you, O God, and keep my promises.  
Amen.

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)

### Progress 8 and St Columba's

The validated examination data for our school was published yesterday. Our Progress 8 (or P8) score is -0.08. This is significantly better than the P8 score published by the DfE back in October. We knew their data was wrong then and we told them – unfortunately the “system” doesn't allow corrections until the January data release.

P8 is a new accountability measure that has been introduced to compare secondary schools. It is a measure of progress students make between the end of primary school and their GCSE results. Statisticians at the DfE have created an incredibly complicated numerical analysis to calculate the difference between the two sets of data. The mathematics behind the calculation is fascinating but I'm not convinced it is a useful comparison in the first place.

#### What does it mean?

For some people this single number summarises our school. This is frankly absurd, we are a community of real individual people. Our students are so much more than any single number can describe. Our students are unique and beautiful creations of God. Our students are caring individuals. Our students work hard. Our students are successful. Our students are so much more than numbers in a spreadsheet!

The national average for P8 = 0. That is the national average for all schools and therefore includes selective schools, private schools and girls schools. Our P8 score is significantly better than the national average for boys and even more so for boys in a non-selective school in a selective area. The progress of our students is now correctly shown to be fantastic in terms of the P8 score.

Even more importantly the progress of our students in terms of who they are as individuals and their contribution to the wider community is amazing!

I'll step off of my “soap-box” now and just thank you for everything you do to nurture and support our wonderful young men.

Mr Fisher  
Head Teacher



## Dates for your Diary

# 2018 PARENTS' EVENINGS

**YEAR 10**

**Thursday 1 February**

**YEAR 8**

**Thursday 8 March**

**YEAR 9**

**Thursday 22 February**

**YEAR 7**

**Thursday 22 March**

**Do you have what it takes to be a Sports Leader?**

*If you wish to be considered for the St. Columba's Senior Sports Leadership Award, pick up an application from the PE Department!*



**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**

**E**

**S**



*Tuesday*

Chicken and Bacon Pie with Roast Potatoes  
Cheese and Mushroom Pie

Seasonal Vegetables

Apple and Pear Crumble served with Custard

*Wednesday*

Sweet Chilli Chicken and Egg Fried Rice  
Vegetable Stir Fry

Seasonal Vegetables

Chocolate Cake served with Chocolate Sauce

*Thursday*

Chunky Beef and Vegetable Casserole  
served with Potatoes

Thai Green Curry  
Vegetable Chow Mein

Seasonal Vegetables

Jaffa Cake

*Friday*

Fish and Chips

Southern Style Chicken and Potato Wedges  
Cheesy Pasta Bake

Baked Beans

Pain au Raisin

*Available Daily*

A wide selection of  
Hot Snacks, Rolls and Sandwiches

**WEEK COMMENCING 22.01.18**

## Yr10 and Yr11 Maximise!

On Monday Years 10 and 11 had special sessions in the Hall with former BBC reporter Jeremy Dry to provide motivation, inspiration and encouragement to boost students' chances for exam success.

The talks were very powerful and contained guidance, tips and suggestions on stress management, learning styles, memory techniques and study skills. It was very well received by our boys in Yr 11; Tafadzwe said "He incorporated well-known, successful people who were just like us but were pushed to achieve what they wanted".

Christopher said there were "Excellent tips regarding exams - work hard and you will get what you strive for" and Matthew added "I will work even harder than I have done previously". Yr 10 students also made useful and valid suggestions for future presentations.

We hope that the students will take on board the ideas and guidance provided and that their work will then reap their due rewards.

Mr McGonnell  
Assistant Head Teacher



Yr 11 with Assistant Head Teacher Mr Martin enjoying a Maximise session



Jeremy Dry helping to motivate our Yr 11 students and giving them study tips

**SIMS**

# SIMS LEARNING GATEWAY SIMS PARENT APP

## DID YOU KNOW?

**SIMS Parent app is the new way to stay connected**



**SIMS Parent app is available on iOS, Google Play and Desktop**



**You can sign in securely to SIMS Parent app using an existing account such as Gmail, Twitter or Facebook**



**Essential school information (e.g. term dates) is available instantly on SIMS Parent app.**



**Information about your child's school life (e.g. attendance, timetable, achievements) is presented on a clear and easy to use dashboard in the SIMS Parent app**



**Parents with more than one child at St Columba's can access information on both children from the SIMS Parent app**



**Your son's A2L and assessment data is released via both SIMS Learning Gateway and the SIMS Parent app**



**You can keep school updated with your latest contact details for continued communication via SIMS Parent app**



**Some parents have never accessed their son's assessment data or A2L grades - SIMS Parent app makes it easier**



For a re-invite (via email) to the SIMS Parent app (or alternatively your SIMS Learning Gateway login and password) please email [SLG@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:SLG@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk)

We need up-to-date email addresses for you in order for you to access your son's information



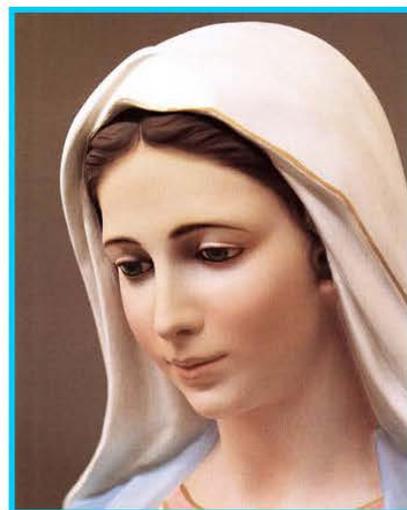
# Our Lady's Film Evenings

at

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

01322-524813

[www.stjohnfisherbexley.org](http://www.stjohnfisherbexley.org)



**Admission Free - All Welcome**

## 2018

date	arrivals	film starts	film	unfortunately for licence reasons the actual title of films cannot be promoted outside of St John Fisher church
Wed 24-Jan <b>Christian Unity Octave</b>	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>The Shroud of Turin &amp; St Augustine of Hippo:</b>	definitive documentaries on The Shroud & on the preeminent doctor and great saint of the Church (as scholarly background to April & May's movie)
Wed 21-Feb	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>Bl John Henry Newman:</b>	documentary on life and places in England where he lived and worked
Wed 21-Mar	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>Bl Miguel Pro:</b>	movie on famous Jesuit executed in Mexico for the crime of being a Catholic Priest
Wed 25-Apr	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>St Augustine of Hippo (part 1):</b>	movie on a great doctor of the Church - watch either or both parts
Wed 9-May	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>St Augustine of Hippo (part 2):</b>	movie on a great doctor of Church - will feature a recap of part 1
Wed 13-Jun	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>Bl Francis Xavier Seelos &amp; St Kateri Tekakwitha:</b>	documentaries on the Redemptorist missionary and the Native American Christian Mohawk Indian
Wed 18-Jul	<b>6:45 PM</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>St Joan of Arc:</b>	movie on the heroine of France <b>NOTE EARLY START BUT LATECOMERS WELCOME</b>
<b>No film evening during August</b>				
Wed 12-Sep	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>St Vincent de Paul:</b>	movie on advisor to French royalty & one of greatest humanitarians in history
Wed 24-Oct	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>Bl Pope Paul VI (part 1):</b>	movie on life of pope from 1963 to 1978 - watch either or both parts
Wed 7-Nov	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>Bl Pope Paul VI (part 2):</b>	movie on life of pope from 1963 to 1978 - will feature a recap of part 1
Wed 5-Dec	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	<b>St Dominic:</b>	movie on life of the selfless founder of Order of Preachers aka the Dominican Order

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

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

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

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



**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> January 2018 - The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 1 Relax & Remember

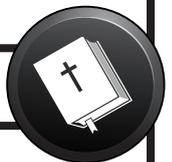
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this 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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (Mark 1:21-28): Jesus Teaches with Authority**

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority. In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God." But Jesus said sharply, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. "Here is a teaching that is new," they said, "and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him." And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.



## 3 Reflect

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

*The growing authority of Jesus is the theme of the early part of Mark's gospel and today's story is an excellent illustration of this. Jesus has already called the disciples. He calls and they simply follow: it seems that he is a total stranger to them, yet has such authority that they drop everything to follow him. Now in the synagogue he teaches on his own authority. He does not quote the interpretations of others, as rabbinic teachers did, saying, "Rabbi X says this," "Rabbi Y says that". No, Jesus teaches, "I say to you...". He seems to be master even of the Law. But it is God's Law. Only God has authority over it, so who does Jesus think he is? On one level he is a teacher to be compared with Moses, one who is to come into the world, the teacher prophesied in today's first reading. But he is more than this. To confirm the power of his teaching, he shows what authority he has by overcoming an unclean spirit, wringing from it the snivelling protest, "Have you come to destroy us?" and the acknowledgement that he has a special link with God.*

**What are the qualities of a good teacher? How does Jesus, the good teacher, reveal his authority?**

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.**

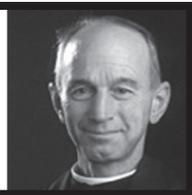


**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church  
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

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

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018



## First Reading: *The Second Moses*

### Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: "Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. 'Do not let me hear again,' you said, 'the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die'; and the Lord said to me, 'All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

*Moses was the messenger who gave the Law to the people of Israel on Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb). In their difficult and lonely journey of forty years through the desert, he was their leader. It was his legal decisions on cases presented to him which helped to form Israel. His prayers gave them manna in the desert, water from the rock and protection from their enemies. Israel remembered him ever afterwards as the founder of their people. In the Book of Deuteronomy, the last of the five books of the Law, God had promised that he would raise up another leader, a Second Moses. By the time of Jesus, God's final messenger was thought of in these terms: he would come to put everything to rights. This is why Matthew especially represents Jesus in this way: just like Moses, Jesus was persecuted at birth by the king, and later had to flee into exile until his persecutor was dead. Jesus taught his Sermon on the Mount just as Moses gave the Law on the mountain. Jesus gave bread in the desert just as Moses had done. So when Jesus taught 'with authority' in the synagogue at Capernaum, he was seen as acting like Moses, the teacher.*

*In what ways is Jesus the one prophesied by Moses?*

## Second Reading: *Marriage or Celibacy?*

### I Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

*Paul's reasons for celibacy can be read on two levels. The first, superficial, level is that in marriage both husband and wife may be divided in mind, may have loyalties divided between the Lord and their spouse. They have to be preoccupied with pleasing the other partner in the marriage. In the Church today we see that in itself this is a very important part of the marriage, a vital part of being 'one flesh', of being one thinking, living person. At this level such concern for one another is very much part of 'the Lord's affairs', and cannot stand in opposition to them. At another level, however, there may be tension, for each marriage partner is concerned to provide a firm material basis for family life, and so is bound for the sake of the family to get involved in the 'world', providing a good standard of living for the family. By choosing celibacy, the celibate witnesses more openly to the eternal values of the Lord's service. Celibates have no dependents and are called to dedicate their lives totally to the Lord. The celibate by his or her vocation is given the chance to be manifestly overwhelmed by the values of the Kingdom of God and so become outstanding witnesses to those values.*

*How, in our busy family lives, can we still act as witnesses to the eternal values of God?*

“The eternal values of the Lord's service.”

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)