



right2read



Message from the Head Teacher

It's hard to believe that we are already into the second month of 2019 and that we will very soon be in the GCSE examination season. If you have a son sitting GCSEs this summer, have you seen his revision timetable? It's really important that they manage the pressure rather than relying on the lastminute.com strategy which can be a pitfall that boys fall into very easily.

Last Monday we had whole staff training on suicide prevention. Although it can be a very challenging topic, I feel very strongly that this subject is addressed. It is especially relevant in a boy's school because the statistics make for sobering reading when you consider the split between males and females. I want our school to be very aware of the realities of the situation and do whatever we can to avoid the tragedy of suicide.

It was fantastic to read the recently published Ofsted report for St Catherine's - our 'sister' school providing wonderful educational opportunities for girls just up the road from us.

They were inspected right at the beginning of term and their report can be read either on their website at <http://www.stccg.co.uk/> or on the OfSTED website. I am looking forward to the report of our recent inspection being published and we will let you know just as soon as it is.

One of our many responsibilities as a school is to educate our students about potential careers and post-16 progression. Last Friday, thanks to Mr Barry, we had a very talented singer, Hannah Jane Lewis (opposite), performing for the whole school and delivering excellent careers advice-a report is on page2.

Last night, despite the cold and threat of snow, we had an excellent turn out for our Yr 10 Parents' Evening. Attendance very good which given the weather was gratifying. Thank you to all parents who came along to work with us in improving our students' chances of success.



Mr N Fisher

Fred's Prayer for the Week

Father in heaven, open our hearts to your wisdom.
Teach us how to look for dignity in humility,
how to find opportunities for love in service,
so that we may share in the peace of Christ
who offered his life in the service of all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)



Parents' Evenings 2019

All start from 3:00pm

Yr 9

Thursday 14 February '19

Yr 8

Thursday 7 March '19

Yr 7

Thursday 21 March '19

Hannah Jane Lewis - Careers Visit

Last Friday, as part of the Careers Education and Guidance programme (CEAG) at St Columba's we arranged for Hannah Jane Lewis to perform and talk to all of our students, from Yr 7 to Yr 11, in three separate special assemblies.

She grew up in Surrey then moved to Florida and attended a typical American High School after which, she applied to do a degree in Musical Theatre at the prestigious New York University (NYU).

After completing her degree, Hannah returned to the UK to pursue a career in music. She combined two things that she loved, writing in English and singing to become a singer-songwriter.

Hannah sang a number of songs and shared her life story and the lessons she has learned so far.

"I am now more determined to strive to achieve what I want in life"
Ben Yr 9

"I was enlightened by Hannah Jane Lewis and was introduced to a window of new possibilities"
Timothy Yr 9

Hannah self-released a song on YouTube which received little attention. However, undeterred, she kept on releasing songs and eventually one of her songs got a great deal of attention and was played on Radio 1.

A record deal followed and she was invited to perform with a number of other artists including Rita Ora.

"The performance and talk was very motivational"
Chris Yr 9

"Hannah was inspirational"
Charlie Yr 9

Hannah also gave students some top tips about achieving their ambitions in life:

- Work out what you are good at - everybody is good at something
- Take time to think about what would be your dream job or careers
- Listen to your parents and teachers
- Work hard - Success is 1% genius and 99% hard work!

"It was a powerful presentation which inspired us"
Gabriel Yr 10

"It made us think about our future and what we should do to achieve our goals"
Israel Yr 10

Click the link below to visit the St Columba's Careers YouTube channel and watch the performance.
https://youtu.be/X9jt_m2mQx4

We are very grateful to Hannah for her inspirational words and music and also to Peabody for sponsoring the event and covering the cost - it's great to be working in partnership with them!

Mr Barry
RE Teacher and CEAG Lead





menu three

week commencing
04.02.19



Monday

Steak pie with mashed potatoes and gravy

Cheese and potato pie

Seasonal vegetables

Chocolate brownie

Tuesday



Spicy beef madras with vegetable rice

Chicken Balti slices

Vegetable curry with rice

Seasonal vegetables

Apple pie

Wednesday



Beef Lasagne, garlic bread and salad

Grilled tomato and vegetable fusilli

Seasonal vegetables

Strawberry jam cake

Thursday

Baked chicken ratatouille with potatoes or rice

Vegetarian ratatouille with potatoes or rice

Seasonal vegetables

Chocolate chip muffin

Friday

Traditional fish and chips

Cajun chicken with potato wedges

Macaroni Cheese

Iced croissants

A selection of sandwiches and baguettes are available and
Breakfast Club open from 7:50am - 8:20am daily.

St John Fisher, Bexley Film and Camino Evenings

In February we have TWO social evenings on St Ignatius of Loyola:

- 1) Sat 2nd February: illustrated presentation on the life of St Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, by Tim Bowman in the context of the Camino Ignaciano and his own walking pilgrimage from Bayonne, France to Ignatius's cave at Manresa, Spain; and
- 2) Sat 23rd February: movie on St Ignatius from his life of brutal violence and debauchery to becoming one of the greatest saints in the Church.

Both events will be held at St John Fisher Bexley Church Hall, charity stall (for Saturday 23rd February only), admission free, bar open & all welcome. Arrivals from 7pm for 7:30pm starts.



Admission Free - All Welcome

2019

dates	7:00 PM arrivals	7:30 PM start times	unfortunately for licence reasons the actual title of films cannot be promoted outside of St John Fisher church
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Sat 2-Feb

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St Ignatius of Loyola & Camino Ignaciano (part 1): illustrated *presentation* by Tim Bowman on the life of St Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, in the context of the Camino Ignaciano and his own walking pilgrimage from Bayonne in France to Ignatius' cave at Manresa near Barcelona, Spain.

Sat 23-Feb



St Ignatius of Loyola (part 2): movie on St Ignatius. As a brash, hot-headed soldier in a time of political upheaval in Spain in the 1500's, the young Ignatius went from a life of brutal violence and debauchery, to become one of the greatest saints in the history of the Catholic Church.

Wed 13-Mar

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St Philip Neri (part 1): movie on the famous "Third Apostle of Rome" and leader of youth in the 16th century. One of the most popular saints of all time, known for his great charity, deep prayer life, and tremendous humour and founder of the religious congregation, the Oratory.

Wed 20-Mar

St Philip Neri (part 2): featuring recap of part 1.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

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

Day	Year Groups	BBC SCHOOL REPORT CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	Yr 7	Creating the News! Miss Cox	2:30 - 3:15pm	En6

Day	Year Groups	DEBATING CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	KS3	Practice debating skills Miss Ransome	2:30 - 3:15pm	En4

Day	Year Groups	DRAMA CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All year groups - just turn up!	Express yourself! Ms Bridgland	2:30 - 3:15pm	Iona Theatre



Day	Year Groups	ENGLISH	Time	Room
Thursday	KS3	Writing Club Mr Dennis	2:30 - 3:15pm	En3

Day	Year Groups	HISTORY	Time	Room
Tuesday	Open to all GCSE History students	History Skills Master Class Mrs Loveday-Jones	2:30 - 3pm	Hi1



Day	Year Groups	COMPUTER SCIENCE	Time	Room
Wednesday	KS3	Computer Science Club Mr Bowden	2:30 - 3:30pm	CS2
Thursday	KS4	Computer Science Club Mr Williams	2:30 - 3:30pm	CS1

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Thursday	All years	Choir Boys Mr Watson	2:30 - 3:05pm	Mu2
	Yr 7-8	Keyboard Club Mr Watson	3:05 - 3:35pm	Mu3 / Keyboard Room
Friday	KS3	Keyboard Club Mr Watson	2:30 - 3:15pm	Mu3 / Keyboard Room
	Yr 8-9	Music Tech Club	2:30 - 3:45pm	Mu1

Day	Year Groups	PE CLUBS
Tuesday	Yr 7, Yr 8, Yr 9	Rugby Training - Field Mr Eldridge, Fred Umney 2:45 - 3:45pm
Wednesday	All years	Basketball - Sports Hall Mr Virgo 2:45 - 3:45pm
Thursday	Yr 10	Football - Mr Eldridge 2:45 - 3:45pm
Friday	All years	Youth Club - Sports Hall Mr Creighton 2:45 - 3:45pm

Day	Year Groups	RE	Time	Room
Tuesday	All welcome	KS3 RE homework club Mr Shoebridge	2:30 - 3:30pm	RE1
	All welcome	Boy's Bible Club Mr Olowofoyeku	2:30 - 3:20pm	RE3 
Wednesday	New members welcome any time	Film Club Mr Shoebridge Mr Egan	2:30 - 3:40pm	RE1 
Thursday	Yr 9, Yr 10	KS4 GCSE Homework and Revision Club Mr Shoebridge Mr Olowofoyeku	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE1 RE3
	Yr 9 (from now until Christmas) Yr 8 Christmas to Easter	After School Enterprise Club (business and enterprise) Mr Barry	After School	RE2
Friday	Yr 11	GCSE Catch Up Sessions (Those who missed various topics in Y10 but not specifically targeted) Mr Barry	After School	RE2

Day	Year Groups	SCIENCE	Time	Room
Wednesday	Yr 7	Science Club Miss Manning-Johnson	2:45 - 3:45pm	SC7

	<p>Encountering Christ <i>Prayerfully preparing for the Sunday Mass and praying in particular for our school families</i></p>	
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Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 3rd February 2019 - 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 3rd February 2019 - The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth (Luke 4:21-30)

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen." And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, "This is Joseph's son, surely?" But he replied, "No doubt you will quote me the saying, 'Physician, heal yourself' and tell me, 'We have heard all that happened in Capernaum; do the same here in your own countryside'." And he went on, "I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country. There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman." When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.



3 Reflect

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

The reaction of the villagers of Nazareth to Jesus' proclamation of good news for the poor, the handicapped and disadvantaged is predictable. We have all suffered from failure of our own people to recognise our talents! In this case it is also fuelled by a paradoxical jealousy: in the moment of rejecting Jesus' message the villagers also want to reap the advantage of his miraculous healings. The rejection of Jesus by his own people provokes Luke to develop Jesus' teaching beyond that given by Mark or Matthew in their gospels: in Luke Jesus quotes instances which show God's care for those outside his traditional 'chosen people'. God's love is universal, not limited by ethnic or any other boundaries. The Chosen People were chosen not so that they would selfishly emphasise how special they were to God, but so that salvation might be brought to the whole world. In the same way, in Christ's New Dispensation, his people (the Church) are chosen not just to enjoy God's benefits and love for themselves, but to be the instruments of his love for all. This is the same message as that of Paul in today's second reading: true love has no limits. Luke is especially aware that Jesus sends his message beyond the limits of the Chosen People. Each of us has been chosen not for our own advantage but as an instrument to bring Christ to others.

What does it mean to be one of God's 'chosen' people?

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 3rd February 2019



First Reading: *The Prophet Rejected*

Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you - it is the Lord who speaks."

Jeremiah was given a tough assignment. His task was to proclaim doom to his fellow-citizens under the threat of invasion by the overwhelming might of Babylon. Unless they returned to God and put their trust in the Lord rather than in their own feeble manoeuvres they were doomed to slaughter and exile. To stop the people hearing this message their leaders arrested him and dumped him in the squelchy mud of an almost-empty well, and fed him on one loaf a day. It is only too human to block out the message one does not want to hear. So, while Jeremiah steadfastly held his ground, Babylon advanced, destroyed the city and Temple of Jerusalem, and led the people into exile. Bruised in exile, they learnt the hard way. As Jeremiah put it, God took from them the heart of stone and gave them a heart of flesh, to respond not just as a nation, but individually in tenderness and love. Jeremiah's steadfast preaching in the face of opposition is presented to us as a preparation for that of Jesus, which we hear in today's gospel reading.

Which parts of Jesus' teaching do we find hard to hear and act on?

Second Reading: *Authentic Love*

1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (shorter version)

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge - for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Christians of Corinth saw that they had a variety of gifts and talents. Paul gladly admits this. He only complains that this led them to squabbling and rivalry, for they were blind to the reasons for which these gifts had been given. Like all our talents, and especially those of interpersonal relationships, they were given by the Spirit which gives life to the Christian community. Their ultimate purpose is not to puff up the holder of the gift but to build up the community. The gift must be applied and exercised in love, for love is the highest gift of all gifts. Love alone builds the community. Paul goes on to paint a picture of what real love is. Few of us can read or listen to this text without realising our own failures and selfishness, as Paul puts his finger on one after another of our own weaknesses. This passage acts as a testing-ground of whether our love is genuine or whether we are merely deceiving ourselves. The final part of Paul's argument is also encouraging, not merely because of the durability and long-lasting nature of love, but also from the picture of heaven it conveys: in the perfect maturity, to which we look forward, there will be nothing left but love.

How does Paul's teaching on love challenge our own way of loving?

“Love is the highest gift of all gifts.
Love alone builds the community.”

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

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