



right2read



Message from the Head Teacher

This week we were delighted to welcome Canon Edward from St Stephen's Church in Welling for his first visit to the school. If you know the history of the school, it was originally called St Stephen's Senior School and was situated in Welling, next to the Church. He spent time here meeting staff and students and to see how he can support Catholic education. I'm pleased to say that he was very impressed. Although everything in life changes over time, I am very happy to build on the strong relationship with St Stephen's that Fr Jim, Canon Edward's predecessor worked so hard on and hope that we will see him here frequently going forward.

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday so we are now in Lent. I'm sure we all remembered Shrove Tuesday and enjoyed our pancakes and probably asked ourselves why we only have pancakes once a year when they taste so good!

Pope Francis marked the beginning of Lent at the Holy Mass in the Basilica of Saint Sabina in Rome. In his homily he described Lent as "a wake-up call for the soul". He described life as a journey that can suffer from distractions if we lose focus on our destination. He asked many demanding questions about what is actually important on our journey. Is good health, possessions and wellbeing more important than our journey to the Lord? No matter how hard we work, we will take no wealth with us from this life. Pope Francis spoke of the importance of almsgiving, prayer and fasting.

"Lent is a time of grace that liberates the heart from vanity" Pope Francis said, "It is a time of healing from addictions that seduce us. It is a time to fix our gaze on what abides".

As we do every year, during Lent we are raising money for worthy causes as a school community.

Fred's Prayer for the Week

Set a watch, O Lord, upon our tongue:
that we never speak the cruel word which is untrue;
or, being true, is not the whole truth;
or, being wholly true, is merciless;
for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)



This year the Student Council has decided to raise money to support Prostate Cancer UK. Fred is leading assemblies next week to help our students understand Prostate Cancer and the good work of the charity.

Last night was the penultimate Parents' Evening for Yr 8 students and we were pleased to see a very good turnout. Parental responses to the questionnaire are already being analysed and we will share them with you early next term once the last evening for Yr 7 students has taken place.



Mr N Fisher

Parents' Evening Start from 3:00pm

Yr 7 Thursday 21 March '19



Leaving the School Site

At this time of year, many Yr 11 students are having interviews at prospective schools or colleges for their post-16 education. We obviously accept that and wish our students well but we do need to have written notification in advance. We will never let a student leave the site without permission from their parent or carer. Our Front Office staff are equally determined to help safeguard your sons and so will prevent students from leaving unless they have your express permission.

Whilst this is especially relevant to Yr 11 students at the moment, it still applies to all other students who may have a medical appointment or another meeting that requires them to leave the site; we need to be certain that parents or carers know the whereabouts of their children. So please do supply written permission in advance.

Mr B Woodcock
Deputy Head Teacher



St Vincent's Retreat

Last Wednesday Ms Holbrook and I took a group of Yr 7 students to St Vincent's in Whitstable for the Southwark Catholic Youth Services retreat. We split the students into two teams, they named their groups and wrote a rap to introduce their group. They took part in a number of team building games such as Jenga, Pool and Table Football.

Thursday morning saw the boys again in their groups working on the call to discipleship and how they were going to be leaders. After an intense morning, the afternoon saw us visit to the local bowling alley for a bit of relaxation where Ms Holbrook excelled herself in gaining a number of Strikes! We then enjoyed a walk along the beach until we got soaked in the rain! After drying off at the Centre, we had mass, which was led by the students. The songs were very modern and up-tempo and included some sign language songs. The students really enjoyed it. Then we finished off with the Quiz Night which unusually had no outright winners as each team scored 33 points.

Friday was our last day and we finished our retreat by cleaning our rooms, re-making our beds and then climbed into the minibus and returned to school.

It was a very enjoyable three days and was well worth it with a great bunch of students. I enjoyed it immensely, (although I could have done with more sleep!) and would like to thank Ms Holbrook for her help and support on the trip.

Fred Umney
Chaplain



Beware of "SQUARES"

What to look out for

A big fear for many parents is that they have no idea what their child gets up to when they are not at home. Not only are they more street smart than previous generations, they are knowledgeable enough about technology to keep mum and dad out of trouble instead of the other way around.

Which is why the growth of one particular type of crime deeply worries me as a Safer Schools Officer. More and more young people are letting criminals launder money through their bank accounts. Many of those that do this do not even realise they are committing a crime.

The number of under 21s acting as so called 'MONEY MULES' had more than doubled by the end of last year, despite police warning that parents should check their children's bank accounts for suspicious activity.

What this involves is allowing a sum of money to be transferred to your account and then either transferring it on or withdrawing the funds and perhaps sending them overseas using a legitimate money transfer service. This money could be the process of drugs, theft, terrorism or a number of different criminal activities. As a result of doing this the mule will receive a small commission.

In the past University students who for the first time were away from parents and were struggling financially would have been the target but now these gangs are finding that school children from the age of 11 and sometimes younger are an easier target. This is due to students agreeing with no questions asked. They are not thinking of the consequences or thinking that this is a crime. They could be imprisoned for up to 14 years for playing a part in feeding this criminal activity of being a MONEY MULE.

Students are being recruited in a number of ways. One of the ways is by placing an add on social media claiming you could make easy money. Another way is by air dropping a message via Bluetooth as long as they are in the same vicinity. You do not need a phone number to connect to

another phone but the criminals then send the same sort of recruitment message. These criminals will be where they know students are. Whether it be in McDonalds or on the busy school bus routes. These students will never know who they are working for or even who has sent the messages.

From the age of ten, children take criminal responsibility for their actions meaning that they should know right from wrong and understand consequences and will be dealt with by the law.

Unfortunately the promise of cash in hand remains seductive. If, however, something appears too good to be true it almost always is. This money can be moved from account to account in the blink of an eye. The act of permitting a criminal gang to use your bank details can have far more lasting implications. These implications are not only the consequences from the police but it can affect your credit rating. Getting a mobile or a phone contract could be impossible, securing a mortgage and as we have learnt from a student from within Bexley who was caught up in this. The bank had noticed the unusual activity on the account and blocked the account. This then meant that the criminal gang could not have their money. Threats of violence were made not only on the student but the student's family as well.

What I encourage parents and guardians to look for:-

- If you hear them talking about "Squares", this is what they are calling money laundering because of the shape of bank cards. (I am aware that they are rectangular!)
- Your children having quantities of money that they cannot account for. Be it in their bank accounts or in cash.
- New clothing, trainers, phones that you did not give the money for and that their pocket money would not have covered.
- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE check your children's bank statements. If you see anything unusual they could be a money mule.

PC Dodgson
Safer Schools Officer





menu three

week commencing
11.03.19



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 Evenings

On Wednesday 13th March we will show the 1st of a 2-part movie on St Philip Neri, the "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. He sought out the abandoned, poor youth of Rome to catechise them in the faith and help them find a better life. He was also the founder of the religious congregation, the Oratory. Second part (including a recap) on Wednesday 20th March. Watch either or both parts. Includes subtitles.

On Wednesday 27th March we will re-show (by popular request) a highly inspirational and entertaining movie about solo pilgrims walking the Camino de Compostela (Way of St James) - their encounters, struggles, and learning to love strangers, not only by sharing their food and drink, but also by sharing each other's hurts from life's trials.

Tim Bowman will be available to answer practical questions about The Camino from his experiences of 5 times walking the Camino de Compostela, as well as walking the Camino Ignaciano and the Caminho de Fatima

All events will be held at St John Fisher, Bexley Church Hall. Free admission, bar open and charity stall.

All welcome. 7pm for 7:30pm starts.

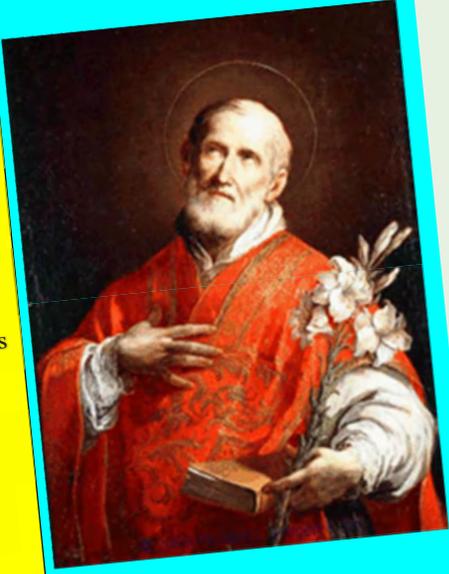
Parish & Friends Film Evening on

St Philip Neri

Weds 13th & 20th March; 7 pm for 7.30 pm starts; 2-part movie – watch either or both parts (part 2 will feature a recap)

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. He sought out the abandoned, poor youth of Rome to catechise them in the faith and help them find a better life. He was also the founder of the religious congregation, the Oratory.

FREE ADMISSION
ALL WELCOME
SUB-TITLES



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

Tel: 01322-524813
stfisher@tiscali.co.uk
www.stjohnfisherbexley.org

ParentPay



It is not uncommon for us to be faced with students who have run out of money on their ParentPay account when they get to the till.

We do say to students that their account will need topping up as they get low but occasionally teenage boys forget to pass information on to their parents!

However, as parents or carers, you can set up email and text alerts with your ParentPay account. These can be set to inform you when the balance is running low, there is a new item to pay for or when a PayPoint payment has been processed.

You can set alerts up as follows:

1. Log in,
2. Go to Communications
3. Go to Alert Settings
4. Select the type of Alert you require (low balance and/or new item) and choose how you wish to receive an alert, by email and/or by text.

Please note:

Whilst emails are free, if you choose to receive text alerts, there is a small charge per text message.

Mrs Goddard
Business Manager

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





Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 10th March 2019 - The First Sunday in Lent

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 10th March 2019 - Jesus is tested in the Desert (Luke 4:1-13)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf." But Jesus replied, "Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone." Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, "I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours." But Jesus answered him. "Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone." Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said to him, "throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone." But Jesus answered him, "It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test." Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.



3 Reflect

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

To remind us that Lent is a time of testing, the gospel reading of the First Sunday of Lent is always about the testing of Jesus. Through our fasting (or whatever that extra offering we make to the Lord during Lent may be) we enter into solidarity with the hardship undergone by Jesus in his Passion. Of course Lent is not a matter of testing out how far we can push ourselves (a sort of macho self-torture). Rather it is a period of preparation for the Passion and Resurrection - just like the forty years of Israel in the desert preparing for the Promised Land, or like the prophet Elijah's forty-day preparation before he encounters God on Mount Horeb, or like the forty days during which Christ prepared the apostles between Easter and the Ascension. The point of Jesus' forty-day fast is to give some force in response to the devil's first temptation. To each of the devil's taunts Jesus replies with a word of scripture: if you rely on God's word you are unshakably safe, for God has created and arranged everything. Matthew and Luke have a different order for the second and third temptations: Matthew climaxes with Jesus as the Second Moses, like Moses seeing all the territories from a high mountain. Luke ends the scene as he begins and ends his gospel, at Jerusalem, the turning-point of the gospel - the place where Jesus rises from the dead and ascends to the Father.

We do not live on bread alone. How has the Word of God fed you? In the solitude of the desert Jesus prayed to his Father. Can you find solitude for prayer? What can you do during Lent to come closer to 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 10th March 2019



First Reading: *A Wandering Aramaean*

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: "The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: 'My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us; they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.' You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God."

The first readings during Lent each year are wonderfully arranged, leading us from the beginnings of the history of God's People to a time of immediate preparation for the coming of Christ; each Sunday takes us further forward in the history of God's promises to his People. This year's readings commence with the profession of faith about God's care of his People; Israelite priests had to make this when presenting their offering. Surprisingly this profession starts not with the promises to Abraham but with the wanderings of the nomadic tribes down to Egypt. It was first in Egypt that God made them his people, rescuing them from slavery. In this version of the history of Israel the decisive moment was not the call of Abraham but the exodus from Egypt. But in the readings over the next few Sundays we will work forward through the call of Abraham, the call of Moses, the first Passover in Canaan and the promise of a New Covenant after the People return from the Babylonian Exile. These readings provide a record of God's constant presence as he prepares the People for the coming of his Son at the incarnation, and the revelation of God in the Cross and through the Resurrection at Easter.

In what sense should Christians still be described as a 'Pilgrim People'?

Second Reading: *Profession of Faith*

Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

“ The Lord God raised Jesus from the dead, and raised him to the status of Lord. ”

In these chapters of the Letter to the Romans Paul is struggling with the problem of the salvation of the Jews: how is it that the People so carefully nurtured for so long should refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's plan of salvation? To Paul, himself a fervent Jew, it was agonizing that so many of his own people should refuse to acknowledge Jesus. But he saw that their refusal opened the door to the gentiles. The Christian community at Rome was composed of both Jews and gentiles. It was important for Paul to show that even scripture proclaims that the door is open to all who profess their faith in Christ, not one party to the exclusion of the other: so, no distinction between Jew and Greek. This is, however, a very different profession of faith from the profession in the first reading: that was a belief in a Lord God who rescued from Egypt. This is a belief that the Lord God raised Jesus from the dead, and raised him to the status of Lord. Paul never uses the word 'God' of Jesus, but he does call him 'LORD', the word which the Jewish people have used for God (then and now) instead of pronouncing His personal name.

What does it mean to confess that 'Jesus is Lord'?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org