

THE BECKET SCHOOL'S GOOD NEWS



be inspirational

HE SAID TO THEM, "GO THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD AND PREACH THE **GOOD NEWS** TO ALL PEOPLE."
MARK 16:15

Welcome back to *The Becket School's Good News*! A place to celebrate all the different ways we have been putting our faith into action as a school community to serve God, our neighbours and our common home.

In September, we opened the school gates and warmly welcomed the return of our students and a fresh start and new adventure for the new members of our community. In our first week back we thoroughly enjoyed our Y7 welcome Liturgies, where we explored what we can learn about **1. Working hard, 2. Being Kind and Loving and 3. Doing the right thing** in Jesus' parables. We also celebrated our welcome Liturgy with year 12 and got to know one another better with a game of people bingo and speed dating!

In our first Act of Worship together as a whole school we celebrated the launch of our new school prayer and mission statement which is inspired by John 10:10, '**I have come in order that you might have life- life in all its fullness**'. We reflected on how we can live out our mission statement through living out the Gospel values in our words and actions. You can view our new school prayer and mission statement on page 8!

We finished the month of September with our annual school music video to help us to celebrate the gifts and talents that make up our school community and our rich diversity. If you missed it, you can watch it back [here](#)! Please read on to find out what else we have been getting up to during this term, as well as some of the opportunities to look forward to as we approach the season of Advent!

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Keep up to date with the latest Chaplaincy News at The Becket School and within The Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust via The *Be Inspirational Website* and *Be Inspirational YouTube channel*:



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<https://www.beinspirational.co.uk/>



Be Inspirational YouTube

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<https://www.youtube.com/c/BeInspirational/videos>

You can also follow us on social media!



Twitter: @tbschaplaincy



Instagram: @becketchaplaincy



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI HUB MASS

On the 4th October, as we came to the end of the season of creation, the St Francis of Assisi Hub celebrated their annual Hub Mass celebration on St Francis of Assisi's Feast Day! This year it was The Becket School's turn to host the Hub Mass and we were very excited to welcome Fr Wilfred to celebrate our Mass and invite our family of feeder primary schools to celebrate the Mass with us virtually.

Each school in the hub created their own Mass parts which included: a brilliant introduction and scripture reflection by Our Lady and St Edwards; a beautifully sung Penitential Act by St Edmund Campion; a beautifully sung Psalm by St Patrick's school; some lovely and thoughtful prayers of intercession by English Martyrs school, a peaceful and meditative communion reflection based on St Francis of Assisi's prayer by Blessed Robert Widmerpool and our joyful prayers of thanksgiving by students from 8B, 8E and 8N at The Becket School. For the first time in a long while we also had live music led by the music department and our talented Y12 music students!

In our Hub Mass we reflected on the theme of Building the Kingdom of God and thought about the ways in which St Francis was called to build God's kingdom here on earth. Fr Wilfred encouraged us to find inspiration from St Francis and seek to be a saint for the poor, the vulnerable and the environment.

Y7 WELCOME MASS

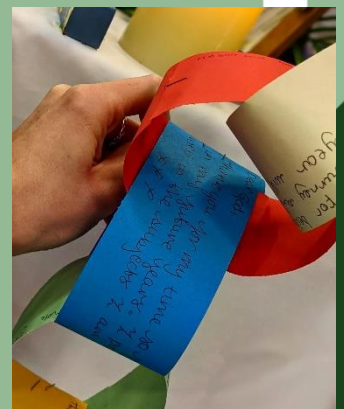
Our St Francis of Assisi celebrations continued into the afternoon as we warmly welcomed our new Y7's into the Becket Community with the Y7 welcome Mass! We were also thrilled to welcome Fr Simon Gillespie, our very own past Becket student, to celebrate the Mass and our past chair of governors Les Sullivan.

The Mass was a truly beautiful celebration and was filled with prayerful and reflective Mass parts created and led by our Year 7s. 7R helped decorate our St Francis of Assisi prayer focus with a colourful and personalised paper chain which included student's favourite memories of their first month at The Becket School, as well as prayers for the rest of their time at The Becket School. We were also excited to celebrate with live music led by our Y12 A-level music class, year 7 particularly enjoyed singing Taste and See for our communion hymn!

Well done to all the young people who led a Mass part and thank you for sharing such beautiful Mass parts. We can't wait to see you grow and flourish during your next adventure here at The Becket School!

World mental health day

World mental health week at The Becket started with a beautiful Well-being word of the week video which was organised and designed by Rebecca in Y13, you can watch it back [here](#). In our Acts of Worship we gave peace to one another, wishing our peers to find shalom – a sense of wholeness and ultimate well-being. Throughout the week, there were also lots of well-being workshops available to take part in at lunchtime including yoga, scripture art and a well-being walk. We finished the week with finding something yellow to wear to help raise awareness and donations for the charity young minds.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND DIVERSITY WEEK

Throughout October we also celebrated Black History Month. Black history month gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the amazing impact of black heritage and culture. It also serves as a reminder of the incredible beauty of our diverse communities. It inspires us to celebrate our differences and recognise that we are all unique and integral members of Body of Christ.

With a massive thanks to our diversity team, our school had lots of opportunity to celebrate with: a changed menu in the canteen celebrating African and Caribbean heritage; a Diversity themed Act of Worship and prayer resources; celebrating black Britons and black authors displays competitions; a black heroes creative piece competition and much more!



OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY RETREAT AFTERNOON

In the Church, October is also a month dedicated to the Holy Rosary and on the 7th October, the Catholic Church celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. October helps to remind us that we can look to Mary not only as an example, but also as a friend who prays with us when we need her the most.

‘Praying the rosary is like holding the hand of our Blessed Mother as she leads you through the life of her Son.’

On this special feast day, in our morning form time prayer, every young person and staff member had the opportunity to create their very own decade of the rosary with pieces of string and then pray the rosary together as a form. We tied 11 knots in our pieces of string to help guide us through the Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and the Glory Be prayers that make up a decade of the rosary. It was great to hear that so many forms thoroughly enjoyed creating their own decade of the rosary!



During the afternoon we celebrated and explored the rosary some more as some of our Y8 and Y9 RE classes visited the chapel for a session on the rosary with chaplains Joe and Ruth. We were also joined by Fr Michael and our past chair of governors Les Sullivan.

During our rosary afternoon with Y8 and Y9, we tested our knowledge on the rosary with a quiz and then we split into teams to create reflections on each of the pieces of scripture that make up the joyful mysteries. Y8 and 9 created some beautiful and thought provoking reflections in the form of freeze frames, dramas, hot seating, reflective questions and prayers which helped us to journey with Mary and Jesus throughout Jesus' childhood. After Y8 and 9 shared their joyful reflections with the rest of the groups, we finished the afternoon by praying a decade of the rosary together. Thank you so much to all the Y8 and 9 students who took part in our rosary afternoon and shared some beautiful reflections!

We were given the mission to learn more about the different mysteries that make up the rosary and to try praying the rosary more in the month of October.

ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS

On the Solemnity of All Saints' Day we celebrated all the men and women who in their life, and often their death, set an example of how to live a life for God. They give hope to us all that we can be better people and one day even become saints ourselves! On the 1st November we joined together in person and virtually after our October Half Term for an All Saints' Day celebration of Mass! We were very lucky and thrilled to have our music led by the very talented Miss Magee and Mr Ryder.

We were joined by Fr Michael Brown who celebrated our Mass and led us through a thought provoking homily linked to COP26. Fr Michael encouraged and supported us in using our voices to reclaim our common home and protect our planet for future generations. We were reminded that we all have the power to be modern day saints!

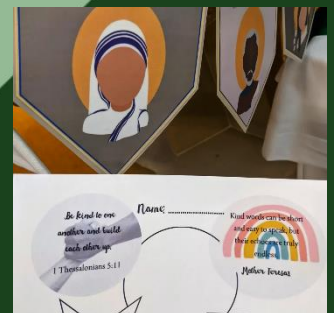


ALL SOULS' DAY

On Tuesday the 2nd of November we celebrated the Feast of All Souls, a day to pray for and celebrate all the souls who have died. All the Chaplains in the OLoL Trust led a virtual Liturgy for our primary and secondary schools.

The Liturgies were based on John 14:1-6, **'There are many rooms in my Father's house.'** We reflected on those who are at rest in heaven with God and took comfort in knowing that there are rooms for us all in heaven, where our father will welcome us to eternal life.

Each student thought about what a room would look like in the Kingdom of heaven and we filled the image of a house with the names of people we wanted to pray for during the month of remembrance.

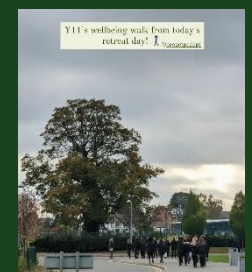


YEAR 11 RETREAT DAY — FAITH AND WELL-BEING

On Friday 5th November, year 11 took a step away from the business of school life for their final retreat day as a year group. It had been a while since we were able to gather together for a retreat, which made the day even more special to be a part of.

The theme of the day was faith and well-being – we retreated from our worries and spent the day focusing and exploring the ways we can look after our faith, our mental wellbeing and how we can look after one another in our final year together. Even in the scripture, we are reminded to retreat, to rest and to hand over our worries and burdens to God **"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-30.**

The day was filled with team building challenges, group jumps (well done to team garlic bread!), charades, prayer stations, COP26, a Q & A with Fr Michael, learning about sleep hygiene, wellbeing workshops, crafts, walks, cake and biscuits, affirmations and we finished the day together with our final Liturgy, where we built one another up and gave thanks to God. Thank you Year 11 for such a fun day, for getting involved and for throwing yourself into all the challenges!

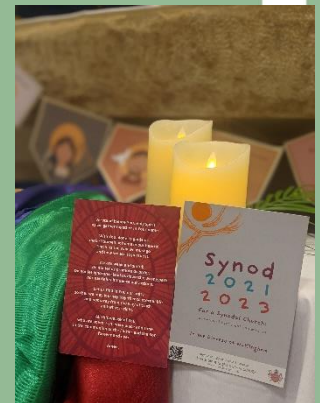
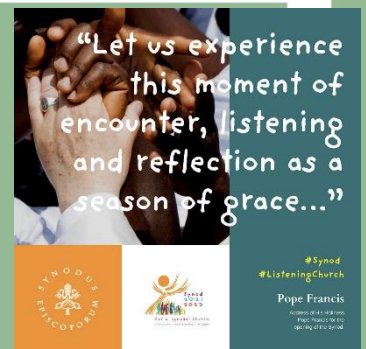


SYNOD 2021-2023 - <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

In October, Pope Francis launched a Synod of the whole Church, in which he asks that everyone in the Church listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and dream and think of the type of Church we wish to be a part of. Along with all the bishops in the world, Bishop Patrick has asked each part of the Nottingham diocese (parishes, chaplaincies, communities and schools) to be very involved in this listening and journeying process, so that as many voices as possible can be heard. Pope Francis and Bishop Patrick are very passionate about hearing the voices of young people, who are the future of our church. They want to hear **your** voice - whether you are a regular church goer, or if you haven't been for a while!

Six questions have been posed to our schools for our young people to answer. We will be answering these questions each Friday during the season of Advent in our morning form time prayer and then we will share our responses with our local parish, deanery, parents and carers in the New Year. Each student will be presented with two Synod Prayer Cards, one to be kept and used in personal prayer as regularly as possible, and the other is to be given to someone else who might be a bit distant from the Church.

We look forward to updating you further on our Synod journey and hearing our young people's voices on what they dream the future of the church to look like!



WORLD YOUTH FUNDAY

On Friday 19th November, we celebrated World Youth Funday (the Friday before Christ the King Sunday). We marked this day with a non-uniform day and asked students to bring in £1 to help raise money for the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service (NDCYS) and The Briars who support thousands of young people virtually and on retreat in exploring themselves, their faith and friendships in fun and meaningful ways.



Excitingly, Pope Francis has announced that the Feast of Christ the King will be an international day of prayer for young people every year- so "National Youth Sunday" is now "World Youth Sunday"! For Youth Friday and Youth Sunday we joined in prayer with young people around the world, celebrating our universal faith and unpacking the international theme: **"Stand up! You are appointed as a witness for what you have seen!"** based on Acts 26:16.



In school, the members of our chaplaincy team took part in the World Youth Funday livestream and were invited to attend our voluntary Friday lunchtime Mass where our new members of the team were commissioned and all members of the Chaplaincy team were given a special blessing by Fr Jonathan Cotton. We then finished our celebration with chips and pizza/fish from the canteen!

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEARS 10 –13...

The Briars Advent Retreat Dec 2021 - young people in Y10- 13

Spend time with friends, journey together, refresh your faith, eat well, have fun, take in the view, get to know yourself more, feel the Holy Spirit, connect with Jesus, live Advent, prepare well for Christmas.

Details: 10th - 12th December 2021, at The Briars, Crich, Derbyshire, DE4 5BW. **Free of charge(!)** and open to all young people in years 10 - 13.

Register by Friday, 3rd December **here:** <https://www.ndcys.com/advent21/>

The Briars Relax and Revise Weekend Nov 2021 - young people in Y12 and 13

Relax, revise, use free Wi-Fi, enjoy endless hot drinks, take in the view, pray, eat good food, connect, unwind and reconnect for a weekend. **Details: 26th-28th November 2021**, at The Briars, Crich, Derbyshire, DE4 5BW. **Free of charge** and open to all young people in years 12 and 13. Register by Wednesday 24th November **here:** <https://www.ndcys.com/relax21/>

Lourdes Pilgrimage June/July 2022 – young people in Y12 and 13

This year the 6th Form students at The Becket are being offered the opportunity to take part in the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. This annual event sees hundreds of people from across our diocese journey on pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes, France. It is an incredible opportunity to: help serve the sick and less able members of our diocese; meet new people across our schools and the diocese; learn about our faith; experience a pilgrimage and learn about the wonderful place of healing that is Lourdes! Please collect a letter or return parental consent slips to the chapel. Students interested in Lourdes 2022 are asked to join the Lourdes Google Classroom to keep up to date with notices and fundraising opportunities.

Apply to work on The Briars Team 2022-2023!

A one year gap year programme in youth ministry - Join a vibrant, progressive and outward looking youth service. NDCYS provides powerful opportunities for young people to encounter Christ; on retreat, on the road and online! If your child/children is in year 13 or above and would be interested in learning more about the opportunity to be a part of The Briars Team 2022-2023 please contact your school Chaplains – Joe and Ruth or Tom Baptist, Director of NDCYS (director@ndcys.com)

Young Adults Events in Nottingham Diocese – aged 18-25

There are a number of upcoming events for young adults (aged 18-35) with opportunities to pray, connect and enjoy time together. The next event is a pilgrimage day on **Saturday, 27th November** in honour of **Venerable Mary Potter**. Find more details **here:**

<https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/information/young-adults>



THE SEASON OF ADVENT!

On Sunday 28th Nov we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent and enter into the season of preparation, hope and expectation ahead of Christmas!

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

VOLUNTARY FRIDAY LUNCHTIME MASS

This term we welcomed the return of our voluntary Friday lunchtime Masses in the Becket Chapel, where we are joined by voluntary students and staff from The Becket, a member of clergy celebrating and a visiting class from St Patrick's primary school in Wilford!

The dates for our remaining Friday lunchtime Masses this year are:

Friday 3rd December and Friday 10th December

All students are welcome to attend Friday Mass! Just make sure to sign up in the chapel and collect a Mass pass before Friday lunchtime. After Mass, we finish our celebration together by eating our lunch, so you don't need to worry about missing your lunch. (This can be a packed lunch or you can reserve food from the canteen when you sign up for Mass) We hope to see you there!



VIRTUAL ADVENT LITURGY

Join us for a time of prayer and reflection as we celebrate the season of hope and preparation ahead of Christmas with our student led Advent Liturgy which will be premiered on **Monday 6th December at 4pm and then can be viewed at any time after 4pm – everyone is welcome!** You will be able to access the Advent Liturgy on the Be Inspirational YouTube channel via this link on Monday 6th December from 4pm onwards:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BeInspirational/videos>

Traditionally our 6th form Lourdes volunteers would fundraise at our evening Advent Liturgy. As our Liturgy is taking place virtually this year, our 6th form volunteers would greatly appreciate any donations that can be paid via the squid page titled: **'Lourdes donations 2022'**. The annual pilgrimage to Lourdes sees hundreds of people from across our diocese journey on pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes, France. It is an incredible opportunity for our young volunteers to help serve the sick and less able members of our diocese whilst meeting new people and learning about their faith. The sick and less able members of our community would not be able to pilgrimage without the help and service of our young people volunteers. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On **Friday 10th December**, students will be offered the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the chapel. A sign-up sheet will be available from form tutors and in the chapel, so make sure you sign up if you would like to receive the Sacrament this Advent! This is a great way to prepare for the coming of Jesus and have a fresh start with God as we start a new year in the Church's Liturgical calendar.





ADVENT APPEAL 2021

During this month's 'Giving' week we saw the launch of this year's Advent appeal, where we will be raising donations to support the charities 'Emmanuel House' and 'Refugee Roots'. During our Giving Act of Worship, we reflected on *The Widow's Offering* scripture and how we can **give with our heart and not our wealth**. Each student received a card with a list of donations that would be warmly received by our charities. We are asking all student's families to donate at least one item from the list if they are in the position to do so. It is no surprise that we have already received a large number of donations that will make a huge difference to the lives of many vulnerable children and adults in Nottingham. Thank you in advance for your generosity and it's not too late to donate!

Friday 17th December is the last day of term and will be a **non –uniform day (Christmas Jumpers are encouraged!)** Donations of £1 will go to Emmanuel House which is a charity that supports the homeless in Nottingham. Payments can be made using your Squid account, the name of this is listed as '**non-uniform day 17.12.2020**'. **School will close early for students at 1pm on Friday 17th December 2021** and we are looking forward to our Advent Liturgy and other celebrations on the last Friday!

We look forward to sharing more of our Good News stories in the New Year 2022 and we wish you and your families a happy and holy festive season and a very happy New Year when it comes!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Through practising the Catholic values and virtues found in The Becket Way, every person at The Becket School will achieve their full potential spiritually, morally, socially and academically. We will work in partnership with parents and carers to support our young people in following Jesus as our role model and living life in all its fullness.

We aspire to:

Work hard in all that we do – our faith, our school work and our relationships, embracing the opportunities offered to us.

Be kind and loving by treating others as we wish to be treated, recognising that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God.

Do the right thing by helping each other to encounter Jesus Christ through practising the Gospel values within our school, local, and global communities.

I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.

John 10:10

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OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

God our Father,

We thank you for giving us Jesus Christ – our role model. May we follow the Catholic Values and Virtues in 'The Becket Way' to live life in all its fullness.

We pray that we may work hard in all that we do – our faith, our school work and our relationships, embracing the opportunities offered to us.

May we always be kind and loving, by treating others as we wish to be treated, recognising that everyone is made in your image and likeness.

Encourage us to do the right thing, by helping one another encounter Jesus Christ through practising the Gospel values within our school, local, and global communities.

As one, we remember that these are our values and this is our Mission.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St Thomas Becket, pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.