

# 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 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.

**We begin our Newsletter with a message from Bishop Patrick this Advent...**

Bishop Patrick has issued a message about returning to church for Christmas: *Christmas is a time for families. So often we visit family at Christmas and exchange cards and gifts with loved ones. We see at the heart of Christmas the Christ child, Jesus, coming into the world and into his earthly family of Mary and Joseph. This is a time for me to encourage you to join with your parish family, to connect, or perhaps to reconnect, with fellow parishioners who make up the family of our parishes, of our diocese, and indeed who make up the family of the Church, the Body of Christ. Whether you come to church every Sunday, whether you've not come back post-pandemic, or whether it's a long time since you were last at Mass: you'll be assured of a warm welcome this Christmas as you gather with so many others in the parish family to welcome Jesus coming once again into our world, into our families, into our lives. May this Christmas be a time of special blessing for you and your family, and all those you love.*

With my prayers,

**+ Patrick Bishop of Nottingham**



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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**:



**Be Inspirational Website:**

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



**Be Inspirational YouTube**

(don't forget to click subscribe!):

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

You can also follow us on social media!



**Twitter: @tbschaplaincy**



**Instagram: @becketchaplaincy**



## A SEASON OF HOPE

On the 27th of November 2022, we eagerly entered into a new liturgical year in the Church's calendar, with the season of Advent! Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Christ. We await the celebration of Jesus' birth, a historical event that happened over two thousand years ago and we continually wait and prepare for the second Coming of Christ, when the Kingdom of God will appear in its fullness.

We started the season of Advent in school with a beautiful Act of Worship which was led by some of our Chaplaincy Team and Ruth, school Chaplain. In the Act of Worship, we reflected on the theme of **Hope**, the symbolism of the Advent Wreath and the growing of light that takes place throughout Advent as we wait for the 'Prince of Peace', who brings light to those in darkness (Isaiah 9:2-7). The Chaplaincy Team gave our school the mission to create their own DIY Advent Wreaths that would be displayed in form rooms. It has been wonderful to see the unique Advent Wreaths stuck up in windows and displayed on form prayer boards this month. We are reminded that amongst the secular festive celebrations that take place during this time of year, we as Christians, await in hope for the peace, joy and love that Christ brings.

A huge thank you to **all** students who have bravely and inspiringly volunteered to lead and contribute to our weekly Acts of Worship so far this year! We hope there will be lots more faces leading our Collective Worship in the New Year, 2023!



## Y10 ADVENT HOUSE BOARD COMPETITION





## ADVENT FUNDRAISING

The start of the Advent Season also saw the launch of our Advent fundraising appeals. With the help and leadership of Mrs Conlon and our Justice and Peace team, we were inspired by the scripture to **give with our heart and not with our wealth** this Advent (The Widow's Offering, Mark 12:41-44). For the past four weeks, students and staff have been generously donating non-perishable food items and toiletries for those who are supported by the charity Refugee Roots: <https://www.refugeeroots.org.uk/> Refugee Roots is a Christian Charity, based in Nottingham, that helps asylum seekers and refugees build relationships and navigate the complexities of building a new life in the UK.

Mr Pickup, who is the Treasurer on the board of Trustees for Refugee Roots wanted to pass on this message: "On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Joe (Chaplain), Mrs Conlon (RE teacher) and Mr Pickup (Maths teacher) visited Refugee Roots with four of our Year 12 students to drop off all of the food and sanitary donations. The students who travelled, representing the Justice and Peace Group were Anna Bayley, Caitlin Collins, James Foody and Alice Hill. As a school we have donated almost 1000 items, and these will be packed into parcels to be distributed to struggling families over the Christmas period. As a school we should all be proud of this great work helping the needy and putting our faith into action. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas when it comes"

- Mr Pickup

**Thank you so much to all of our young people, friends, families and staff for bringing in donations and raising awareness for this year's Advent appeal!**

Alongside our donations for Refugee Roots, this term, we have also been bringing in any spare change we have and donating it to our CAFOD collection boxes which are placed in every form room. We are thrilled to announce that over **£150** has been raised for CAFOD, simply by placing our small change into our CAFOD collection boxes! The brilliant Justice and Peace team spent their lunchtime counting out each form group's coin donations and we are excited to announce that 12N won the 'small change' house competition for bringing in the most money! Congratulations 12N - well done for supporting CAFOD and for winning your house points! We hope you enjoy your Christmas prize!

We are also thrilled to announce that 7B brought in **over 250 items** for Refugee Roots and therefore have also won their house lots of points and got to enjoy a film and treats on Friday during a cover lesson whilst Mrs Conlon helped deliver the donations to Refugee Roots. Read on in The Becket's Good News to find out more about the incredible work and fundraising our Justice and Peace team have been doing this academic year!





## 6TH FORM RETREAT TO THE BRIARS!

This Advent, we were delighted to be able to offer our students in The Becket Sixth Form the opportunity to go on retreat to The Briars, The Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Retreat Centre! Our group of year 12 students had a brilliant time in the Derbyshire Dales, making memories with fellow year 12s from across the Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT (including students at Trinity Sixth Form and Christ the King Sixth Form). It was lovely to see our young people grow and flourish throughout the retreat whilst making new friends; relaxing and exploring their faith; playing games and challenges (including bongos bingo!); appreciating nature in the countryside and having a good old sing song around the campfire! Our year 12s were a credit to the school and we thank them for a great week together!

There are lots more opportunities for our 6th Formers to visit The Briars...whether you are interested in taking a gap year at The Briars post 18 or simply looking for some work experience, The Briars Team would love to work with you! Get in touch with Beth Ryder: [beth@ndcys.com](mailto:beth@ndcys.com) (Programme Director of The Briars) if you're interested in learning more about these opportunities or hanging out with the current Briars Team on programme.



## SHADOW SYNDICATE PRESENTED OUR DRAMA STUDENTS IN THE PERFORMANCES OF 'REFUGE', A MODERN CHRISTMAS STORY, AND SCROOGE...



## OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF SHARED THEIR LOVE FOR MUSIC AT THE CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT...



## ADVENT RECONCILIATION MORNING

During the second week of Advent, we reflected on the theme of **Peace**. Reconciliation is an important theme in the week of peace, and it was brilliant to have so many students sign up to our Advent Reconciliation morning with Fr Liam and Fr Wilfred in the chapel! The Sacrament of Reconciliation helps us to receive peace into our lives as it is an opportunity to heal our relationships and encounter the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus. Our students also loved having a catch up with Fr Liam and Fr Wilfred whilst sharing what they are excited about in the lead up to Christmas!



## SPREADING THE JOY

To mark being over halfway through the Advent Season, our Chaplaincy Team wanted to share some **joy** into the homes of our families and friends with a virtual Liturgy that everyone would be welcome and able to attend from the comfort of their homes.

If you haven't watched the Liturgy yet, we encourage you to gather with your loved ones and celebrate this Advent Liturgy at a time that is convenient for you - get comfortable, light a candle and welcome Christ into your homes this Advent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikIRqIN5kc>

Head to 16:03 on the YouTube timeline for a joyful Liturgical Dance!



## LOURDES FUNDRAISING

This Advent term has also seen the start of our 6th Form Lourdes volunteers fundraising at school events to support their pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2023.

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 more 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 volunteers.

If you would like to support this cause, please donate via PlusPay, under the account titled: '**Lourdes 2023 – DONATIONS**'.

We really thank you for your kind generosity!





## LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR SO FAR...

At the beginning of September, we opened the school gates and warmly welcomed new and returning students and staff for the academic year 2022-2023. Each year we like to begin a new academic year with a school music video to celebrate the richly diverse, unique, gifted and talented community we are a part of. If you missed this year's school music video 'Don't stop me now', make sure you check it out on our Be Inspirational YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uz3YgNwlgVA> !

### YEAR 7 WALESBY

In September, our year 7 students ventured to Walesby forest for a few fun-packed days in the forest! New friendships were made, challenges were overcome and there was lots of laughter, dancing, adventure and prayer along the way! We were very proud of our year 7s who really impressed the whole of the Walesby Team and Becket Staff and we can't wait for another opportunity to see year 7's dance moves again!



### YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

On the feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, we celebrated our year 7 Welcome Mass, and it was a truly joyful and memorable celebration. We celebrated the memories and friendships that had already been formed as a year group and looked forward to further adventures and challenges that would be shared with one another. We also prayed for the hopes and dreams year 7 had written on the paper aeroplanes that they had made around the campfire in Walesby.

We were thrilled to have Fr John, governors, parents and families and even some past primary school teachers join for our celebration! The music and everyone's singing sounded incredible and each of the Mass parts had been carefully planned and led by each of the year 7 forms. The Mass was a great opportunity to welcome Fr John Martin, who had recently moved to the area, and Fr John shared his emotions for starting in a new community, just like our new year 7s. Fr John left us with the important reminder that: we are precious, we are loved, and God is calling us to be great!





## JUSTICE AND PEACE TEAM

This academic year has also seen the launch of our new school group, the Justice and Peace team. A big shout out to Mrs Conlon for her enthusiasm and passion to launch the team and motivate further ways in which our school community can support the work of CAFOD.

The Justice and Peace group share a vision of a world in which people live in peace and harmony. We know every human being is made in the image of God and every human being deserves a life of dignity and respect. The Justice and Peace group wishes to raise awareness of the injustices in both our global and local communities and we are striving to make this vision of a harmonious world where every human being is valued, a reality.

The justice and peace group have achieved some incredible things this academic year and that would not have been possible without our students and families' support and generosity...

In October, the Justice and Peace team hosted three cake sales during lunchtimes, where we raised over £350 for the people of Pakistan to support families in their desperation due to the horrendous flooding. This paid for emergency shelter, food and clothing for people who had lost everything.

Later that month, we also raised an incredible £152.39 for CAFOD from our Family Fast Day where our students enjoyed a cup of soup and a bread roll. You were living simply so others may simply live. This amazing amount of money also includes the money raised through your small change CAFOD box donations from our first half term. So that is over £500 raised from your giving!





## ST BERNADETTE'S RELIC TOUR

During September and October of 2022, the relics of St Bernadette toured the UK for the first time ever with the mission of welcoming people back into the church! This was a truly joyful experience for the Church and the relics of saints are special to the Catholic Church because they give Catholics a tangible link to heaven. When venerating and praying through the saints, we can feel closer to God and inspired to be brave like St Bernadette.

One of our very own Chaplains, Joe Martin, worked throughout the tour of St Bernadette's Relics as the content provider, which meant that Joe documented the tour with photographs and videos. We asked Joe about his experience on the tour and what his favourite memories are...

"I absolutely loved meeting so many different people throughout the tour and speaking to them about what brought them to the relics of St Bernadette. I met Catholics, people of different faiths and people of no faith, who were curious to see what was happening in the church! A special memory of mine would have to be when I met a man from Ukraine, who had flown to London from Ukraine that morning. He knew how important and special the opportunity would be to venerate St Bernadette's relics. He flew back to Ukraine that evening not knowing what he was going to be greeted with but asked for our prayers, for not only Ukraine, but the whole world. A personal take away from the tour, for me, is to remember the power of prayer." - Joe, Lay Chaplain.

On day two of St Bernadette's Relics tour at Nottingham Cathedral, some of our staff and students attended the Mass of thanksgiving with Bishop Patrick. We were so proud of the students who attended the Mass; they conducted themselves brilliantly and got involved with the Mass parts beautifully. We hope they will treasure this moment and will feel inspired to come on pilgrimage to Lourdes (the place where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette) when they are in year 12!

"It was really special to be in the presence of St Bernadette's relics, especially as I belong to St Bernadette House at school. She is an inspiring girl and helps me think about how I'm being called as a young woman" - Ashley, Year 9

## ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS

On All Saints' Day, Fr Liam helped us to celebrate all of the saints in heaven, including St Bernadette, with two school Masses - one with key stage 3 and one with key stage 4. We were also joined by some of the parishioners from The Annunciation parish and friends from across the Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT! It was a wonderful and joyful celebration where we were reminded that we too are called to be modern saints. A massive thank you to our musicians - Miss Magee and Mr Ryder, the Chaplaincy choir, our readers, altar servers and for all our helpers who work behind the scenes to make our large celebrations of Collective Worship possible!





## Y11 RETREAT DAY

At the beginning of November, we had our first Retreat Day of the academic year and what a brilliant day it was! Throughout the day we took part in different workshops and sessions that helped us to explore and look after our spiritual, mental and physical well-being. The day included games and challenges, prayer stations, a Q&A with Fr Liam and Tom Baptist, mindful colouring, local walks, football and board games, and our day finished together in prayer in the chapel. Thank you, year, 11 for being so open, fun and kind to one another throughout the day, you have a truly bright future ahead of you!



## REMEMBRANCE LITURGY

In the lead up to this year's Remembrance Day, some of our Chaplaincy Team gave up their break and lunchtimes to plan and lead a Remembrance Act of Worship to help the rest of the school celebrate the month of Remembrance and to pray for all the people who have died and made sacrifices for others. It was a beautiful celebration that you can watch back on our Be Inspirational YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQq5TzljhhU> Well done and thank you to everyone who led the worship so beautifully.



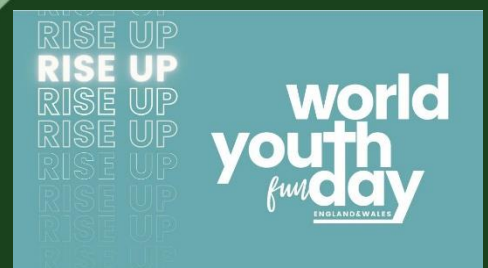
## GHANA 5K

The annual Ghana 5K walk/run returned in early November this year and our sponsorships, along with money raised from our Staff Quiz, helped us to fundraise **over £2,000** for our friends in Bunkpurugu! As the new school is now built and open to children and staff in Bunkpurugu, our fundraising efforts are going towards purchasing resources and equipment for the children to learn with, such as computers, for their school library and for staff to use! A huge **thank you** for your continued support over the last eight years as we continue to build hope and opportunities for our friends in Bunkpurugu!



## WORLD YOUTH FUNDAY

In the lead up to Christ the King Sunday (World Youth Sunday), we celebrate Youth week in our schools and World Youth Funday on the Friday of Youth Week. During this week, our schools and Churches recognise, celebrate and pray for all young people and everything that our young people bring to the church and our world. Each year, Pope Francis delivers a message specifically to young people on World Youth Sunday and this year Pope Francis gives us the theme: 'Rise up!' This theme is inspired by Mary's arising after saying Yes to God's plan and visiting her cousin, Elizabeth. We celebrated youth week with a House Act of Worship and on World Youth Funday, our chaplaincy team met for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and faith. The day finished with a Liturgy and visit from Fr John Martin, who commissioned some of the new members of the Chaplaincy Team. Remember it is not too late to join the Chaplaincy Team or to get involved with the Catholic Life and Collective Worship of the school, everyone is welcome!





## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### CYMFED 'FLAME' — MARCH 2023

**What?** Flame is the UK's largest National Catholic Youth Event of 2023. This March, the SSE Wembley Arena will be filled with thousands of young people from across the country, receiving faith-filled inspiration from world class speakers. Throughout the day, speakers will give bursts of input, interspersed with world class music and drama, in an atmosphere full of joy. Special guests include MOBO award winning Guvna B and his band.

**When?** Saturday 4th March 2023

**Who?** This day trip is open to all students in years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

**How?** The full cost of the day trip to Flame is £25. This cost includes coach travel and the event ticket, but not spending money or lunch. If your child/children would like to join us for this event, please pay the full cost of the trip (£25) on plus pay to the trip account titled: "Flame – March 2023". The deadline for this payment is the 31st of January 2023. However, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and you may be added to the trip waiting list.



### Y10 BRIARS RETREAT — MARCH 2023

**What?** Students in Year 10 are being offered the opportunity to visit The Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre in Crich, Derbyshire. The Briars is the residential youth retreat centre for our diocese. At The Briars, our young people will be engaged with a variety of fun and interesting sessions which will centre on personal, social, and spiritual development. The work of The Briars focuses on self-confidence, mutual respect, and Christian community - it offers a valuable experience to our young people at this point in their lives. You can find out more about The Briars by visiting: [www.NDCYS.com](http://www.NDCYS.com)

**When?** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**How?** The full cost of the retreat will be up to £135 (depending on how many students attend). This includes the costs of travel, food and accommodation but not pocket money for the vending machine or Briars souvenirs.

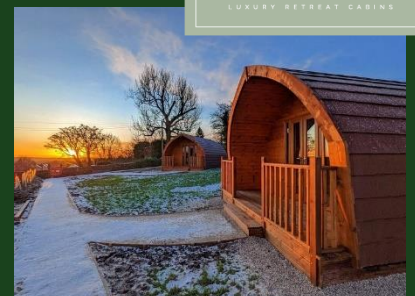
Further information and packing lists will be sent out closer to the retreat but for now if you want your child/children to attend the Y10 retreat or be added to the waiting list, you need to pay a £20 non-refundable deposit via Plus Pay.




### FANCY A COSY GETAWAY IN THE PEAK DISTRICT?

**Saints' Meadow** is found in Crich in Derbyshire and offers a range of affordable, accessible and attractive accommodation situated in the grounds of the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Retreat Centre, The Briars. Saints' Meadow is the commercial arm of the Briars – A youth charity that provides residential retreats and outreach services to thousands of young people each year, including our young people at The Becket school and our feeder primaries.

Saints' Meadow holiday lets were created to support the charitable work of The Briars and your stay will make a real difference. 100% of the profits from Saints' Meadow go to Charity: <https://saintsmeadow.com/>








**"An absolute haven  
for positivity, the  
most relaxed I've  
been in a while!"**  
-Relax and Revise 2022

**Sixth Form Only**

# RELAX & REVISE

**24th – 26th March 2023**

Join us for our Sixth Form only Relax & Revise weekend. Come and spend some time in our community and use the space and time to get some work done, make some friends and relax!



**"It's not about who  
you are or what  
religion you are, It's  
about coming  
together and  
making memories  
here."**

-Relax and Revise 2022



**[www.NDCYS.com](http://www.NDCYS.com)  
[bookings@ndcys.com](mailto:bookings@ndcys.com)  
01773 852044**



# Search FOR THE Light

6TH-9TH APRIL 2023

JOIN US AT THE BRIARS  
FOR AN ADVENTURE  
THROUGH HOLY WEEK!

Open to young people in years 10-13

The people living in darkness have  
seen a great light; on those living in  
the land of the shadow of death a  
light has dawned  
-Matthew 4:16

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT US:

☎ 01773 852044

✉ [bookings@ndcys.com](mailto:bookings@ndcys.com)



ndcys  
NOTTINGHAM  
DIOCESAN  
CATHOLIC  
YOUTH  
SERVICE



# Volunteering at The Briars



**Applications to join  
Team 23-24 have  
opened...**

**Applicants should be:**

**Aged 18-25 (as of August 19th 2023)**

**Committed Christians, willing to  
share the Catholic faith with Young  
People**

**Passionate about supporting young  
people**

**Able to fully commit to a voluntary,  
live-in role August 2023 - July 2024**



Live in Derbyshire at **The Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre** in a faith community who pray, work, grow and learn together



Be part of the **Nottingham, Diocesan Catholic Youth Service**, supporting young people and providing retreat experiences for young people aged 11-18!



Receive a **package of training** including youth work theory, faith formation, digital media, first aid and much more!