

The Becket School's GOOD NEWS



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 Newsletter! A place to celebrate all the different ways we have been putting our faith into action as a school community to serve God, our global neighbours, and our common home.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for your continued support, engagement, and enthusiasm this academic year as we continually strive to live out the Gospel and our mission statement: to work hard, be loving, and do the right thing.

We wish you all a very relaxing and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to returning refreshed and well-rested in September and we pray for and give thanks for the staff and students who are leaving our community over the summer and who embarking on new adventures. **Here are just a few of our highlights from the Lent and Pentecost terms 2024...**

Harvesting Hope: Celebrating our Fundraising Triumphs

We are overjoyed to share that, as a result of our fundraising events in the Lent and Pentecost Terms of 2024, we will be donating approximately **£1,938 to CAFOD!** These donations will make a significant difference to many families living in poverty, famine, and amidst war and conflict.



Our Lent CAFOD Family Fast Day took place in February, where we sold soup and a bread roll for £1 to encourage others "to eat simply so that others can simply eat." We raised £77.81! Soup and a bread roll will return in October 2024 for our Harvest Fast Day.



Throughout Lent and Easter, we saw the return of our tutor group CAFOD small change box competition. Thank you to all the staff who have been shaking their CAFOD charity boxes each morning, and to our students and families who have donated their small change, which all adds up and makes a big difference!

Our CAFOD boxes combined raised over £334! Congratulations to Mrs. Ryder and 8B, who won first place in the competition by raising over £50 in small change, and congratulations to Mrs. Giannino and 13N, who came in second place with over £36 in small change!

This term, we were deeply moved by the escalating conflict in Sudan, prompting us to organise a cake sale for CAFOD's Emergency Appeal for Sudan. It was hugely successful, and we raised just over £255! A special thank you to all the parents and grandparents who baked cakes or brought in treats to be sold at the cake sale. We truly appreciate your support!

Some of the ever-giving and generous members of the Year 9 Chaplaincy Team saw a wonderful fundraising opportunity at this year's Sports Day to support the incredible work of CAFOD. Embracing the spirit of the day, they dazzled and decorated the athletes and spectators with glitter and face paint in house colours and managed to raise over £80 in the process! Their artistic talents and enthusiasm were on full display, making everyone look fantastic and adding to the vibrant atmosphere of the event.

On Friday, 19th July, members of 10R in The Justice and Peace group organised the return of our school fundraiser "Pay to Play." Students were asked to bring a suggested donation of £2 to support CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal. Our "Pay to Play" fundraiser was an opportunity for us to put our faith into action—to celebrate and give thanks for the freedoms and safety we enjoy at The Becket School while showing care and empathy for those who do not have safety or dignity. As a result of this fundraiser, we managed to raise a brilliant £1,189 for CAFOD!

As a community, we continue to pray for all who are experiencing the terror of war and conflict, particularly those who are forced to flee their homes in fear. We are so grateful for your continued support, enthusiasm, and generosity in engaging with our school fundraisers.



Year 12 Pilgrimage to Lourdes (2024)!

In our second to last week before the summer break, we took a wonderful group of our Year 12 students to join the Nottingham Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. Our Year 12 students were a credit to the school and their families, and we are incredibly proud of the faith and service they displayed. The group brought so much joy, laughter, kindness, and care to the pilgrims they assisted, as well as to the wider pilgrimage community! They truly put their faith into action, served with strength (even in very hot weather conditions!), and put the needs of others before their own.

Interview with Emilia and Esme:

What was your favourite memory?

"We loved creating bonds with the pilgrims and other members of the diocese. We've made some good friends with other young people from different schools, and I (Emilia) made a really strong relationship with my pilgrims - they were a married couple celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary, and it was very special to hear about their life together. One of our favourite memories was the night prayer at the grotto on the final night when we spent time together as a school group and lit a candle for the Becket community - it was quite emotional!"

What was your funniest moment?

"We always had a laugh walking to and from the hotels and had lots of inside jokes as a school group and youth group: 'Is it??', 'Do you think it's...?', 'Hushhh.'"

What would you say to someone thinking about going to Lourdes next year or in the future?

"Do it - it was a fantastic opportunity! We have lots of special memories and friendships from the experience. Be open-minded about the experience, and take snacks and a waterproof poncho!"

Thank you so much to everyone who supported and donated to the group of Becket volunteers, they are incredibly grateful for your generosity and the experience.

If you have Lourdes blues or if you want to see some of what we got up to on our pilgrimage - check out the **@dioceseofnottingham** social media and website.

Save the date for 2025!

The Nottingham Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025 is taking place **Monday 14th July - Friday 18th July** (dates are subject to slightly change for the youth contingent due to travel arrangements that are still to be confirmed). This trip will be offered to both year 12 and year 13 students in the academic year 2024-2025.

To attend the pilgrimage as a pilgrim, for more information or to reserve a brochure and booking form please contact: simon.gillespie@dioceseofnottingham.uk



Year 7, 8 and 9's visits to Holy Spirit Church during Enrichment week and Fr John and Fr Evarist's visit to The Becket!

During Enrichment Week, we ventured to Holy Spirit Church in West Bridgford with Years 7, 8, and 9 to celebrate Mass with some of the local parishioners. On Wednesday, Mass was celebrated by both Fr John Martin and Fr Evarist, and on Thursday by Fr John. These were incredibly joyous celebrations, and it was exciting and wonderful for many of our students to meet Fr Evarist for the first time, as he had recently moved to England from the Diocese of Moshi in Tanzania to support Fr John in the Annunciation Parish.

The students planned and participated beautifully in the celebration—the responses and singing were excellent, supported by our wonderful musicians, Mr. and Mrs. Ryder! We are so grateful for the warm welcome that Fr John, Fr Evarist, and the parishioners gave us and look forward to visiting again soon.

A week later, we were excited to give a warm welcome to Fr Evarist and Fr John at The Becket School. Some of our Chaplaincy Team members gave Fr Evarist a tour of the school (as it was his first time visiting) before we returned to the chapel for "question time" with Fr Evarist and Fr John, while enjoying some cakes and drinks. It was incredibly interesting and inspiring to learn more about Fr Evarist's family, faith, ministry, his love for pizza and football, and his life in Tanzania.

Lunchtime came around, and it was time to continue our tour outside on the plaza and the astroturf. What started as Fr Evarist having a couple of minutes kicking around with a football turned into a 30-minute match between Year 7 and Fr Evarist!

Year 7 were very impressed with Fr Evarist's football skills, and everyone wanted him on their team. We very much look forward to welcoming and working closely with Fr John and Fr Evarist in the new academic year!



Year 10 Retreat Day

In June, Year 10 participated in their retreat day, which was centred on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The day was incredibly thought-provoking, and at times, both staff and students were left feeling emotional and speechless after listening to powerful and emotive testimonies from our key speakers and young people.

We began our day by reading the Book of Genesis, completing team challenges in the creation game, and reflecting on our responsibility to be stewards of the earth and to treat every life with dignity and respect. After break time, we were joined by guest speakers: Ann Neale (CAFOD volunteer and director for the OLoL CMAT), Lucy (OLOL CMAT Chaplain), Teresa Kehoe (Aid to the Church in Need Community Fundraiser), Fr Jonathan Cotton (Priest and CAFOD Volunteer), and Denis Tully (CEO of Emmanuel House). It was incredibly powerful to hear their testimonies and to be reminded of our responsibility to protect the common good and ensure that the quieter and downtrodden voices are heard so that a better world is achieved. We were grateful to Ann Neale who stayed a little longer to lead our Year 10s in CAFOD's "Be the Project Manager" workshop, challenging them to make decisions for communities based on CST principles.

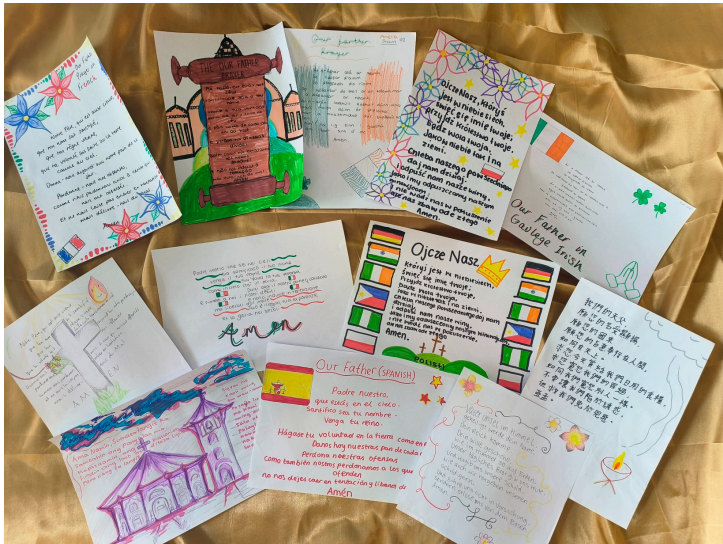
After lunch, Year 10 learned about the upcoming general election and created their own manifestos based on CST principles and some of the injustices in the world that had arisen in conversations throughout the day. In our Celebration of the Word at the end of the day, it was incredible to hear some of our young people present their manifestos, reflections, and prayers. We hope they will continue to have the strength and courage to share their voices and wisdom in the future. We finished the day by creating 'the wave of change' as we each made promises to make the world a fairer and more dignified place for all people.



Year 10's Liturgical Workso
- The Our Father Project

In the Pentecost Term, Year 10 participated in their liturgical workshop. We listened to and reflected on the events of Pentecost and our responsibility to be modern-day missionary disciples. The power of the Holy Spirit, which enabled the disciples to speak and communicate in different languages, inspired us to celebrate the different ways in which we use language and communicate with one another.

In the workshop, we participated in the Our Father prayer project, a competition happening across schools in the Nottingham Diocese. Students were asked to write the Our Father prayer in a language, or languages, of their choice and to accompany it with artwork. Looking ahead to the Jubilee Year of Prayer in 2025, we are encouraged to explore, extend, and excite our own prayer lives by focusing on prayer in new or varied ways. It was wonderful to see and hear so many different languages and cultures represented in the prayers and artwork. There are some very talented artists in Year 10! The winners of our in-house Becket competition will be announced in our end-of-year celebration, and they will receive their rewards in September.



Year 9 Briars Retreat

After our May half term, a wonderful group of year 9 students were fortunate to embark on a residential retreat to the Briars Catholic Youth Retreat Centre in the beautiful Derbyshire Dales! The week was packed with team challenges, small and large group sessions, contemplative prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Celebration of Mass with Fr Paul Newman, delicious food, a disco and talent show, Mr Udoh's karaoke number, affirmations and a wonderful nature walk in the countryside.

Here's what some of our young people said about the experience:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C77aLlVlHWL/?hl=en>





Launch of the New Be Inspirational Website

After over ten years of engagement with our beloved Be Inspirational website, The Becket School's young people of today shared their voice and vision for form time prayer and a new Be Inspirational website. During the Pentecost Term, we saw the relaunch of the Be Inspirational website (called **beinspirational.faith**) and a new approach to our form time prayer resources.

Prayer and liturgy involve our whole bodies, which is why our new approach to form time prayer engages all four of the senses. Each day in our form time prayer, we engage in different methods of prayer that encourage us to see, hear, think, and do, as we reflect on the word of the week and the liturgical season that we are in.

This term, a different form group has planned the following week's prayer resources for the rest of the school. During this time, our young people have shown a deep commitment to their faith and a great deal of creativity! Some highlights have included 12T's Holy Spirit paper "aeroflames" that were launched in the plaza, 9T's awe and wonder walk on the school field, 8P's award-winning drama performance in their word of the week video, 8B's Holy Spirit Bunting, 10R's gratitude list and gratitude acronym competition, and 7N's thought provoking links to scripture and encouragement to display fortitude in our everyday lives!

As a school, we take great pride and joy that our day always begins with communal and personal prayer. We bring forward our hopes, dreams, needs, and appreciation for the day and offer them to the Lord. We are excited to see more of the ways in which our young people will celebrate and share their faith in the new academic year!

Day 1



See

Day 2



Hear

Day 3




Think

Day 4




Do



Evangelise - 6th Form

To evangelise is to share the Gospel with others. In the Church, we are called to evangelise by being faithful disciples of Jesus and putting that...


[Read More](#)



Evangelise - Y7 - 10

To evangelise is to share the Gospel with others. In the Church, we are called to evangelise by being faithful disciples of Jesus and putting that...

[Read More](#)



Missionary Discipleship - Y7 - 10

Missionary Discipleship means not only to be a follower of Jesus and to try to live like him, but to be a witness to Jesus and to share Jesus's...

[Read More](#)

“Sealed with the Holy Spirit”: Confirmation Retreat Day and Confirmation Mass

At the end of April, Ruth, Joe and Beth (OLOL Chaplains) celebrated a wonderful retreat day with the Confirmation candidates, catechists, and Fr. John Martin from the Annunciation Parish at St. Margaret Clitherow Church in Keyworth. It was a truly joyful and jam-packed day!

On our retreat day, we reflected on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit through team challenges and reflections. We learned about some of the holy men and women in the Church, which inspired some of the candidates to choose their Confirmation names! We then had time for personal reflection and the opportunity to share our thoughts on a paired Emmaus Walk before lunch.

After a generous feast of Papa John's Pizza, nibbles, and drinks, we embarked on a journey of prayer stations around the church, which helped us experience prayer in a number of creative and unique ways. We finished our day with a sing-along led by catechist Peter Vickers, and then the young people had the opportunity to plan the music, prayers, and parts of the Mass for their Confirmation Celebration.

On the weekend of Pentecost, we witnessed a wonderful and inspiring group of young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Patrick, Fr. Simon Gillespie, and Fr. John Martin at Holy Spirit Church. It was a truly joyful celebration, with faith-filled music, prayers, and worship. The Holy Spirit was very much burning in all of our souls!

We want to extend a huge congratulations to all the young people and adults who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. May the Holy Spirit continue to walk with you and guide you each day!



Vocations Week

At the end of April, we celebrated our annual Vocations Week following Good Shepherd Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations in the Catholic Church. Every year, Pope Francis gives us a message for Vocations Sunday, and this year he reminded us that we are: "Called to sow seeds of hope and to build peace."

Some of our wonderful Chaplaincy Team led the whole school in our daily Celebrations of the Word, where our Vocations Scavenger Hunt was launched as part of our weekly mission. Inspired by the scripture (Luke 10:1-23) and Pope Francis' message, we were challenged to go out, hunt for the seeds of hope, sow the harvest, and pray for all laborers to hear God's calling.

On the Friday of our Vocations Week, Year 8 celebrated their Vocations-themed Retreat Day. We reflected on our call to holiness and the lives of Saints and Martyrs, wrote our own songs and poems of praise inspired by The Magnificat and Mary's example, planted seeds of hope and decorated plant pots, and engaged in a Question and Answer panel with a variety of insightful and inspiring visitors to the school. Our visitors represented a range of vocations, including the priesthood, brothers and sisters living religious life, charity work and volunteering, teaching, married life, parenthood, school governance, prison chaplaincy, nursing, and the police. Thank you to all of our visitors for their encouraging and insightful words!



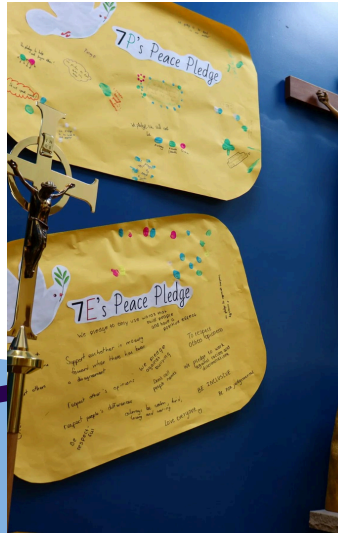
Year 9 Easter House Boards

It was Year 9's turn to "Easter-fy" our chapel house boards and bring some Easter joy to our sacred space. The participating forms did a wonderful job, but one house board, in particular, exceeded all expectations and was a true masterpiece! A special shout-out to Sophia in 9B for her incredible artwork depicting Mary Magdalene visiting the empty tomb. It's time to finally reveal the results...



Year 7 Easter Retreat Day

In the joyous season of Eastertide, we celebrated our Year 7 Eastertide-themed retreat. Our day was filled with Alleluias, a celebration of Mass with Fr. Wilfred, and Stations of the Resurrection workshops. The chapel was beautifully decorated for our Mass to reflect the joy and new life that the Resurrection brings. 7N shared handcrafted clay scriptural interpretations, we went on an Emmaus walk, hunted for eggs in our Easter scavenger hunt, made Easter cards to share the Easter joy, made peace pledges in our form groups, and "broke bread" (biscuits!) and drank squash in our Easter Cafe as we reflected on the scripture and Jesus' presence in our lives. Thank you to Year 7, our staff, and Fr. Wilfred for bringing so much Easter joy to this day!



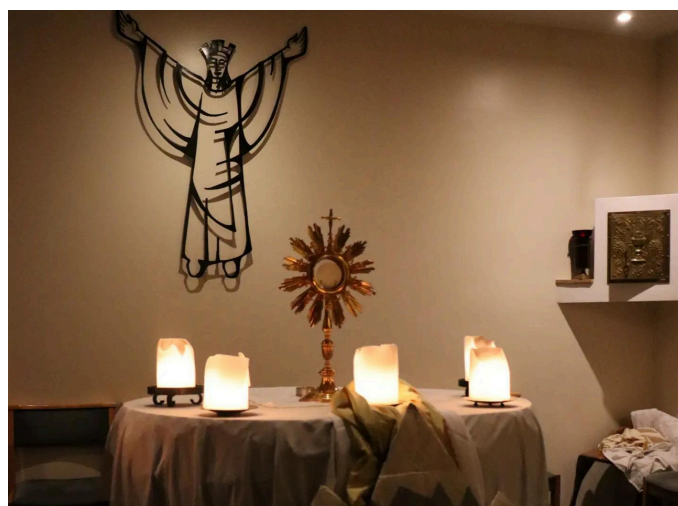
The Stations of the Cross and Lent Reconciliation Morning

A particularly powerful and memorable experience of prayer during the Season of Lent was praying the Stations of the Cross as a whole school via livestream. The Stations of the Cross is a centuries-old form of prayer traditionally used in Lent. Members of the Year 9 and Sixth Form Chaplaincy Team beautifully led the entire school community through the fourteen stations, each depicting a moment of Jesus' journey to His crucifixion and death. It was an incredibly calm, reflective, and prayerful experience for both students and staff. – Dylan Jordan

In the season of Lent we were also fortunate to receive a visit from the wonderful Fr. John Martin, who offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our students. We were thrilled that so many students signed up and that we now have a waiting list ready for the next time our clergy can offer the Sacrament in school! Our Reconciliation morning was a great opportunity for our students to receive spiritual healing and have a fresh start. All of our students left the chapel feeling positive and with a spring in their step. Fr. John expressed that he was blown away by the students' desire to be holy and deepen their relationship with Jesus. Thank you to Fr. John and to all the young people who participated.

Year 10 Briars Retreat

In March we took a wonderful group of year 10s to the Briars and we participated in the programme called "To the Highest" – based on Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and his motto. Students fully emersed themselves into the activities, challenges and reflections sent their way. Our retreat involved an escape room, personal prayer and reflection, team games and challenges (including the much loved "jockey"), a beautiful walk in the countryside...



Year 10 Briars Retreat...

We shared each small group's Mass parts in our Celebration of Mass with Fr Paul Newman (one of these being an incredible musical psalm!), we danced away in a Briars Disco, emerged with Karaoke and we finished our retreat in prayer sharing affirmations with one another. Thank you year 10 for all of the joy, laughter and enthusiasm you shared with students, staff and the Briars Team!

In the 2024- 2025 academic year we will be running a 6th Form Retreat, Year 9 Retreat and Year 10 Retreat to the Briars so keep an eye out for more information to come!

Maundy Thursday Celebration of the Word

On Maundy Thursday, each year group had the opportunity to witness an amazing re-enactment of the Last Supper and the Passion of Christ, led by a very talented group of Chaplaincy Team members, drama students, and musicians. The solemn and poignant atmosphere set the stage for a meaningful reflection as we continued our journey through Holy Week and prepared for the events of Good Friday.

The Celebration of the Word combined scriptural readings, live music, and hymn singing with a captivating drama performance. We also participated in Eucharistic Adoration, where we silently adored Jesus in the monstrance. Being face to face with Jesus was the high point of our worship, reminding us of Jesus' words in the Garden of Gethsemane to His disciples: to keep watch and pray with Him. Overall, the work of our school choir and musicians, the drama team, the Chaplaincy Team, Mr. Lund, Ruth, and Joe, made this gathering a great success. It was a fitting way to part and prepare for our half-term break and the season of Eastertide.

— Sesen Daniels

