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 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.

An outstanding start to the year!

In the week before October half term, The Becket School was visited for its Catholic Schools Inspection (CSI). The Catholic Schools Inspection is an opportunity to evaluate and celebrate the quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership of the **(1) Catholic Life and Mission, (2) Religious Education, and (3) Collective Worship** of the school.
We are delighted and incredibly proud to share that The Becket School is recognised as **Outstanding** in all 76 graded descriptors within these three key areas. This achievement reflects the incredible dedication of our students, staff, and governors to upholding and living our Catholic values each day.

The report praised the vibrant and inclusive Catholic Life at The Becket School, with students actively engaging in charitable works and embodying the values of Catholic Social Teaching. Inspectors noted our students' impressive ability to articulate how their faith impacts their lives, describing them as striving to live out their beliefs authentically and with compassion.
Our Religious Education department received high praise for outstanding teaching and exceptional academic outcomes, thanks to the commitment and skill of our teaching staff, who ensure that students not only excel academically but also grow spiritually.
Collective Worship was celebrated as a cornerstone of life at The Becket, with prayer and liturgy deeply woven into the daily rhythms of our community and at the heart of the school community. The Chapel and Chaplaincy Team play a vital role in fostering a reflective, faith-filled environment that enriches everyone.

You can find the full report on our school website, and we hope you will join us in celebrating this fantastic accomplishment. We thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Life of The Becket School and for walking with us in our mission to live life to the fullest through following Jesus' example!
As always, we look forward to continuing our fantastic work in the New Year, particularly as we begin a very special Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church "Pilgrims of Hope"! We wish you and your families a peaceful, holy, and outstanding Christmas break!



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

A message from Mr Greig:
"It is an amazing achievement for our school to be graded outstanding in our recent Catholic schools inspection.
The Becket is one of the first secondaries to achieve this grading and I am proud of all the work and effort that our wonderful staff and amazing students have put in.
This is a reflection of what happens in our school on a daily basis and how we aim to support not just our students' academic journey but also their relationship with God so they truly reflect The Becket Way.
The inspectors found that The Becket was a school that fully lives the example of John 10:10 – " I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness."
Well done everyone!"











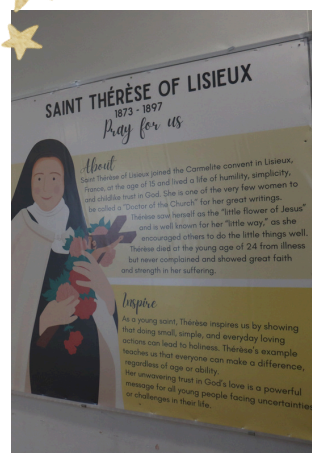


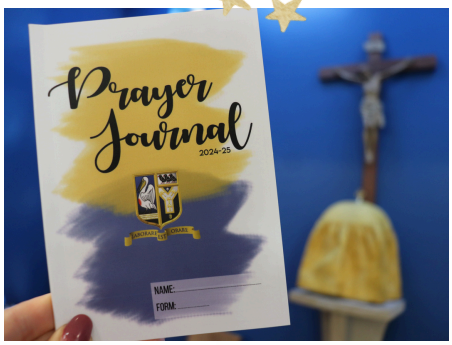


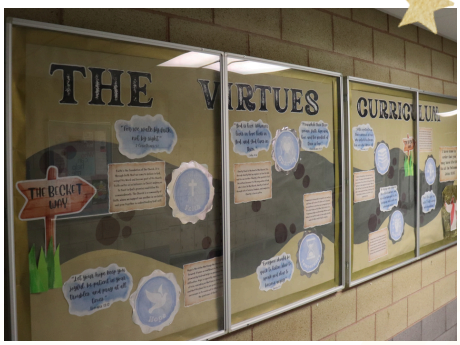














Our journey through Advent...

Building God's Kingdom: Our Advent Appeal for Emmanuel House

At the end of November, just before we began a new Liturgical Year with Advent, we celebrated "Kingdom Week," which marked the launch of our Advent Appeal 2024. During our House Celebrations of the Word, we were challenged to help build God's Kingdom in our local community by bringing in non-perishable goods to support Emmanuel House. Emmanuel House is an independent charity in Nottingham that provides support to people who are homeless, rough sleeping, in crisis, or at risk of homelessness.

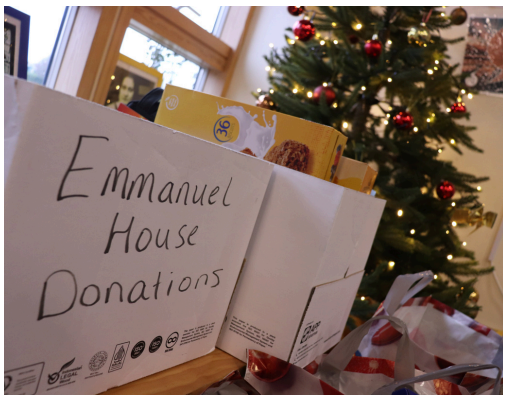
As always, there was some healthy competition between our form groups to see who could collect the most donations! In the final week before the Christmas holidays, form groups eagerly brought down their final boxes and bags of donations to be counted and loaded onto the minibus.

For the third year in a row (!), the amazing 9B and Mrs Ryder won the house competition by donating an incredible 160 items - what a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations, 9B—we hope you enjoy your Christmas treat!

A massive THANK YOU to our young people, families, and staff for their generosity and enthusiasm in supporting this year's Advent Appeal! A special thank you goes to Mr. Kemple for driving the minibus to Emmanuel House, and to our Year 13s who helped load and unload hundreds of donations—with a smile on their faces!







Advent Reconciliation Morning

On the morning of Friday, 13th December, during the second week of Advent—Peace Week—we held our Advent Reconciliation Morning in the chapel.

Due to overwhelming interest, Fr. Jonathan Cotton kindly joined us after hearing about the wave of students eager to participate. We were truly blessed to have both Fr. John Martin and Fr. Jonathan offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation to our students.



Advent is such a meaningful and special time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, offering a chance to embrace the peace and healing that comes from God's mercy while preparing our hearts for the celebration of Christmas.
Our students left feeling refreshed and returned to lessons with a spring in their step after taking time out of their day for peace and prayer. A huge thank you to Fr. John and Fr. Jonathan for their generosity in visiting and offering this sacrament to our school community.

Celebrating the Season of Hope: Advent at The Becket School

"On Thursday, the 12th of December, various members of the Becket School chaplaincy team, alongside members of the wider school community and the local parish, came together for the Advent Liturgy Evening to celebrate the Advent season and commemorate the special night on which Jesus was born.
Beginning at 6 PM, the evening was filled with joy and jubilation: carols and hymns were beautifully performed by members of the Year 10 worship band, and original music composed by Ashley (11R) and David (10B) during the recent chaplaincy retreat day was also featured. Additionally, several stations in the hall and chapel, led by members of the chaplaincy team, invited the congregation to reflect on the role of various characters in the Nativity and how they inspire us to embrace the true meaning of Advent this Christmas. During each station, participants were encouraged to write their reflections on a bauble, which would later be hung on their own Christmas tree once completed.
By 7 PM, the liturgy concluded, but the festivities continued. Members of the Sixth Form sold various Christmas treats to raise funds for their Lourdes pilgrimage next year, including mince pies, Christmas cupcakes, and cookies, enjoyed alongside coffee and tea.
Homemade Christmas cards and baubles, created by the chaplaincy team.
Overall, the evening was a heart warming celebration of faith, community, and the true spirit of the Advent season."
Written by Naomi, 11R

Thank you so much to everyone who attended, led, and supported our Advent Celebration Evening—it was a truly beautiful celebration, filled with hope, peace, joy and love.





Celebrating our Advent Community Evening

"On the 12th of December at 6 pm, we hosted our Advent Celebration Evening and welcomed parents, family, friends, parishioners, and governors into the school. The Chaplaincy Team and worship band led a beautiful evening of prayer, reflection, and music.

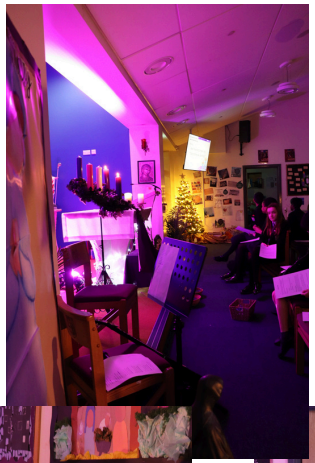
There were five prayer stations around the hall and chapel, and at each prayer station, students led reflections on a key figure of the Nativity story: Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel, the Innkeeper, and the Shepherds. Our visitors divided into groups and journeyed around the different prayer stations throughout the evening. On their journey, they carried a bauble decoration featuring images of the five key figures, and at each station, they answered a reflective question about that figure to help them to think about their role in the Nativity story.

For example, I helped lead the Mary station, where we asked our group to reflect on how they could say "yes" to serving God, just like Mary bravely did. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for people to step away from their busy lives and reflect on the true meaning of Advent.

After everyone had visited all the prayer stations, we gathered together in the chapel. Here, we shared prayers of intercession, listened to live music provided by the worship band and Chaplaincy Team, and were given a mission before we left. The worship band led us in some beautiful carols, including King of Kings, Joy to the World, and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. Ashley in Year 11 and David in Year 10 also performed an original song they had written during the Chaplaincy Team retreat day, it is called The Chosen Child. Everyone was so impressed by their talent and creativity.

When our time of worship came to a close, it was time to relax and enjoy more music alongside some delicious treats and drinks, which were sold by the Chaplaincy Team and members of the Lourdes fundraising group. All donations will go toward supporting young helpers who will assist in the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in July."

Written by Zofia, 9B







Becket Sixth Formers are set to embark on the Lourdes Pilgrimage, July 2025!

We are delighted that students in Year 12 and Year 13 at The Becket School are being offered the opportunity to take part in the annual Nottingham Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2025 and this Advent term has marked the start of our Lourdes fundraising journey!

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes brings together hundreds of people from across our diocese to journey to the shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes, located in the South of France. For our young people, the pilgrimage is an incredible opportunity to serve the less able members of our diocese, meet new people, share and practise their faith, and learn more about the town of Lourdes and our Trust patron, Our Lady of Lourdes.

The pilgrimage will take place from Saturday 12th July to Saturday 19th July. **If you are in The Becket Sixth Form, there is still time to sign up! Please see the Arbor Trip account called "6th Form Lourdes Pilgrimage - July 2025"** to access the initial letter, view the payment plan and pay the first deposit to reserve your place.

Many of our young helpers will rely on donations to help them attend the pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you are able to support our Sixth Form students in serving the elderly and less able members of our diocese, we would be incredibly grateful for any donations you can give. These members of our community would not be able to go on pilgrimage without the help and service of our young volunteers. There is a voluntary donations account in the school shop on Arbor called: "Voluntary Donations - Lourdes July 2025" - Thank you!

If you are interested in attending Lourdes with the Nottingham Diocese, please enquire via the Diocese of Nottingham website!





Year 9's Advent-ure of a Retreat Day!

"On Friday, 6th December, Year 9 excitedly gathered for their Advent-themed retreat day. Our day started with scripture, where we looked at each key figure in the Nativity story and how they inspire us. Each form group was assigned a key figure, and we had to create a team name that reflected this person.
We then completed various games and challenges that helped us reflect on the importance of these figures...



For example, when reflecting on Saint Joseph, we thought about how Joseph was a carpenter and a big supporter of Mary and Jesus. We were then challenged to be carpenters ourselves and build the strongest and tallest tower, linking it to Saint Joseph. When we reflected on the Magi, who were astrologers, we were challenged to search for stars around the room in our house colours and answer quiz questions in our teams. After our challenges and reflections, we headed to classrooms to do a series of workshops based on the four themes of Advent: hope, peace, joy and love.

In the Hope workshop, we took part in a series of puzzles and challenges that required us to keep hope and search the scripture for messages of hope. In the Love workshop, we learned about the works of mercy and how it is important to pray for and visit the imprisoned. We learned that being imprisoned doesn't just mean people who are in prison —there are people who are lonely or isolated who might also feel imprisoned. In this workshop, we then made and wrote Christmas cards for members of our wider community who might be feeling imprisoned, such as those who are homeless, the elderly, and those in prison. In the Joy workshop, we learnt that when it was illegal to be Catholic, people used the 12 Days of Christmas song to share and teach others about their faith. We learned about the religious meaning of each line in the Christmas carol and then performed the song in our forms with props!

We finished our day with a Peace workshop, where we prepared for our final Celebration of the Word by writing prayers and affirmations for one another to share peace. During the Liturgy, we received these kind words we had written about each other and shared peace. It was a really nice way to finish the day together and get ready to enter the Week of Peace in Advent."

Written by Alice, 9B







Year 9 transforms the Chapel for Advent

It was Year 9's turn to transform our house boards and "Advent-ify" the chapel—and they truly rose to the challenge! The creative teams in each tutor group worked tirelessly to bring their ideas to life during Year 9's Advent-themed retreat day.

The boards were judged at our Advent Celebration Community Evening by special guest visitors, who faced the very tricky task of choosing the winners. Each board was praised for its creativity, attention to detail, and thoughtful reflection on the Advent season.

After much discussion and deliberation, the judges made their final decisions...

Year 9 Advent House Boards - the results!...

1st Place - Patrick



2nd Place - Nicholas



Joint 3rd Place - Teresa



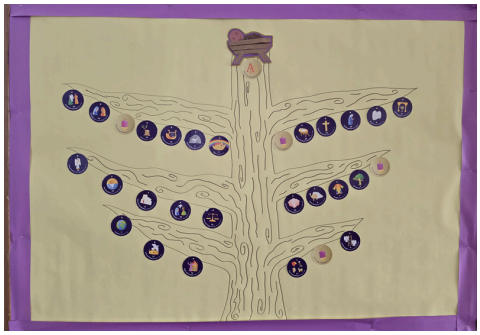
Joint 3rd Place - Bernadette



4th Place - Robert



5th Place - Edmund



Thank you to all of our Year 9 students for their hard work and incredible effort in making the chapel such a beautiful and reflective space for this holy season!





Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this Advent season so special—from leading our worship, to supporting our charitable efforts with such generosity and enthusiasm. Together, we have prepared our hearts and our community to welcome the joy and hope Christmas.





An Extra-Ordinary Term!

Before beginning a new Liturgical Year, we observed the season of Ordinary Time—a period of hope and growth within the Church. Throughout this term, our school community participated in a variety of extraordinary celebrations, events, and fundraising activities. Here are some of the highlights!

Rolling with the Saints House Competition!

"In November, the month of Remembrance, we have been building a saint out of crafts as part of our school's chaplaincy team House Competition called 'Rolling with the Saints'! We were tasked with choosing one of the saints, researching them, and then crafting their likeness. Each form group was given an empty toilet roll to serve as the base for our saint creations. Whilst it was important to be as creative as possible, it was also essential to research our chosen saint to expand our knowledge. We didn't have to choose our form patron or someone we were already familiar with—we could pick any saint! We had to find out key details and special symbols that made them unique and inspiring. Once we had chosen our saints, we planned and prepared how they would look.

In our final week of November, all of the creations were brought to the chapel for our All Saints catwalk! The creations looked amazing, and many forms went above and beyond the specifications. All of this was done to help us celebrate and reflect on the saints during the month of Remembrance. November begins with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and throughout the whole month, Catholics continue to pray for those who have died, including those in heaven and those in purgatory. By praying for and celebrating the saints, we remember their holy lives and aspire to follow in their footsteps."
Written by Katie, 8R

The greatly anticipated winners of our Rolling with the Saints Competition will be revealed on our last day in our end of year Celebration of the Word, but for now, here are some highlights of our creations!...



"Kingdom" week Highlights - A week of House Celebrations!

In the final week of November, we celebrated "Kingdom Week." There were many events and opportunities to reflect on how we can help build God's kingdom in the communities we are a part of—one of these being our house community! Kingdom Week was filled with House Celebrations of the Word, opportunities to dress up and decorate each house with its colours, and a series of challenges and competitions where Heads of House, House Captains, and form tutors went head-to-head to win house points!

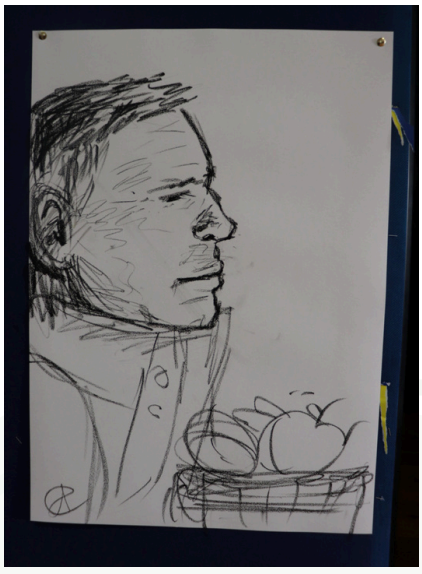




Every lunchtime, a competition took place in the hall to celebrate our house communities and encourage some friendly rivalry. Monday kicked off with the Becket Olympics, where house representatives competed in an egg-and-spoon race, a paper aeroplane-making and launching contest, and a balloon keepy-uppy challenge. Great sportsmanship was shown, setting the tone for the rest of the week! On Tuesday, Pictionary challenges brought Year 12 House Captains into the mix, and things quickly became competitive. On Wednesday, the atmosphere shifted as the hall transformed into an art gallery. The subject? Mr Greig. Competitors put pastels to paper to create their best portraits of him. Mr Greig, along with judges Ms King and Ms Dunstall, were highly impressed by the creations. However, it was Nicholas House Captain, Annabel, who stole the judges' hearts and took gold with her incredible portrait! Thursday's event was a pub quiz, and the competitive energy reached new heights—particularly during the music round when House Captains Harry and George, along with Heads of House Mr Myers and Mr Belshaw, raced to grab the microphone and finish the lyrics.





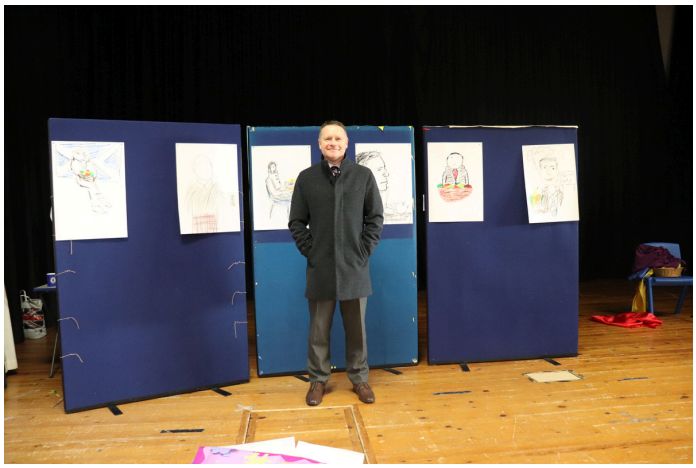


As the week progressed, the crowds grew larger, and house decorations became more vibrant. By Friday, the hall was awash with house colours, and students were allowed to wear house coloured accessories to show their support.

The grand finale was the talent show, where each house had three minutes to impress our fabulous judges, Mr Gill and Mrs Harlow. The talent on display and house community spirit was incredible! Congratulations to Mr Mach, the talent show champion, for his impressive "math-magician" skills!

There was a fantastic mix of points won throughout the week across all the houses. We eagerly anticipate announcing the Advent term house winners during our final Celebration of the Word on Friday, 20th December.

A huge thank you to all the staff and House Captains who participated throughout the week. Not only did you get involved, show team spirit, and earn house points, but you also brought so much joy and laughter to everyone's week!













Teresa House Mass

On the 1st of October, the memorial of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Teresa House gathered in the chapel to celebrate their House Mass. A big thank you to Fr. Vincent, who celebrated the Mass, and to each form group in Teresa House for their beautiful contributions and strong participation.

A special shout-out goes to 9T, who decorated the chapel with an array of stunning flower decorations inspired by the words of St. Thérèse:
"When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens. I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth."

The lovely 7T wrote a heartfelt poem and created bookmarks for each member of the house to take home, reminding us that we are all little flowers of Jesus and that each of us has something special and unique to bring to our community.

It was a truly joyful celebration that united everyone in prayer and reflection, strengthening the bond of the house community and reminding us of the inspiring example of St. Thérèse: a life of simplicity, love, and faith.











Saint Francis of Assisi Hub Mass

On a glorious, sunny Friday morning, the St. Francis of Assisi Hub gathered at Our Lady and St. Patrick's Church in the Meadows for our annual Hub Mass on the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi (4th October). It was a beautiful celebration, led by Fr. Pitak and representatives from each school in our Hub: St. Patrick's Primary School, Wilford; St. Edmund Campion, West Bridgford; Our Lady and St. Edward's, St. Ann's; Blessed Robert Widmerpool, Clifton; and The Becket School.

The Mass was uplifting and joyful, celebrating the many ways our schools have been sharing hope and living out Catholic Social Teaching. We left the celebration feeling inspired and empowered for the academic year ahead, strengthened by St. Francis' legacy of peace, humility, and love for creation.

While some representatives from The Becket School attended the Hub Mass, the rest of the school participated in a special initiative in honour of St. Francis' love for creation. The Eco and Sustainability Mission Team distributed a thoughtful gift to every form group on this special feast day: their very own peace plant. Each form group was challenged to name their plant and sign a pledge to care for it together.

The peace plants were part of an initiative designed by our Eco and Sustainability Mission Team to encourage students to reflect on St. Francis' call to stewardship and care for creation. Naming and nurturing the plants became a highlight for many forms, fostering a sense of teamwork and responsibility. It was heart warming to see so many students and staff taking their peace plants home over the October holidays to look after them with care!









Black History Month and Solidarity Week

In the first week of October, we celebrated "Solidarity" week—marking the beginning of Black History Month and the Month of the Holy Rosary. This special week was led by our incredible Respect and Diversity Mission Team, who guided the whole school through meaningful Celebrations of the Word.

The Catholic social teaching of Solidarity calls us to recognise the dignity of every person, to support one another, and to work actively for justice and equality for all.
Our worship was inspired by the powerful example of the Good Samaritan in scripture. We reflected on the importance of standing up for those in need, especially those without a voice.
The Respect and Diversity team were particularly inspired by the life of Harriet Tubman and during our worship, they performed the song "Stand Up" from the film 'Harriet', inviting everyone to stand and sing in solidarity with those who face discrimination or oppression. This collective action was incredibly moving, leaving both students and staff motivated to make a difference in their own communities.

Solidarity Week also marked the launch of our Black History Month Creative Piece Competition, where we encouraged students to reclaim the stories of black saints and historical figures whose voices need to be heard and recognised. We were thrilled with the creative pieces submitted and would like to congratulate Serghel in 7T and Joyce in 9B for their outstanding contributions!









Celebrating the beauty of Diversity: The Annunciation Parish's International Mass

On Sunday, 6th October, The Becket School had the privilege of hosting The Annunciation Parish's International Mass. The celebration was a beautiful expression of diversity and rich cultural heritage. It was especially moving to hear prayers, music, and parts of the Mass led in various native languages by both clergy and parishioners. The moment when we all held hands during the Our Father prayer symbolised our unity and solidarity with one another and Christ at the centre. Following the Mass, we gathered in the dining hall to enjoy a vibrant feast, with delicious foods and treats generously brought in by parishioners from different cultures.
A message from Fr John...

"Wow, my friends! You must be so pleased with our International parish Mass at the Becket School. The number of parishioners and families who attended was wonderful, and those who couldn't make it were held close in my heart during the International Mass.
It was truly uplifting to see the richness and diversity of our parish community.
We are blessed with such a variety of cultures, languages, traditions, and nations represented at our Mass. To everyone who worked so hard to showcase their personal heritage and traditions, well done. It was lovely to hear God being glorified, worshipped and praised through different languages, songs, dances, and, finally, to share foods from around the world.
Most of all, it was heart warming to see members from across our four churches spending quality time together—young and old, families laughing and sharing stories about their homelands and what it means to be part of a loving parish community. As Pope Francis said, 'Parish Communities increasingly need to become places from which the baptised set out as missionary disciples and to which they return, full of joy, in order to share the wonders worked by the Lord, through their witness.' My friends, we are so blessed with the diversity of our parish—a place where all are welcome at the table of the Lord.

A Big thank you to everyone who joined and enriched us all in ways you may never know.
We who encountered your presence are still living off your grace.

With heartfelt thanks once again to all who worked so hard.
Peace, John"





Celebrating the month of the Holy Rosary

Year 7 Welcome Mass

October is a month rich in prayer and celebration, dedicated to honouring Mary and praying the rosary. On 7th October, the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, we gathered to celebrate our Year 7 Welcome Mass. Each form contributed a special part to the Mass, reflecting on Mary's example and the vibrant new Year 7 community we have created. We offer a huge thank you to Fr John Martin for celebrating Mass with us after his pilgrimage to Guadalupe in Mexico, and to Tom Baptist for leading the beautiful music. We truly appreciated the presence of the primary school staff, parents, and governors who joined us, making the day even more memorable for Year 7!





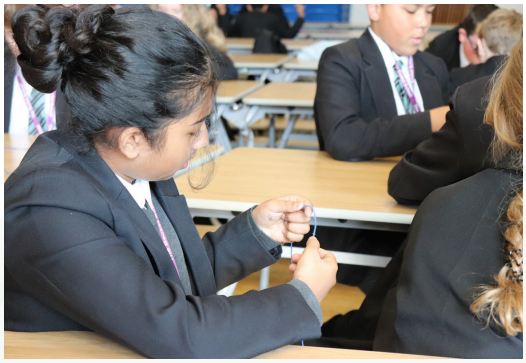




Year 8's "Rosary" Liturgical Workshop

To continue our celebrations during the month of the Rosary, Year 8 participated in their Rosary Liturgical Workshop, and we were joined by some wonderful members of the Sixth Form Chaplaincy and Religious Studies Team to help!
The session began with a quiz on the history and significance of the Rosary, where students showcased their excellent knowledge.
They then explored various scripture passages that form the mysteries of the Rosary...





Year 8's "Rosary" Liturgical Workshop

The workshop concluded with volunteers leading the rest of year 8 in a decade of the Rosary. As each Hail Mary was prayed, we reflected on special intentions, and, as we prayed, we created a symbolic decade of the Rosary using string, which students were able to take away with them as a reminder to pray the rosary. The atmosphere was peaceful and prayerful, and it was powerful to come together as a whole community to pray the rosary, especially as we prayed for peace in the world.





Giving from the Heart - a week of FUN'draising in 'The Eradication of Poverty' Week

In the final week before the October half-term, we marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty during "Poverty Week" with a series of fundraisers and Celebrations of the Word led by our Chaplaincy Team. Inspired by the scripture 'The Widow's Offering' in Mark's Gospel, we were encouraged to give from the heart, just as the widow exemplifies. Each lunchtime during Poverty Week, there was a different opportunity for us to do this as we raised money to support the wonderful work of CAFOD and Mary's Meals.

On Monday and Tuesday, we organised cake sales; on Wednesday and Thursday, our fabulous fundraiser photo booth welcomed large queues of buzzing students ready to be photographed with props; and on Friday, our weekly Fairtrade tuckshop returned. The week of fundraisers was incredibly successful, and we were overjoyed to raise £380!
A massive thank you to everyone who donated to our fundraisers and thank you to those who brought in treats for the cake sale, and a special shout-out goes to Naomi in Year 11 and Debbie in Year 8, who did a fantastic job managing the photo booth fundraiser with Ruth and Mrs Conlon!











Year 11 Retreat Day: Faith and Well-being

Before the start of their mock exams, Year 11 took part in a reflective retreat day focused on faith and well-being. The day began with a Mass celebrated by Fr John Martin, where the students reflected on the scripture Matthew 11:28-30 as a reminder of God's gentle guidance and support, especially in times of stress and anxiety...

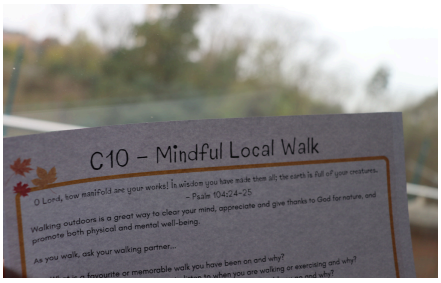
"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

During the homily, Fr John led year 11 in a beautiful meditation and a time of silence, offering Year 11 the opportunity to pause and reflect in the midst of their busy lives. The Mass was enhanced by beautiful music which was led by Year 11 students and Tom Baptist, and it concluded with a year 11 favourite - "Go Out in the World," leaving everyone feeling uplifted.

After Mass, Year 11 participated in a personality quiz and took part in team challenges designed to encourage collaboration and self-discovery. Following this, the students divided into smaller groups to enjoy a variety of well-being workshops they had chosen earlier in the week. Activities included crafts and sewing, colouring, a mindful walk, football, watching a film, reading, and board games — all providing a relaxing break and an opportunity to unwind before the exams ahead.

The retreat day ended with a Celebration of the Word in the chapel, where each student received an affirmation card filled with kind and encouraging words from their peers. It was a heart warming moment, as students left the day feeling rejuvenated and supported, ready to approach their upcoming challenges with renewed strength and peace.







A time for everything - Year 12 Retreat Day

On Friday 11th October, just before the October half-term, Year 12 took part in their retreat day, inspired by the scripture from Ecclesiastes 3, "A Time for Everything." This passage reminds everyone that there is a time for every matter under heaven, highlighting the importance of balance in life — time for work, time for rest, time for laughter, and time for reflection.

The day began with three workshops:
Tom Baptist led team-building games to help the students bond and collaborate;
Mr. Kemple guided a calming meditation session, offering space for personal reflection;
and Miss Johns hosted a well-being workshop, encouraging the students to focus on self-care and mental health.



Each session reinforced the importance of taking time for oneself and for building relationships. The morning concluded with a Celebration of the Word in the chapel before Year 12 ventured into town to either play mini golf or head to the cinema — the perfect opportunity to switch off and recharge with friends.
The retreat provided Year 12 with a valuable opportunity to reflect on the scripture's message, encouraging them to find time for both growth and rest, and to cherish the balance between work, community, and personal well-being.

Nicholas House Mass Celebration

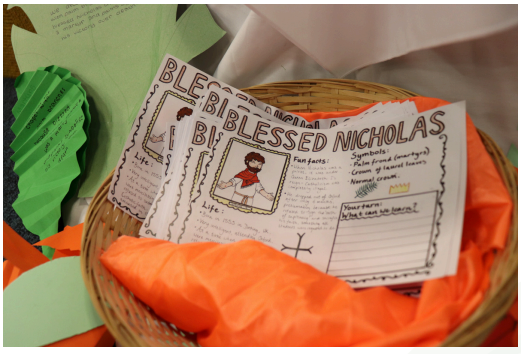
On the 15th of November, the wonderful Nicholas House gathered in our beautifully decorated chapel for a special Mass with Fr John Martin. Each form group planned and led a part of the celebration. The incredibly creative 8N did a brilliant job decorating the chapel with all things orange, reflecting the theme of Blessed Nicholas and his martyrdom. While we greatly missed 11N, who were busy with their mock exams, we kept them and the rest of Year 11 in our prayers during the Mass. It was heart warming to have the house community back together once again!

Despite finding out that they were at the bottom of the house standings that week, Nicholas House showed remarkable spirit and resilience and their enthusiasm and sense of community remained strong throughout House Competitions week!
A huge shout-out to Nicholas House Captains, Annabel and Harry (in 12N), for their outstanding support of their house during both House Mass week and House Competitions week! Another special mention goes to Ollie in 13N, who did an excellent job of motivating the house and helping everyone to celebrate the upcoming opportunities they have in Nicholas' House Celebration of the Word! Nicholas House certainly had a fun-filled House Competitions week and bounced back in high spirits with great enthusiasm!











Youth Week at The Becket School

Red Wednesday

During Youth Week, The Becket School marked Red Wednesday in support of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Students and staff dressed in red to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians worldwide and prayed for the millions of people who face violence, discrimination, and even death for their faith. Our ACN cake sale, featuring an array of delicious red-themed cakes and treats, raised an impressive £180 to support this vital cause. A massive thank you to everyone who wore red, baked, and donated to make this day a success!







Bishop Patrick's Pastoral Visit

Thursday brought great excitement as we welcomed Bishop Patrick and Father Simon to The Becket School for Bishop Patrick's pastoral visit. We were delighted to showcase the many wonderful initiatives taking place within our community, especially the work of our Chaplaincy Mission Teams, who continue to inspire and empower others to put their faith into action and live out our mission.

Students from Years 7 to 13 were profoundly moved during a Q&A session with Bishop Patrick, which offered a chance to reflect on and celebrate our shared faith journey. The visit coincided with the joyful memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Together, we concluded the day with a beautiful Celebration of the Word, led by our Chaplaincy Team.
The worship encouraged us to reflect on Mary as the perfect disciple, challenging us to follow her example of openness and courage in saying "Yes" to God's call to serve.







A highlight of the celebration was the commissioning of our Chaplaincy Team by Bishop Patrick. Each team member received their Chaplaincy Team badge, blessed by the Bishop, as a symbol of their dedication. The team left the celebration feeling deeply proud and inspired in their roles as faith leaders within our community.

Chaplaincy Team Training and Retreat Day

On Friday's World Youth Funday, our vibrant Chaplaincy Team—made up of over 120 students—stepped away from their usual routines for a day of fun, reflection, and mission. The day was led by Chaplains Ruth and Mrs. Conlon, with fantastic support from our Sixth Form Chaplaincy Team and helpers.
We began by warming up both physically and spiritually with a lively session of prayer-robics, followed by the interactive and informative Big Fat Quiz of the Liturgical Year. Our focus then shifted to the upcoming Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope." Together, we reflected on the meaning behind its logo and thought about what brings us hope, preparing us for what promises to be an inspiring year. Next, the Chaplaincy team split into mission groups to generate creative and innovative ideas for celebrating the Jubilee Year in our school community and we were incredibly inspired and excited by the ideas shared by each mission team in their presentations. In the afternoon, we focused on preparations for the Advent season, and students worked hard crafting and creating resources to help bring the spirit of Advent to life in our community. In the afternoon, we focused on preparations for the Advent season, and students worked hard crafting and creating resources to help bring the spirit of Advent to life in our community.









Youth Mass at Holy Spirit Church





Our Youth Week concluded with a beautiful Youth Mass at Holy Spirit Church in the Parish of the Annunciation, celebrated by Fr. John Martin on the Solemnity of Christ the King.
The church was filled with young people and families, and students from The Becket School and Saint Edmund Campion school did a wonderful job at leading parts of the Mass beautifully.
The celebration was brought to life with incredible worship music, led by the talented Mr. and Mrs. Ryder from The Becket School, raising both spirits and the roof!
After Mass, we enjoyed fellowship over Papa John's pizza and refreshments, leaving us inspired, empowered, and energised to continue building God's Kingdom.

The jubilee year!

On our Chaplaincy Team training and retreat day, we learned about the Jubilee Year. In January, the Catholic Church will be celebrating a special Jubilee Year, and Pope Francis has given it the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." This upcoming Jubilee will be a year of hope to encourage those who have been affected by the world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the coronavirus in 2019, and climate change that impacts people's lives. A Jubilee Year is celebrated every 25 years in the Church, so it is really special and the first of our lifetime!
On our retreat day, we split into our mission teams and started planning for the Jubilee Year. We then presented our ideas to one another in the chapel, and there were some really great ideas! Some of the ideas included making a school podcast or short videos with messages of hope, creating another school music video (Jubilee-themed with a hope song!), having a non-uniform day in Jubilee colours and donating to charity, and hosting a sleepover fundraiser in school to share hope and raise money for the homeless. This Jubilee is about coming back to God with a joyful heart, growing in faith, and spreading kindness! If you have any suggestions of your own or want to get involved with the Jubilee Year planning and projects, please speak to the Chaplains and Chaplaincy team!
Written by Minnie, 7B

CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day

"On 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we celebrated CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day, a day where we were challenged to "eat simply so that others can simply eat." At The Becket, we held a simple yet impactful fundraiser: selling soup and bread rolls for Family Fast Day. A special thank you to the Justice and Peace team for helping organise this event. Thanks to everyone's support, we raised over £50 from the soup and bread roll sale—a fantastic amount for such a simple initiative. Most importantly, thank you to everyone who donated just £1 for a soup and bread roll. A pound might seem small, but it can make a big difference.

Here's what even spare change can do...

- 1p and 2p can help vaccinate children against life-threatening diseases
- 20p and 50p can help buy a treated mosquito net to protect children from malaria
- £1 can provide clean water for three families!

If you can, please consider donating on the CAFOD website. And if you're at school, you can contribute spare change or make generous gifts to those who need it most with our CAFOD small change boxes. Remember, YOU can save a life and make a difference. Thank you for your generosity!"

Written by Queenth, 9R

Year 7 Chapel inductions

"In September, the year 7's visited the chapel during one of our RE lessons for our chapel induction. During the session, we completed a chapel treasure hunt which helped us to learn more about the different areas, signs and symbols in the chapel and their meaning and significance. We also learnt some more about the Chaplaincy Team and how we could be a part of it, lots of us took Chaplaincy application forms with us to complete.

A few weeks later, after our visit to Walesby, the Year 7s who had chosen to join the Chaplaincy Team met in the chapel for an induction to the Chaplaincy Team. We had a Celebration of the Word, where we reflected on and celebrated the gifts and talents we have been given by God and then we learnt more about the six mission teams and what each of their jobs were. We all chose the mission team we would like to be a part of and got stuck in with upcoming projects. We really enjoyed these experiences and cannot wait to go back to the Chapel for more fun!"

Written by Georgina, 7E



