



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

3rd May 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

We are delighted today to welcome Fr Dominic to the school to celebrate Mass for the Feast of St John Payne; and also our final school celebration of the Eucharist for our Year 13 students. Students in Years 7 & 10 attended the Mass for St John Payne to represent the whole community. Martyring himself, St John Payne gave the ultimate witness to our faith.

Throughout this month of May we reflect upon this witness as students and staff join together daily to pray The Angelus, a prayer of devotion to Mary in commemoration of the Incarnation. Mary's joyous acceptance of the Lord's will is echoed by her son on the eve of his Passion. We pray that like Mary and Jesus, we too may embrace the Lord's plan for our lives. ***Be it done to me according to Thy Word; Thy will be done.***

During assemblies I invited students to reflect upon the application of the disciple Thomas' epithet. *Doubting* Thomas deserves more. We cannot know why, but he alone among the disciples braved the streets whilst his brothers sought sanctuary. Thomas' faith is deemed wanting; yet the other disciples report Jesus' presence only having seen him. They do not demonstrate the faith that Christ extols, ***Happy are those who believe and have not seen***; yet they escape Thomas' title. The Gospel does not suggest their faith eclipsed Thomas'. It is therefore understandable that Thomas should wish for sight and touch of Christ's wounds.

Dispelling doubt leads to knowledge and certainty, not to faith. Knowledge and certainty ask nothing of us: no leap into the unknown; no trust; no risk; no submission; no embracing of a will greater than our own: the very essence of faith. It is through doubt that faith flourishes. Notably, the Gospel does not record Thomas touching his saviour's wounds. The Lord's presence is enough.

The HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes as ever proved a life changing event for our students. We give thanks for the leadership of David Silver, a long term friend of the school, who over many years has afforded our students such powerful experiences, not least the opportunity to deepen their faith.

Following the recent visit of a group of students from Finland, we were pleased yesterday to welcome a visiting party of students from France. Their collaborations with our students enriched both party's experiences. We thank Mrs Vahonina and all involved for affording students the opportunity.

We look forward to next week's Year 10 parents' evening, which provides opportunities to strengthen our partnerships with parents and carers to support students towards their potential.

On Tuesday Fr Paul will celebrate Mass for our Year 11 students as they begin their final week prior to exams and study leave beginning on Monday 13th May. We hold all those preparing for exams in our prayers. As with Fr Dominic's visit today, we give thanks for the many blessings our priests and clergy bring to our community.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher.

Celebrations & Successes

We are pleased to share a photo of Praise's visit to the Houses of Parliament for winning second prize in the National School's Bible Competition. Well done, Praise!

SJP is a proud Teacher Training Partnership School to Billericay Education Consortium and West Essex Teacher Training School Alliance. Please contact us if you are interested in a career in teaching and/or work experience.

Please be familiar with Mr Coen's letter regarding efforts by the PTA to finance a new school mini-bus. You may have noted via twitter that our current mini-bus is at present home to two nesting pied wagtails and therefore cannot be used. <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/9721>

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places remaining for the London to Brighton Bike Ride on 15th September 2019. Riders are asked to pay a registration fee of £55 and make a commitment to raise £150 for 'bccs'. For more information, please visit our website www.bccs.org.uk/GetInvolved/Events or call Julie Abbott on 01268 784544/07912 277413



We thank Mrs Coleman & Mrs Adams for organising fantastic opportunities for students over the coming weeks.

Mrs Coleman has organised a creative writing project between Year 9 students and Year 5 students from a local primary school. Students have been paired to collaborate writing a story.

Mrs Adams has organised a wonderful opportunity from ConfiDance, a 12 week programme promoting confidence and wellbeing, with the opportunity to achieve a Level 1 accredited Bronze Arts Award.

Governors assure parents & carers that no MAT decision involving SJP will be taken without consultation with all parties.



...to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.





The Angelus

The Angelus is traditionally recited morning (6:00 a.m.), noon and evening (6:00 p.m.) throughout the year except during Paschal time, when the Regina Coeli is recited instead.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, etc.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.
Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.