



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

22nd March 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

This morning staff and students joined together to offer a gesture of solidarity to the community of Christchurch, New Zealand. We prayed St. Francis' prayer, as Bishop Alan promised Bishop Paul Martin sm, Bishop of Christchurch. In the aftermath of the atrocity, Bishop Martin had introduced the prayer to his nation in mourning saying,

'We are horrified at the violence inflicted on people of our city. Words cannot convey our distress. Our prayers are with those who are suffering. I invite you, wherever you are, alone or with family, workmates or friends, to pray together the prayer of St. Francis.'

Lord, make us all instruments of your peace; and let us all sow love.

Tuesday's Student Leadership evening was a wonderful affirmation of our students' many gifts and talents, bestowed upon them by God's grace. When we speak of leadership at St John Payne, it is ever with Christ in mind, who as servant leader made the ultimate sacrifice.

We contemplate this during Lent, culminating in Christ humbling himself before his disciples; admonishing Peter for recoiling at the notion that his master should stoop to wash his followers' feet. Christ inverted and upended the order of the world, reigning not from afar on a gilded throne, but from the streets and the markets, amid the dirt and the dust and the darkest margins of life. He embraced the lost and rejected, drawing them into the light of God's love.

On the eve of his Passion Christ confirmed his human form, imploring his Father as he prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, *'Take this cup away from me'*. In this moment more than any other we see Christ as us and us in Christ. He was as we are. And yet, with his next breath, Christ embraces his Father's will, humbling himself, submitting to God's plan. *Thy will be done.*

This is the essence of servant leadership. In a world of ever fiercer competition, where entertainment demands the weakest be voted out, rejected in public view until a winner triumphs; where self promotion and praise are prerequisites to progress; where the pressure to be fitter, faster, more attractive, more popular and more successful abounds, humility is counter cultural, all but lost. Yet as Christians, as Catholics, that is exactly what we are - counter cultural, other, our faith an alternative to the illusory promise of happiness that society promotes.

On Wednesday Year 13 students attended a Retreat in school led by Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Students engaged in the activities with great reflection and sensitivity. It marked their final experience of this nature before they leave us for the next stage in their lives. Such days figure fondly in students' memories whenever they return to the school.

Last night's consultation evening provided parents and carers of Year 12 students the chance to discuss their children's progress with teachers. We always welcome the opportunity to strengthen the partnerships upon which the school is founded.

In last Sunday's readings, the Lord tells Abram his descendants shall number the stars, promising him an abundant land - an echo of the land of plenty promised the previous week. St. Paul tells the Philippians to prepare for citizenship in heaven; to befriend the cross; in the Gospel of the Transfiguration, God says, *'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him.'*

In our busy world, we must pray to discern His voice; so that we like Christ may answer, *Thy will be done.*

Thomas Coen, Headteacher.

SJP has been awarded Essex Healthy School Foundation Status. We are also awarded Champion School status from the National Citizen Service (NCS). Our support of the scheme has seen more than 45 students develop skills of life-long value, such as leadership, team working, confidence, independent thinking and community responsibility.

If you have a child in Year 11 interested in the scheme please visit <https://www.ncsyes.co.uk>

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.

Information events are offered at:

Colchester Town Hall: 28.03.19 4.30-7.30

Bromfords School: 18.03.19 08.00-16.00; 10.04.19 (Easter break)

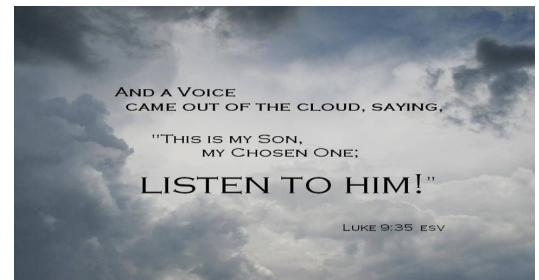
06.04.19 - Moving Into Catholic Education a Saturday networking event and free lunch in Brentwood for teachers working in any non-Catholic school.

<http://tiny.cc/catholicteaching>
(email agnusdei@stbons.org)

Little 2 Big Voices is an interactive vocal workshop, that coaches 11-18yrs to sing ensemble, solo or as a small group for all styles of music on Mondays from 5.00-6.30pm at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow. We sing in the community, raising money for charity. We have raised over £1700 in two years.

Cost £165 per term. Concessions available. The group is run by Singing Teacher Jane Parker. For more details see www.little2bigvoices.com 07952610223.

Please find attached a leaflet detailing BCCS counselling services.



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.





MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT
OF YOUR PEACE +
WHERE THERE IS HATRED-
LET ME SOW **LOVE**,
WHERE THERE IS INJURY - **PARDON**
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT - **FAITH**
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR - **HOPE**
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS - **LIGHT**
WHERE THERE IS SADNESS - **JOY**
DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY
NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED
AS TO CONSOLE, TO BE
UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND
TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE,
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE
PARDONED, IT IS IN DYING THAT
WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE +

+ **SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI** +