



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

28TH FEBRUARY 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Year 11 students who attended the ski trip to Italy during half term returned with many fond and lasting memories. We thank Mrs Watson, Mr Ashton-Tyler, Miss Hyman, Mr Keylock, Miss Cook and Mr Head for dedicating their week's break to affording the students what I am assured was as ever a fantastic week for all involved.

Year 8 Retreats to Abbotswick continued this week. The Walsingham House team have again been complimentary about students' reverence and grace. On Wednesday we received ashes as we marked the beginning of Lent, a season of penance, reflection and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Following the Ninevites' example of penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads were marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us of the passing nature of our life on Earth. We remember this when we are told, **"Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."** Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, helping us to develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

Last night'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, submits to God's plan. *Thy will be done.*

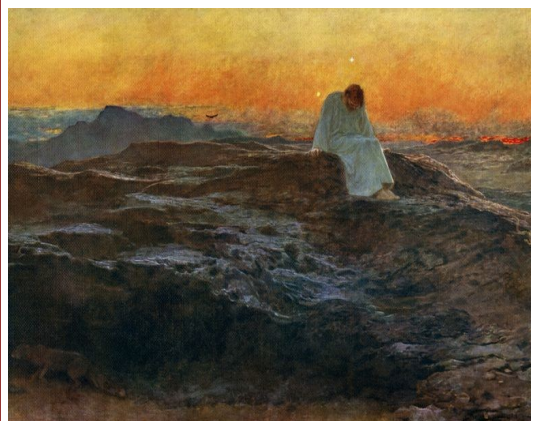
This is the essence of servant leadership. In a world of ever fiercer competition in which entertainment demands the weak be voted out, rejected in public view to reveal a triumphant winner; where self promotion and praise are prerequisites to progress; where the pressure to be fitter, faster, more attractive,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

Our prayers throughout Lent will be of thanks for Christ's service and sacrifice, and that we may be made worthy of the promise of life with him in the Father's kingdom.
Thomas Coen, Headteacher

We have secured 50 advertising boards for volunteers to have placed at their home for 6-8 weeks prior to our 60th anniversary celebrations on Saturday 20th June, giving £500 for the PTA! If you are willing to volunteer please register at https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kYSpV6EIKSWTUFwqH4Y8dnaavNlwyFB0GgH_yX0pcNUQk9MMVpY0Uw0SEc5N0IGNkU4RUJWUeS2NC4u

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.

SUNDAY 1ST GOSPEL YOU MUST NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society's Annual Charity Ball is at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge, Saturday 7th March from 7pm to midnight. £55 per person, including drinks reception and three course dinner with entertainment. Tables of 12 make it the perfect opportunity for a fantastic evening with friends, family or colleagues whilst raising vital funds for our work supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing.

Contact Julie 01268 784544/
07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS
FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 7.00 P.M.
ACTIVITIES SATURDAY 20TH
OFFERS OF SUPPORT TO
MISS COOK
rco2@sjp.essex.sch.uk

HOUSE POINTS	
AUGUSTINIANS	6734
BENEDICTINES	6602
CARMELITES	6788
DOMINICANS	6309
FRANCISCANS	7254
SERVITES	8198

The Full Governing Body has voted in favour of the motion that St. John Payne Catholic School will engage in discussion with the Diocese of Brentwood and members of the proposed Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) to influence the final structure and determine whether in the view of the Full Governing Body it is in the best interests of the school to join the MAT. Governors continue to assure parents and 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.

