



2018 **Spiritual Report** 2019



ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

A CATHOLIC ACADEMY FOR ARTS AND SCIENCE

Love one another as I have loved you

Spiritual Report

2018-2019

September

In September, we opened the school year with a staff Mass in the Chapel, celebrated by Fr Basil. Form Masses started with Year 8, which are organised by Mrs McCurdy with the help of the Liturgy Prefects. In preparation for Harvest Festival, Year 7 and Year 8 tutor groups began work on their Harvest Banners and every tutor group in the school begin to collect food for HARP, our local homeless charity.

October

Harvest Festival was well underway at the beginning of October, culminating in our Year 7 Harvest Mass and CAFOD Family Fast Day. The Harvest mass was celebrated by Fr. Basil and Fr. Alex and was well attended by new Year 7 students and their families. It was a good opportunity, also, for them to be introduced to the school as well as meet form tutors who all attended. During Mass, our collections for HARP were offered and a representative from the charity was able to say a few words and accept them on behalf of all those at HARP. At the end of Mass, the Harvest banners that students in Year 7 and Year 8 had worked on were judged, with prizes going to the winners.

Family Fast Day was observed with a 'soup and a roll' lunch which many students took part in, with all proceeds going to CAFOD.

In the latter part of October, Year 7 retreats were held at Nazareth House, led by the Walsingham House team. It was lovely to see the new team made up of past students and the Year 7 students commented on how much they enjoyed the day. These retreats enable tutor groups to get to know each other in a setting outside of the normal school day and reflect on what it means to be a part of their new community.

Youth SVP began their work and started their visits to Nazareth House, which run throughout the year.

November

As a school, the Feast of All Saints was observed at the beginning of November with a whole school Mass.

At the end of November, our weekly Advent services started. These are held outside the library and are a chance to reflect on the gospel reading of the week and light the candles on the Advent wreath which lead us to Christmas. Liturgy Prefects from Year 7 light a candle each week.

As well as these events, Form Masses still continue with Year 9 and the Youth SVP visits also continue to Nazareth House.

December

Throughout December, our weekly Advent services continued, as well as Form Masses and Youth SVP visits to Nazareth House.

An Advent service was held in St. Helen's Church for students, parents and members of our community. This was followed by a staff training day on Catholic Ethos the next day. Our day started with Mass

together in the Chapel and we welcomed Catherine McKenna from Brentwood Diocese to speak about what it means to work in a Catholic School.

The Autumn Term ended with our whole school Advent Service, which included readings from the Advent season, the lighting of our Advent wreath and music from our Choir, Chamber Choir and Orchestra. During this service, our collection of gifts for the Women's Refuge was presented and we were able to welcome a representative from the Refuge to accept these gifts and speak about the work that the Refuge do. Our students are always so generous with these gifts and they were greatly appreciated.

January – April

Between January and April, there is always lots of liturgical activity around the school. Just before Lent started, we held the Pancake races on Shrove Tuesday which is always a highly anticipated event. Each tutor group takes part and dresses up with prizes going to the winners of the races and the best fancy dress! This is always an event that is enjoyed by all before the seriousness of Lent begins.

On Ash Wednesday, we held our service of ashes to mark the beginning of Lent. Tutor groups also receive CAFOD envelopes, posters and resources to share so that we are able to reflect on those who are not as fortunate as us during the Lenten period.

House Captains and Liturgy Leaders in Year 13 led services of Reconciliation in the Chapel for all students, who attended as tutor groups with their Form Tutor. The theme of these services was 'Forgive, as our Father forgives us'.

Every Friday during Lent, we held Stations of the Cross in the Nun's Garden which was led by Sixth Form students and these were well attended. There was also opportunity during these lunchtimes to receive individual reconciliation in the Chapel with Fr. Basil.

Year 13 start work in January on their re-enactment of the Passion Play. General R.E lessons are used for them to prepare and rehearse their re-enactment. All students take part – from scriptwriting and costume design, to directing and acting. In March, they took their re-enactment to St. Helen's Parish and shared them with the whole school at our two Passion Masses on the last day of term before the Easter holiday.

May

During May, Year 10 prepared for their Tutor Masses and Year 9 went on retreat to Walsingham House in Abbotswick. They were able to spend a day away from school focusing on the challenges faced in life and how best to overcome them, as well as looking forward to the next part of their school life starting GCSE studies.

June

The newly appointed Liturgy House Captains took on their roles and, in particular, in preparing for Year 3 Day where they made resources to be used on the day and planned activities that they would be leading.

As a school, we celebrated the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul with a whole school Mass.

Tutor group Masses continued, as well as the Youth SVP visits to Nazareth House.

In June, members of our Altar Serving Ministry served at the Year 6 Deanery Mass at Sacred Heart.

July

On Monday 8 July, we held our Year 3 Day, where children from our deanery schools attended a day full of activities centred around the theme 'Looking After God's Creation'. The day concluded with a Mass where children offered some of their work from the day and collections of food for HARP which they brought from their primary schools. Our Sixth Form students led Drama, Dance and Languages activities, and children also made bread and clay fish led by teaching staff at St. Bernard's. Our Year 9 students acted as guides for the day, assisting with groups and joining the children at Mass in the afternoon.

The academic year came to a close with our Feast Day Mass, where the new Liturgy House Captains were also commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, to serve at school Masses over the next year.

September - October

The new academic year opened with a staff Mass in the Chapel, celebrated by Fr. Basil. Year 8 tutor groups began their preparation for Form Masses and the Youth SVP group have met to begin their visits to Nazareth House.

At the beginning of October, the Walsingham House team came to lead our Year 12 students on retreat. This was really well received and was a beneficial day in allowing the new group of students to work together at getting to know each other, especially new students to St. Bernard's. The overall theme of the day was 'Do not be afraid' which also allowed to reflect and think about their futures as they look ahead.

Our Harvest celebrations resumed and culminated in our Year 7 Harvest Mass and Family Fast Day. Fr. Alex and Fr. Noel came to celebrate Mass with the new Year 7 families and judged the Harvest banners that were made by Year 7 and Year 8 tutor groups. Students also offered their collections for HARP at this Mass. On Friday 4 October, Family Fast Day, there was a 'soup and a roll' lunch with proceeds going to CAFOD.