



## NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 - March 2024

### Catholic Life in Our Schools in All Its Fullness

Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust has had another very positive term of support and development across all of our schools. Our network and staff development opportunities are continuing to have a positive impact on the outcomes of our schools and the young people we serve. All of our staff work tirelessly within our schools, the Trust Directors are very grateful for the vast wealth of expertise shown and demonstrated within our schools every day of the week.

Our Trust has completed a significant amount of work over the last few months in preparation for St Alban's Catholic Primary School in Cambridge to join the growing number of schools within our community. We are delighted that this will be formally ratified on the 1st May at which point the school will open as an academy within our Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved both within the school and OLOW who have made this possible.

This last half term has also seen the Trust have a very positive Annual General Meeting with Bishop Peter and the members representing OLOW. We continue to operate in a financially strong and diligent manner and this supports the positive outcomes of our schools.

We are grateful for the guidance and wisdom offered by Bishop Peter in support of all of our schools. The Church sees education as a process that, in light of man's transcendent destiny, forms the whole child and seeks to fix his or her eyes on heaven.

May it take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for all of the support you give to our schools and the communities we serve.

Warmest regards

Flavio Vettese



#### One Humanity in Christ

There is no such thing as Jew, Greek, slave and freeman, male and female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 3:28)

God our Father, you have made all men  
and women in your likeness,  
And you love everyone whom you have  
made;  
Suffer not our human family to separate  
itself from you,  
By building barriers of race, religion  
and colour.

*Christ at the Centre,*

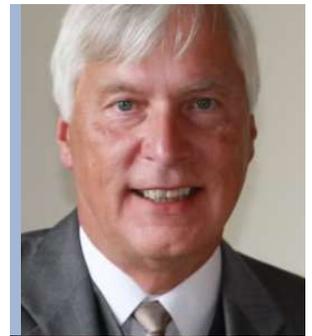
*Children at the Heart*



As your Son and Saviour was born of a Jewish mother,  
Rejoiced in the faith of a Syrian woman and of a Roman soldier,  
Welcomed the Greeks who sought him,  
And permitted a person a person from Africa to carry his Cross,  
So teach and enable us to regard the members of all races  
As fellow-heirs of your love and your kingdom.  
We ask this for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Reflections from Phil Dance - Chair of Governors at St Alban's Catholic High School

It is a privilege to be the Chair of Governors at St Alban's Catholic High School and it is an honour to be placed in this important role by my fellow governors. The term of office is just a year and is renewed annually by a vote of colleagues, but the intent is that I will be able to complete a few years in office to help to make a difference to the performance and outcomes for all. Chairs of Governors are on an equal level with their fellow governors charged with organising and co ordinating the efforts of the team to support the Headteacher, SLT and all members of the school community.



As a Chair I draw strength from my colleagues in meeting the challenges that present themselves. A good and committed governing body is an essential prerequisite for success of any Chair. I am blessed to work with some fantastic people on the LGB. I try hard to understand the strengths and experience of my colleagues and to match these with the tasks that need to be performed. The team has no hierarchy, and all views are welcomed and valued, decisions are made by the individual governors who are closest to the issues raised and are supported by all.

I have been a governor at Catholic Schools for over 20 years and take the role of governor very seriously. The first schools in the UK were established by the Catholic Church in around 600 AD and thrived for around 1000 years adding universities to their portfolio. The Reformation put an end to Catholic Education in England and Wales, and it was not until 1847 that the Catholic Church started focusing on building schools once again. The priority to build schools for the education of the poor took priority over building churches. The schools that we have are still at the forefront of our Catholic mission and are fundamental in handing on Catholic values and teachings to successive generations. As governors we hold the schools in trust for the Catholic community. The schools do not belong to the Trust, the Headteacher or the Governing Bodies, we are but custodians charged

with preserving and improving the schools for future generations to enjoy.

I have a passion for Catholic education. As a child I was lucky to have been sent to Catholic schools run by Franciscan Sisters and Brothers in the East End of London. The schools served students from a wide catchment area and worked to forge a community of holiness and learning where all could thrive. It is this experience that drives me to attempt to replicate the care and excellence in education that I enjoyed as a young person. I am happily married, having met my wife at a school Disco, arranged by the nuns, and have children and grandchildren all of whom have been and are being educated in Catholic Schools.

I joined the board at St Albans some six years ago when we were a single academy school. I became part of a hard-working team led by Matt Baker who extended a warm welcome and encouraged me to contribute my ideas for school improvement in pursuit of excellence. He is supported by a fantastic team of teachers who are a delight to work with. We have developed an excellent working relationship where all feel free to speak their minds and to offer challenge and support to ensure the best deal for all our students.

In pursuit of this best deal for students we joined Our Lady of Walsingham Trust. There were new people to meet and an extended team to work with. There were a few teething problems but thanks to an open and one team approach we were able to work through these and I am now thankful to have the support and ready help of the Trust when challenges arise. Paul, Flavio, and the team are always available on the end of the telephone to offer advice and importantly practical solutions to the grittier problems that arise.

Being a Chair of Governors is a privilege and a gift enabling me to contribute to the future of our young people in thanks for the enormous contribution the Catholic Church has made to my life.

## Young Vincentians - Barbara Quail, Young Vincentian RCDEA Volunteer Development Officer



*"Do Not Be Afraid Of New Beginnings, Be Creative, Be Inventive"*  
(Blessed Frederick Ozanam)

Mini Vinnies is a school initiative, based on good work done in Australia, originally piloted in the UK in the Diocese of Shrewsbury, and which is seen as having, "the potential to significantly contribute to the future of our society. Learning to put 'Our Faith into Action' .I am the Young Vincentian Development officer (YVDO) for our diocese. I was appointed in summer 2017.

Mini Vinnies is the youngest section of the SVP Family. It is established for primary school children, focusing on years 4, 5 and 6. Prior to September 2017 our diocese

*Christ at the Centre,  
Children at the Heart*



[www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk](http://www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk)

had one Mini Vinnies group at St Laurence Primary School Cambridge.



I attended introductory meetings in July 2017 with several schools and followed these up by being invited into these schools after they had signed up with central office, with Bishop Alan's blessing. This work has continued and in my role, I introduce the children to St Vincent De Paul (who was in their year 6 RE book) and the story of Blessed Frederick Ozanam, (the founder of the SVP) explaining about turning concern into action. This focuses on developing understanding of SEE, THINK, DO.

The Mini Vinnies vary in the length of their weekly meetings. A key feature of all Mini Vinnie groups is that the children lead the group! The meeting is based firstly on prayer then on actions. They have the weekly Gospel reading and a spiritual reflection. They discuss and plan their activities. Their activities include:

- Collecting and packing items from their harvest festival for their local food bank.
  - Organising school food banks.
- Raising money to buy the Mini Vinnies winter homeless packs.
  - Organizing pancake races.
- Arranging afternoon tea parties for senior citizens served by the mini Vinnies who also enjoy the cakes. There is also plenty of chat, a very important feature.
  - Inviting senior citizens to watch the Christmas plays.
  - Organizing sales.
- Planting Wildlife Jubilee seeds at school to share the beauty with the local community.

The Mini Vinnies look forward every year to their joint 'Big Sleep' in July. This is to raise money and have an experience of homelessness.

OLOW Trust has several Mini Vinnie groups. St Laurence, Cambridge and St Louis, Newmarket were two of the first, and now have thriving Mini Vinnie groups in both schools. Other schools have now joined the SVP family including St Pancras, Ipswich and St Mary's Ipswich. There is now further growth with St Albans High school interested in having a Youth SVP group.

In our wider diocese Mini Vinnie are also active in the St John the Baptist Trust with thriving groups are in the following schools: St Martha's, Kings Lynn, St Mary's Lowestoft, St Edmund's, Bungay St Benet's Beccles, St Mary's and St Peter's Gorleston, St Augustine's Old Costessey Norwich, Notre Dame Prep school and St John Henry Newman (our newest Catholic school in the country.) Notre Dame High have a Youth SVP group.

We are very careful to not tread on CAFOD toes and their complimentary work. Mini Vinnies, as can be seen from the list above, focuses on the local environment and community near to each school.



## Worship Council and Minnie Vinnies

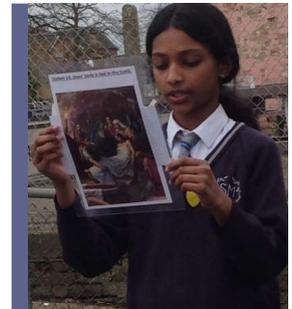
Our Year 6 Worship Council and Minnie Vinnies led each class through the Stations of the Cross. At each Station the children were able to reflect, pray and think about the moments which led to Jesus' death. All the children, at each station, said these words: "Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world." These words really helped the children reflect upon the meaning of the stations. Our photos show Year 6 pupils supporting Year 1 through this special trail.

The prayer that the children said together at the ninth Station was one that really made them reflect and think deeply:

"Jesus, you felt the darkness around you, the crowds surrounded you.  
You fell once more.  
Walk with us.

When we lose hope, when everything is just too difficult, shows us how to reach out to each other and hold hands so that none of us have to do everything on our own.

Help us to know that you walk alongside us even when we feel most alone."



## Year 1

As part of our Religious Education in Year 1, we have been learning about Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. We learnt about the symbols of Lent and made our own palm leaves. We used role play to help us think about how the people felt when they met Jesus.





# St Pancras Primary, Ipswich

## Ignite Team

On Wednesday 28th February, we welcomed the Ignite Team in again to St Pancras.

The team held two half day workshops for Year 2 and Year 4 focusing on Lent and the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshops:

**"There were three things I enjoyed about the workshops; colouring and creating the sun catcher crosses, singing and dancing and the funny videos about fasting and almsgiving where Adam had got confused about the meaning of those words." Ravenna, Year 4**

**"I enjoyed reflecting on how God loves us no matter what." Summer, Year 4**

**"I really enjoyed how everyone was included, especially when we sang the songs." Laurie, Year 4**

**"I enjoyed that part where we made a pretend church in the hall, we listened to the Bible reading and lit a candle." Maisie, Year 4**

## CAFOD

Each term, we have a charity focus which the Mini Vinnies take the lead on organising and running. In the Autumn term we support a local charity, in the Spring term we support CAFOD, an international Catholic charity, and in the Summer term, the Mini Vinnies decide through discussion and proposals which charity we will fundraise for in that final term.

The Mini Vinnies are busy organising a fundraiser for World Water Day (Friday 22nd March) to raise funds for CAFOD. In our Mini Vinnies sessions, we have been thinking about the importance of water and the need for the whole world to have access to clean water supplies. The children have designed and created posters to drum up support for the fundraiser.

## Choir at Snape

On Friday 15th March, the school choir sang in the Celebrations Concert at Snape Maltings. The children sang 'On Eagle's wings' by Michael Joncas, 'Let's Go Fly a Kite' from Mary Poppins and 'Waterloo' by ABBA. It was a really joyful occasion and the choir sang so beautifully, we are incredibly proud of them.

*We are Loving and kind,*

*We Pray and we Play*



## St Louis Scientists

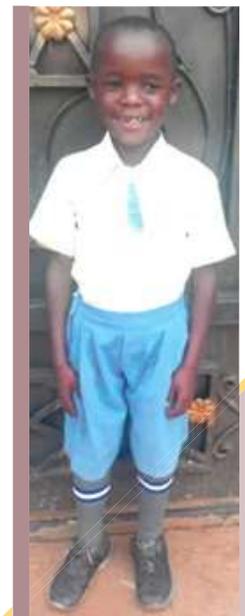
St Louis celebrated a love of science during British Science week. School reached out to community partners, families and friends and Science Leader, Nicki Hodson, prepared a week filled with talks, assemblies and live science show. Talks included Geology, Chemistry and DNA, Genetics, Climate Science Research in Fiji, Bioinformatics and a showcase of science for all children. Teachers planned days of practical science learning, not least extraction of DNA from strawberries.



We hope that in opening children's understanding of the opportunities to study science, we will be developing the visiting speakers for future generations of our children.

## Lent Fundraisers

Yet again, our children raised an incredible £500 for Cafod through hot chocolate and ice-cream sales and a Fairtrade event. Children wore Fairtrade colours of black, blue and yellow and donated goods to sell in our Fairtrade Shop. We had wonderful products to sell and the few left over were gifted to Open Door Foodbank. This year, we started working with All Saints C of E Primary to sponsor Patrick, a Yr 1 Ugandan boy. School Council chose addition kit to send to Patrick because we exceeded our funding target. They chose socks, blanket, books and shoes.

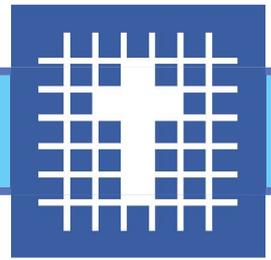


During Lent, we are working with mum. Mrs Holland to fundraise for a new therapy pool at Riverwalk School and to raise awareness of National Down's Syndrome day on 21st March. Mrs Holland has been selling badges through school to promote the charity.

## Our Latest Alter Server, Albie



Fr Leo of Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda Newmarket has encouraged St Louis pupils to become altar servers and our most recent recruit is Albie from Year 3 who feels called to serve. We are very proud to see him achieve this.



## The Season of Lent

The season of Lent at St Laurence is always a special time, and as we approach the Easter break the days are getting longer, the school grounds are covered in daffodils and there is an anticipation for the Summer term ahead.

We started our Lent preparation with our annual Pancake Race organised by the Mini Vinnies. Despite a wet day the children were unperturbed and kept the enthusiasm going for all of the races, having to finally concede to finish in the hall for our Reception races.

We welcomed Fr Simon to school who led our Ash Wednesday service, and we are lucky to have Fr Simon back at the end of our term to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, the first in school for our First Communion candidates.

Our main Lenten fundraising takes place in the last week of term, where every KS2 class takes responsibility to create fundraising stalls. The Mini Vinnies got ahead of the game with a toy sale and flower stall, just in time for Mother's Day. This, alongside the Pancake races have raised just over £300 for Mary's Meals which is our chosen charity this Lent.



We will end our term with our Passion Play, an event which sets the tone of Holy Week perfectly. Miss Corcoran our LKS2 lead, starts the children's preparation with the Stations of Cross (using our lovely outdoor stations) and then leads the children through the meditative performance. The play has an enormous impact on the school community and parents alike and it is the perfect start to our Holy Week.



A Happy a Holy Easter to everyone in the Trust from St Laurence!



## Catholic Faith at the Heart

At St Felix, we have our Catholic faith at the heart of all we do. This year we took the opportunity to bring together World Book Day and our Lenten Walk for Cafod by asking the children to walk in the shoes of a book character.

The day began with Rowling Class searching for book titles as they walked in the manner of How to Live Forever. Faith and Emily were the first to find all twenty-four hidden in trees and around the playground. They were followed by Horowitz kitted out in wellies ready to take on our very muddy school field in the style of Michael from Kensuke's Kingdom. They were explorers making their way into the unknown.

The bunnies burst forth next from Inkpen all hopping happily. They knew they were searching for parsley and lettuce and Rosie found the vegetables hidden away. They bounced around as little Peter Rabbits looking fabulous with their bunny ears and whiskers. In between them came the Little Princes of Dahl Class. They completed their laps and then had a fun time jumping from planet to planet (hoops) and naming the planet they landed on.

After break it was the turn of our Riddell Class icons. The children dressed as people from their class text, Young, Gifted and Black and it was great to see Muhammad Ali, Mo Farah and Beyoncé taking a walk with Michelle Obama and Venus Williams. As Riddell reached their 15th lap, Donaldson scurried out as an array of forest creatures, all on the lookout for a Gruffalo. They heard the story and went in search of foxes, owls and snakes all over the playground. Father John joined in with both classes and walked alongside the pupils in solidarity.

The final group before lunch was Lewis Class. They had really taken to heart the message of walking in the shoes of someone else to develop the empathy which reading brings. They had just a backpack to remind them of their class text The Boy at the Back of the Class. The child in the story is a refugee and Mrs Graham guided her class through the experience of losing their home and setting off for an uncertain destination. It was very powerful to see.

After lunch, the youngest pupils of Murphy and Butterworth, set off to complete their walking challenge. Their double-sided hats allowed them to walk two laps as a happy hen on a fun walk and two laps as fox encountering challenges along the way. Mrs Naylor reminded the children that they are lucky to be like Rosie and have an easy walk to school but that many children are like the fox and their walk to school is long and difficult.



We were able to send all the children from Reception to Y6 home with a new book. This and the Need to Read challenge were made possible by the support of the Get Suffolk Reading initiative and the amazing selection of books they provided. £109 was raised for Cafod.

*Followers of Jesus*

*Learning Together*



## World Book Day Celebrations

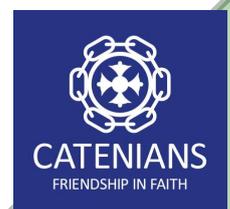
Last week, as part of the Reading Week and World Book Day celebrations a number of competitions took place in school. Firstly, all tutor groups were invited to take part in the Door Decorating Challenge, in which they had to decorate their tutor room door on a book theme. There were some excellent and imaginative creations all around the school and it was incredibly hard to pick a winner. In the end it was decided that 8X with their fabulous Maze Runner door should take first prize, with 8S chosen as runners-up, who decorated their door on the theme of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.



On World Book Day, avid readers had a chance to take part in the Reading Quest in the library, with Patrycja Golonka in 7S managing to complete the challenge in the quickest time and winning the £15 book token prize. Also, throughout the week, students in Years 7 and 8 were given the opportunity in their English lessons to enter a prize draw to win one of the four books that they reviewed in class. The lucky winners of this draw are: Michal Niedzwiecki, who won a copy of 'The Climbers'; Teddie Taylor, who won a copy of 'On Silver Tides'; Olivier Borek, who won a copy of '100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café'; and Eve King, who won a copy of 'Impossible Creatures'. We also have copies in the library of all four books, for students to borrow if they wish.

## GCSE Geography

Last term, in PSHE and Citizenship, every student at St Benedict's in Year 7-11 was given a £2 coin and the challenge to use it to show compassion. Students were taught about the Biblical Parable of the Talents and encouraged to give their money directly to support a worthwhile cause, buy something with it to give away or increase the amount before doing good with it. To enable this to happen, £1,650 was very generously donated by the Catenian Association and Thomas and Young Wealth Management. We are so grateful for their trust, support and encouragement. The students did incredibly well and carried out some amazing acts of compassion. Some of their projects are still ongoing, but using current totals, the students have used what they were given and increased it to give away an incredible £6,247!



*I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full*





# St Benedict's Sixth Form, Bury St Edmunds

## Sixth Form in The Docks

On Tuesday, Mrs Titcombe and I took a group of 29 Year 12 and 13 sociology, psychology and government and politics students to London, to visit the Royal Courts of Justice (London's High Court) and the Old Bailey (the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales).



At the Royal Courts of Justice, we were given a tour by an ex-journalist who spent many years covering cases in both courts.

Not only did he tell us about the history of the building, but he also gave us an excellent insight into the English and Welsh criminal justice system, including the types of cases dealt with at the high court, how much the top barristers can expect to earn and why criminal cases can sometimes take years to be heard in court. In the afternoon, we went to the Old Bailey, where we were able to sit in the public gallery of one of the courtrooms to watch a trial as it happened. One group got to sit in on a highly publicised manslaughter trial and listen to a neonatal expert giving evidence to assist the prosecution, and the other group were able to watch a trial where the victim of a serious assault was being cross-examined by the defence barrister. The experience gave students an excellent understanding of the workings of the criminal justice system and will undoubtedly enhance their studies in this area.

## Year 12 Geography

Before half-term the Year 12 Geography students braved the inclement weather to visit the New Bury Community Centre, to see first-hand what regeneration projects in urban spaces look like. The students were first given a speech by the manager who informed them how the project was initiated, what the aims of it are and what the funding and financing arrangements of the centre are. They were then invited to take a tour of the community centre and see how local people are using the facilities and how charities are using it as a base to improve community cohesion. The students also had a chance to speak to both the organisers and the users of the centre and this enabled them to make sense of what regeneration projects mean to communities.



*I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full*



# Foundation Governor Recruitment

If you are interested in becoming a school governor or would like to find out more about the fantastic impact that you could make within our Trust schools then please visit the Trust website by scanning the following QR code.



Please share with anyone who is interested in learning more about the positive impact of good governance on pupils' life chances and might be interested in joining one of our school boards.

[www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk/governorrecruitment](http://www.ourladyofwalsingham.co.uk/governorrecruitment)



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