



# Celebrating a Year of Faith, Learning and Community at



# Christ The King

As the academic year draws to a close, we look back with gratitude and joy on the many ways our students have lived out the values of Christ the King Catholic School. It has been a year of growth, reflection, service, and celebration – and we are delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

## *Celebrating the Jubilee Year*



### Book of Hope

Since the start of the Jubilee Year, we have had a Book of Hope travelling around school. Each form has taken some time to reflect on what brings them hope and how they can share this with others. These ideas have been recorded in our Book of Hope with students contributing some beautiful artwork, prayers and reflections. It will continue to travel around the forms next term and will be a lasting legacy of this Jubilee Year.



### Jubilee Icon

On 8th July, the CAFOD Jubilee Icon, painted by Ethiopian artist, Mulugeta Araya, visited our school as part of a pilgrimage which saw it visit all 36 schools in the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust over four days. This icon, which interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in Luke 4:16–21 is particularly relevant to the Jubilee given its focus on bringing good news to the poor and freedom to those who are captive or oppressed.

A group of our students welcomed the icon to CTK and we prayed a decade of the rosary together before it left to travel around the remaining schools.



### Jubilee Mission Day – Harrison year 8

During our Jubilee Mission Day on 10th July, all of our lessons were delivered with a focus on our school mission along with the theme of this Jubilee Year.

We had to think about how each of our subjects help us to contribute to society and why this is important. We were all given a 'Pilgrim of Hope' passport where we had to write a mission that was linked to each subject. Jubilee stickers were given out to those who had the best ideas.

We had a Celebration of the Word on the theme of Hope where each form was invited to come up with a pledge that they could continue to work towards for the remainder of the Jubilee Year. There were some great ideas such as recycling more, litter picking, turning lights off and even trying to smile more at each other.

# Opportunities in the chapel

Here at CTK, we are lucky to have lots of chances to grow closer to God. We take part in things like Mass, Adoration and Reconciliation, which help us to slow down, think, and spend time with God during our busy school days.

## Adoration:

Adoration is quiet, calm and very peaceful. It is a time during the day when we can sit with God and talk to Him in our hearts. It helps us to feel calm and closer to Him. We don't have to say anything out loud – we just sit, pray and think.

## Reconciliation:

Reconciliation is when we get to say sorry to God through the priest and to ask for forgiveness. It's a very special experience that helps us to feel free and peaceful afterward. It's a chance to let go of anything we feel bad about and make a fresh start with God.

## Mass:

We have Voluntary Mass on the first Friday of the month in the chapel. It is really calm and peaceful. Each house also has a Mass to celebrate the feast day of one of their House Saints with all forms contributing to make these a really special event. Mass helps us to feel more connected to God and is a special time to pray and reflect.

We thank all of the priests who have celebrated Mass with us over this last year – Fr Philipp, Fr Joe, Fr Richard, Fr Simon and Fr Everist.

*–Liana year 7 and Selastin year 9*



## Chapel activities – Delilah and Nyonu year 7

During morning breaktimes, we have a variety of activities going on in the chapel.

On Meditation Mondays, we set our minds on God, taking some quiet time to set ourselves up for the week ahead.

Tuneful Tuesdays see us singing our hearts out.

On Wandering Wednesdays, we head out of the chapel and walk around school, spreading God's joy as we go.

Thoughtful Thursdays are when we think about other people and how we can help them through our words and actions – those close to us in school or out in the wider world.

On Fun Fridays, we play board games and do crafts with our friends – a great way to end the busy week





# Opportunities at the Briars

## Year 8 Briars Trip – *Gabrielle Year 8*

My experience at The Briars was amazing and so much fun. It helped me grow closer to God and reflect more deeply on my Christian journey. I loved having the time and space to think about my faith and how I can live it out every day.

The trip also brought me closer to my friends, and I even made new ones along the way. It felt like everyone was included, and we became a real community. One of my favourite parts was learning fun and creative ways to pray, and the booklets we worked through taught me more about my religion and helped me understand it better.

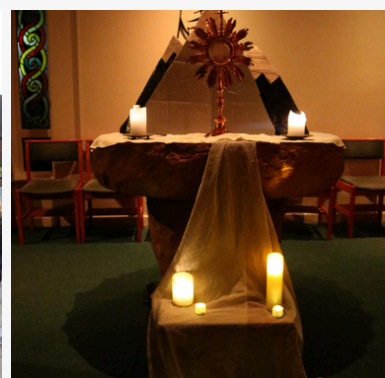
The staff at The Briars were so kind and welcoming, and they made it such a positive experience. I'm so glad I had the chance to go.



## Year 10 Briars trip – *Caspar and Alistar year 10*

The Briars opened my eyes to many different opportunities and ways of life. I completed reconciliation, which helped me to be free of what I have done wrong. We also took part in lots of activities including hunts, outdoor games, painting, and team-building challenges. The volunteers and staff were so welcoming and made us feel like a community as they respected us and helped us grow."

There were plenty of fun moments too. "We played games like Human Knot and Protect the Pringle, went on a long walk around the local village and park, and even had a football match. On the last day, the food was really nice which made it even better!" The highlight for many was the sense of belonging and reflection. "The whole experience was amazing. The Briars staff included everyone so no one felt left out. I would strongly recommend others go and experience it too."



# Whole School Celebrations



## Stations of the Cross – Emily and Lilia year 10

On the 4th April, we gathered together as year groups to participate in the Stations of the Cross. We do this during Lent to remember what Jesus went through on the day he died. Students were led through 14 different stations, each one showing a moment from when Jesus was condemned to when He was laid in the tomb. A reflection and prayer was read at each station along with quiet music, moments of silence and dramatised parts.

We interviewed several staff members about their reactions to taking part in Stations of the Cross  
“There was a prayerful and calm atmosphere as we reflected on Jesus’ journey to the cross”  
“It brought the church into school”  
“It was student led and everyone could get involved through watching and listening to the reflections”



## Advent 2024 at CTK – Em year 10

At CTK we celebrate events within the church calendar and liturgical year, such as Lent, Easter and Advent.

During the season of Advent, we did many different events in the build up to Christmas, ranging from prayers, videos made by the chaplaincy team, celebrations of the word and then at the very end of term we all walked down to the Good Shepherd church and had the annual school Christmas liturgy.

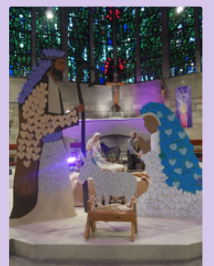
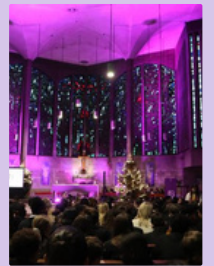
Each week the Chaplaincy team made a new video, with a reading from the Gospels, talking about the season and the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ.

As I’m sure you are aware, the school recently changed saying ‘Acts of worship’ to ‘Celebrations of the word’ as the school/chaplaincy team felt that we could have more of a focus on scripture and the word of God.

During the season of Advent most of the Celebrations of the word focused on accounts leading up to the birth of Jesus, and focusing on themes such as Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love.

At the very end of the advent term, we had the school trip to The Good Shepherd Church for the annual liturgy, led by Father Philipp. During the service, there was a big focus on community in CTK, with students in the Chaplaincy team doing readings from the Bible about Advent. And at the very end, a very amusing Christmas video by the staff at CTK for us all to watch.

I hope this short article has given you a glimpse into what a wonderful and vibrant atmosphere we have at CTK





# ***Celebrating with our wider community***

## **Trust Synod – Evelyn year 8**

**On the 21st January, I had the amazing opportunity to go to the Trust Synod. We met lots of new people from schools all across the Trust. The whole day was really special and something I'll never forget.**

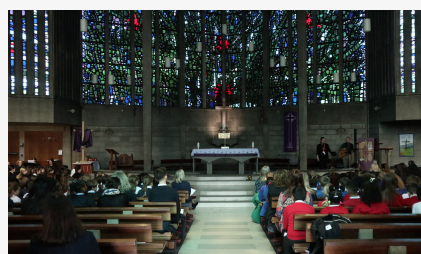
**We spent time praying and reflecting on the theme of hope in this Jubilee Year. There were lots of discussions where we shared our views and listened to others. It opened us up to new ideas and helped us see things in different ways. It gave us a chance to grow in our faith, and I found it very inspirational.**

**We also got to hear about the Trust Eco Team who were formed to think about how we can help the planet.**

**We got to take the Jubilee mascot, Luce, and a lantern back to school as symbols of the hope that we had shared that day.**

**Back at CTK, we shared what we had done during a Celebration of the Word to the rest of the school.**

**Overall, the Synod was a really fun, peaceful, and powerful experience. It brought people together in faith and gave us hope for the future. I'm really glad I went, and I'd love to go again.**



## **Hub day –**

**On 24<sup>th</sup> March, our community came together in faith, music, and celebration to honour our Hub Saint, Oscar Romero, in a truly memorable way.**

**On our Oscar Romero Hub Day, we gathered at The Good Shepherd Church for a special music concert, joined by students and staff from our four feeder primary schools – Sacred Heart, Good Shepherd, Saint Margaret Clitherow and Holy Cross. It was an uplifting occasion that brought together the wider family of schools within our Hub, celebrating the life and message of Saint Oscar Romero in this jubilee year – a champion of justice, peace, love and hope.**

**The concert featured performances from each of the schools, with students singing and playing music that reflected themes of hope, courage, and compassion – all central to Oscar Romero's legacy.**

**Our Christ the King students worked hard to prepare beautiful pieces, which were performed with great passion and skill. The primary school choirs joined in with their own contributions, and there were several moments where all the schools sang together in one united voice.**

**Oscar Romero's words continue to inspire us:**

*"We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own."*

**May we carry this spirit into the year ahead, continuing to grow in faith, unity and service.**



# ***Celebrating with our wider community***

**Lourdes – Maia Steeples year 12**

**I was fortunate to join three other Sixth Form students on the annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, a journey that proved deeply meaningful. Lourdes is a small town in France near the Pyrenees and is well known for Saint Bernadette who famously witnessed the apparitions of Mary. This sacred history draws millions of pilgrims each year, all seeking the profound atmosphere of faith, reflection, and healing that Lourdes uniquely offers.**

**On our visit to Lourdes, we were able to see many significant places such as The Grotto where St Bernadette saw 18 Apparitions of Our Lady. We also took part in Torchlight Processions, praying the rosary and reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. Our group also played a supportive role, assisting other pilgrims, helping them to fully engage with the experience. It was lovely to meet so many people from our diocese and to share moments of faith, compassion, and companionship.**

**This journey to Lourdes profoundly deepened our faith, encouraging us to reflect more deeply on our spiritual journey. I would recommend going to Lourdes to anyone that is interested, it was a truly impactful and amazing experience.**



***As we come to the end of this school year, we are filled with gratitude for all that our students have achieved and all the ways they have grown in faith, knowledge and kindness.***

***We thank all parents and families for the support you give your children and the school community. Together, we are helping our young people to flourish and live out Christ's call to love and serve others.***

***May the summer holidays bring you rest and renewal, and may God bless our Christ the King family as we look forward to another year of faith and learning.***