



Salvatorian College Parent Bulletin

Week Commencing
3rd December 2018

ADVENT

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

This week we have been visited by various guest speakers and organisations. Most eminent among these was Mr Peter Sefton-Williams, who has a Papal Knighthood for his work with Aid to the Church in Need. He visited the school on Red Wednesday and spoke to the Year 7 and 8 pupils about his involvement in a report which was commissioned to highlight the plight of those around the world who are persecuted for their faith. The boys were very engaged and listened attentively, asking apt and challenging questions of our visitor. He was most impressed by the behaviour and attitude of our boys.

Our Year 7 pupils were visited by a company who delivered a play and workshop on road safety. There are so many tragic accidents on our roads involving young people, every year, that we felt it important to educate this year group about how to stay safe and aware on their journeys. Please try to reinforce this message with your sons.

Year 11 boys were visited by the Metropolitan Police, who delivered a presentation on safe travel, transport and knife crime. The boys were educated about the best ways to stay safe on London Transport, at the same time learning about the implications of their Oyster Cards. They were also reminded to be role models when trying to board the bus, and to remember other users.

With the appalling rise in knife crime, all across London, the Police spoke about the law around knives and ways to stay safe. With this in mind, it may, from time to time, be necessary to carry out random searches of the boys and their possessions. Having had to deal first hand, on many occasions, with the devastating consequences of knife crime, I can assure you that this will only ever be done with the best interests and safety of the boys, and our community, at heart.

I have been very impressed with the focus of Year 11 and their approach to the mock examinations. They are now in a good position to build on their successes and weaknesses in preparation for the examinations in June. All of the boys must stay focussed right up until the Christmas break.

Kind regards,

Alan Bryant
Head of School

KEY DATES IN THE AUTUMN TERM

**THU 6TH DEC – FOUNDER'S MASS
CELEBRATED BY BISHOP WILSON**

**FRI 7TH DEC – FOUNDER'S DAY (12.30 PM
CLOSURE)**

**WED 12TH DEC - PUPIL CHRISTMAS LUNCH
AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER CHARITY DAY**

**THU 13TH DEC - CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS**

**THU 13TH DEC - 5.30 PM CHRISTMAS CAROL
SERVICE AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

**MON 17TH DEC - 7.00 PM VOLUNTARY AIDED
SCHOOLS CAROL SERVICE AT ST JOSEPH'S
CHURCH**

**THU 20TH DEC – LAST DAY OF TERM (12.30 PM
CLOSURE)**

WORDS OF THE DAY

Monday – Fraternal

Adjective 1. Of or like a brother or brothers. 2. (of twins) Developed from separate ova and therefore genetically distinct and not necessarily of the same sex. Even though they were not related, the boys shared a **fraternal** comradeship. The relative frequency of **fraternal** twins has halved since 1950.

Tuesday – Diligent

Adjective Having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work or duties. The prefects were **diligent** in the performance of their duties. She made a **diligent** attempt to learn Russian.

Wednesday – Epitomise

Verb Be a perfect example of. The charity shown by Salvatorian pupils on Red Wednesday **epitomised** our school values. James, the Head Boy, **epitomised** the British Values which underpin our society.

Thursday – Decant

Noun 1. To pour (a liquid, such as wine) from one vessel into another. 2. Temporarily transfer (people) to another place. Peter always likes to **decant** his red wine before a dinner party. Salvatorian College was **decanted** to Priestmead to enable the school re-build.



Friday – Inveigle

Verb 1. Persuade someone by means of deception or flattery. 2. Gain entrance to a place, by using deception or flattery. My son tried to **inveigle** me into giving him money for a car. Chris, looking sharp in a grey suit, managed to **inveigle** his way into City Hall.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Sunday 2nd December 2018

A reading from the Gospel of Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sunday, 2nd December, was the First Sunday in Advent, but also the first Sunday of the new church year (liturgical year).

Surprisingly we begin at the very end. On this First Sunday of Advent we hear how Jesus predicts the end-times, the Second Coming. He warns his disciples that they will not know in advance when that day will be. Although there will be signs in the sky and on the earth, actually that day will be sprung on us suddenly, as Jesus says, like a trap.

Our task is to live our lives in readiness, prepared always for that final day of days. We are advised by Christ to stay awake, to be alert so that we may stand in confidence before the Son of Man when he comes in glory.

For a serious Christian the proper attitudes to adopt in preparation for that day are alertness and readiness and a spirit of repentance for our sins. The whole of our Christian lives ought to be one of preparedness, getting ourselves fit for that Last Day.

What this means is living our lives in a proper manner; it means keeping the commandments as best we can; it means cultivating in our lives the

Christian values; it means turning to God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation whenever we have broken God's laws. And besides these things it also means that we should take seriously our duty as Christian Evangelists, especially in relation to our own children. It is our sacred duty to hand on the faith to our children, to teach them to pray and to show them how to love God and our neighbour.

The Season of Advent is a time when we prepare for two comings. The first is the appearance in our world of Christ on the very first Christmas Day; we get ourselves ready to celebrate the anniversary of that great event in the life of the world. But while we are doing this, we are also preparing ourselves for that Last Day, the day of Christ's second coming.

We prepare ourselves by shunning sin, by adopting the Christian values and by trying to live our lives as Jesus taught us. It further means that we need to grow close to God in prayer. We do this by deepening the intimacy between God and ourselves so much so that over a period of time we find ourselves talking and dialoguing with God all through the day.

Doing these things will make us grow in faith and love so when that great day dawns on us we will be confident and ready and unashamed to face the Lord when he comes in glory and power.



The Annunciation by Netherlandish painter Rogier van der Weyden (1400–1464). It depicts the Angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary. This painting is the centre panel in a 'Triptych', which is a set of three paintings joined together which would be placed behind the altar of a chapel or church. Notice how the painter has set this momentous event in a 15th century domestic bedroom, to make the scene more dramatic by appealing to the personal experience of the picture's intended viewers.



ADVENT CANDLES



During every assembly throughout the season of Advent, your son will see a set of candles, similar to those above, on the stage of the Francis Jordan Hall.

The candles symbolise the advent (coming) of light into the world. The gradual lighting of the four candles, one on each week of the Advent season, combined with the liturgical colours of the candles (purple is the penitential colour used during Advent and Lent; rose is a liturgical colour used on Gaudete Sunday in Advent) help to symbolize not only our expectation and hope in Our Saviour's first coming into the world, but also in his Second Coming as Judge at the end of the world.

There is one candle, however, which will not be lit – that is the white candle in the centre. This candle is lit at Midnight Mass and represents the one, true, light - the light of Jesus Christ.

A prayer for the Blessing of Advent Candles

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
king of the universe.*

*You sent your Son to be the Light of the world and to
spread his light of love to all.*

*Bless us and accept these candles of light
made from our hands.*

*May their ever increasing brightness be a sign to us
of the approaching nearness of your Son, that we
might prepare in joy for his humble birth in a manger
and be ready to receive him at his coming again in
glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.*

Amen.

RED WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday, 28th November 2018, Salvatorian College stood in solidarity with people persecuted for their faith throughout the world.

The Red Wednesday initiative was created by the international charity 'Aid to the Church in Need' four years ago. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) raises money for, and awareness of, Christians and members of other religions who are persecuted for their faith around the world.

At Salvatorian College, our eight core values, as derived from the Eight Beatitudes, express our desire to live in harmony with those of different or no religious belief. As residents of Great Britain, we also have a duty to uphold the values which underpin our society, including individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance.

In order to put these values into action, pupils were invited to wear their own clothes to school, which had to include an item of red clothing. £585 pounds was raised from the generosity of pupils and staff, which has been donated to Aid to the Church in Need.

In addition, Years 7 & 8 were privileged to hear a talk by Mr Peter Sefton-Williams, sometime director of Aid to the Church in Need, and previous Chairman of the editorial board of the 'Religious Freedom in the World' report. Mr Sefton-Williams talked about the definition of religious persecution, and why he felt it was important to champion the right of religious freedom, which is often neglected in the media. The boys responded with intelligent and thoughtful questions.

The day culminated in the release of over 100 red balloons, to which pupils had attached prayers.





CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Registration for Confirmation in 2019 will take place on Sunday 25th November at 3pm in the hut behind the St Joseph's Presbytery. Teenagers in Year 9 who are baptised Catholics and have made their Holy Communion are welcome to register. Proof of baptism will be required if not baptised at St Joseph's. A £20 registration fee is payable on the day. Please note that this will be the only opportunity to register.

Full active participation in all preparation sessions is required, together with weekly mass attendance. Preparation session will begin in early January 2019. Confirmation masses will take place in June 2019

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, AND THINK

On Thursday 29th November Year 7 had an Assembly delivered by 'The Riot Act' on the important subject of road safety. Pupils watched a play delivered by professional actors and also took part in a workshop.

It may seem like a small matter, but please emphasise to your son the mantra of 'Stop, Look and Listen and Think' when they are crossing roads. Pedestrians accounted for 25% of all road deaths in 2016.



SAFEGUARDING IN PARTNERSHIP

It is quite natural for children to worry and to be anxious at various stages of school and home life. Most children will learn how to manage their thoughts, feelings and emotions, but some may need extra support.

This website is full of resources and is not only a good starting point for training for staff working

directly with children and families but also a good information site for parents themselves:

https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/mental-health-needs/the-anxious-or-worried-child?mc_cid=b3b268656b&mc_eid=9cf05a01f1#

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Continuing a tradition which is now over 30 years old, our Year 8s have been busy wrapping cardboard boxes in Christmas paper and collecting donations of food from around the school. These hampers will be distributed to the needy in our local community in advance of Christmas.

Forms are available at the back of St Joseph's Church. If you would like to nominate someone to receive a hamper.

Donations of various items are still sought. Any excess will be donated to the Cardinal Hume Centre in Westminster, which supports homeless people across London.



JACK PETCHEY AWARD

Congratulations to the following recipients of an Outstanding Achievement award from the Jack Petchey Foundation. These awards recognised pupils who have made an outstanding contribution to their community through their actions.

Jonnifer Melo is a helper in the youth club, he comes every week and engages with the younger boys. He is constantly positive and takes extra care in roles of responsibility. On the trips he ensures some year 7 and 8 students get home safely by travelling with them. – Nominated by Miss Flannagan & Ms Thomas. £250 donated to the PE Department



Salvatorian College *Parent Bulletin*

Week Commencing
3rd December 2018

ADVENT

Richard Zaki is such a pleasant young man who is thoughtful and kind to his classmates and teammates. He has represented the school in every sport and is such a positive influence on those around him. He demonstrates exceptional sportsmanship and encourages everyone to do their best. After each PE lesson or fixture he offers to help put the equipment away and sweeps the changing room clean, he is overcoming barriers all the time and I have been so impressed with this young man's progress. – Mr Creamer. £250 donated to the SEN Department.



George Ralph

After school George saw an elderly lady struggling to get out of her mobility scooter. Without hesitation he offered to assist her and helped her out. A very kind and caring young man - *Nominated by his form group*. £250 donated to the LSU