

18 May 2021

## **Religious Life**

Dear Parents,

As a Catholic community of Faith, the Religious Life and Ethos of our school is central to all that we do. Our school motto, 'In Christo Florebimus' - 'In Christ we shall flourish', serves as a constant reminder that we are a Christ-Centred community, where our commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His Church, and the Common Good, are what define us.

In this month of May, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the ways in which we live out our vocation as a community and people of faith.

Holy Mass continues to be celebrated on a regular basis each week before school, with many students and staff in attendance each day. The Eucharist is the 'source and summit' of our lives as Christians, and we ensure our students have the opportunity to gather together as often as we can, to receive the Grace that comes from being a Eucharistic community. We remain incredibly grateful to the clergy and religious who support the sacramental life of our school, most especially Fr. Quentin and the Friars of St Thomas of Canterbury Parish, Woodford.

Eucharistic Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament continues to take place every Friday, and I am delighted that this year, to mark the Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we will have a time of perpetual Adoration on **Friday 11 June 2021**, where many of our students will have the opportunity to take part in this beautiful and profound way of praying before Our Eucharistic Lord. This will be preceded by the celebration of Holy Mass in the morning, where **Year 7** will represent the school community

Main School Office

Upper Site:Mornington Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TP Telephone: 020 8504-3419Lower Site:Sydney Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 0TB Telephone: 020 8504-8946





Headmaster: Dr P C Doherty OBE, BA (Hons), DPhil (Oxon), FRSA



In the Marian Month of May, each class in the school has prayed the Holy Rosary together, either in one of our consecrated Chapels, or in front of one of our Marian Shrines, after a period of catechesis on the importance of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Rosary, during RE lessons.

On **Ascension Thursday** on **13 May 2021**, normally a Holy Day of Obligation, our **Year 8** students represented the school community by celebrating Mass together in the school hall, with other classes invited to take part via live streaming due to Covid restrictions.

On **Monday 24th May 2021, the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church,** our **Year 7** students will represent the school community during our Marian devotion and procession, including the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where we will pray for the intentions of our school community and families.

We look forward to **Year 10** celebrating Mass together for the Solemn Feast of **St Peter and Paul on 29 June 2021**, which is also a Holy Day of Obligation.

Our students continue to take part in weekly assemblies and collective worship which is always Christ centered and reflects the Liturgical calendar. I do invite you to have a look at these assemblies, which are regularly broadcast on our Youtube channel.

We continue to hold in prayer our Year 11 & 13 students who are currently completing their formal assessments, and look forward to presenting each student with the gift of a Miraculous Medal, which will be blessed and distributed in the coming weeks.

Finally, it is fitting that one of the final acts of the academic year on the last day of term, will include students and staff gathering together in Mass, to give thanks to God for the blessings and graces received throughout the year.

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As we look forward to the year ahead, I know that we will continue to pray for one another, that together, we may grow in Faith, Hope and Love.

Ascension Day - Mass — Holy Day of Obligation	Thurs 13 May 2021	Year 8
Mary, Mother of the Church - Crowning of Mary Liturgy	Mon 24 May 2021	Year 7
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart - Mass – Perpetual	Fri 11 June 2021	All Years
Adoration		
St Peter & Paul – Mass- Holy Day of Obligation	Tues 29 June 2021	Year 10
St Bridget – Mass of Thanksgiving – End of Term	Fri 23 July 2021	Year 9

## Finally,

I would like to hold a remembrance time for all members of our school community who have lost a relative or loved one to Covid. This would entail:

- Remembrance during the week leading to half term, beginning Monday 24th May.
- Inclusion in our Book of Remembrance the names of all those who died of Covid.
- Remembrance of those loved ones at the three Masses on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- On those three days, two minutes silence at 11.00am.
- On those three days a special afternoon prayer.

Yours sincerely,

Dr P.C. Doherty OBE

Mr L Connolly

Headmaster

Assistant Headteacher

Director of RE & Religious Life

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