



Faith In The Future

Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent ST4 5NT Telephone (01782) 848 008, Fax (01782) 745 487

Issue 162

Lenten Activities
(page 2)India Immersion
(page 2)Foodbank Collection
(page 3)Bikeability
(page 4)Young Scientist
(pages 6)

Feast Day Mass

As ever, it was wonderful to gather together as a whole school community to celebrate our Feast Day Mass on St Joseph's Day in March. As this year is the 'Year of Mercy' our Mass focused on St Joseph, the Protector of Mercy and we were reminded how each of us can do very simple things to share of our time and of ourselves to show God's love and mercy to those around us.

Our Mass was led by Father Rob who spoke of St Joseph as a strong yet unassuming man who is best

known not for his own life, but for the impact his life and actions had on those around him. We were also delighted to welcome Brother Walsh as one of our distinguished guests during our Feast Day celebration.

Our Post Communion reflection encouraged us to reflect upon the works of mercy as we each received a 'challenge' card based upon the teachings from St Matthew's Gospel with actions we could use in our present day lives.



Lenten Fundraising

Mrs C Slattery

Every year the students come up with some amazing fundraising efforts during Lent and this year was no exception. We have had some weird, wonderful and whacky fund-raising activities with our rugby players getting their legs waxed



and water fights on the playing fields, but the ‘Meet the Cow’ event by 10LS brought the school to a standstill with hundreds of pupils queuing up to meet our bovine celebrities. The ingenious idea came from Amy Weaver who brought two heifers to St Joseph’s from her family farm – Aston Pool Farm in Stone. There were competitions to guess the names, the weights and ages of the two heifers and also students could have a ‘selfie’ with either Queenie or Jane for 50 pence. The event raised over £200 and at the end of our Lenten fundraising the school raised an amazing £6,541.61 for CAFOD. Well done to all our

forms for their fundraising activities and a big ‘thank you’ to everyone who supported their efforts!



India Immersion

Sam Osborne, Year 13



If you are curious about true beauty, go to India. You will learn that true beauty lies in the eyes of every hungry child that refuses to eat until their brothers and sisters are fed. If you want to see real hope, go to India. You will find countless families on the streets, staying optimistic, regardless of what obstacles are thrown at them. If you have forgotten what it's like to make memories so bright, just remembering them makes you stand taller, go to India and be taught by the best. Whilst many cannot rise above the poverty line, they will rise into your hearts, this I promise. Within a fortnight, Delhi's awe-inspiring citizens have taught me more about kindness than I thought possible in a lifetime. Strangers don't seem so 'strange' in India, rather everyone feels like a welcoming neighbour eager to make you feel at home. In the same world where many governments speak of 'us and them', India is a shining example of unity. Indian welcomes are never done in half measures but with a genuine desire to befriend and share experiences. This you will do.

India isn't the perfect country but it has a value that cannot be underestimated or ignored. India is a place of so much love where one would expect to see bitterness and anger. Those that the caste system has left with nothing still manage to give all that they have to those around them. There are millions of people that regardless of poverty and regardless of pain, remain compassionate. From one penniless disabled woman that cares for a community of destitute lepers, I have seen that generosity has no limits. There is no obstacle too large that would ever take away the benevolence of the amazing people I have met. So many unsung heroes push past adversity and prove that India is a country where kindness and selflessness are instinctive.

It is not possible to disregard the harsh reality of India. Whilst India has taught me what a pure soul looks like, the poverty hints at the apathy of the powers that be. After making genuine connections with street children it is hard not to ask why they cannot just be worryless children. I am resigned to believe India is an enigma that I will simply never understand. However, it is in the mystery of India that you will surely find excellence. Never have I seen so much energy, dancing or gratitude than in Delhi. Nor is there ever a dull moment in India. With constant noise, and chaotic traffic, India is the definition of a concrete jungle. More importantly, India's values will define you – be kind, be selfless and live in the moment!



John Pridmore Visit

Mrs M McKenna

It is always a pleasure to welcome John Pridmore into our school to speak to the students, especially during this Year of Mercy. His is an inspirational story about his journey from darkness into the light and the working of God's love and grace in his life.

He described his previous lifestyle as a 'gangland thug' and how one evening while working as a West End club bouncer he hit a man so hard that he thought he had killed

him. In panic he fled the scene, believing he would be arrested and sent to prison. It was in that moment of despair that he suddenly cried out to God, believing he was unworthy of any answer, and then felt God's presence for the first time in his life in uncountable years. John chose that moment to turn his life around. He now speaks publicly about God's grace, the difference it has made in his life and working to help deter others from following the dark path he has left behind.



Successful Musical Trio

Mr C Gilligan

Every year we are continually amazed by the musical talent of our students and this year was no exception. Sixth Form students Lucy Pond and Lucy Deakin have been awarded places at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music respectively, while Sam Horton in Year 8 has been selected for the National Youth Choir. All three

agree the secret to their success is self discipline and practice, practice, practice. Both Lucys are among the top performing young musicians at the College and have always given so much back in terms of their extra-curricular work and Sam is a young man who is very much in demand as a chorister. I have no doubt that they will continue to succeed in their chosen musical paths.



Foodbank Collection

Mrs R Gradwell

During the past term St. Joseph's Chaplaincy Team coordinated a school wide campaign to collect non-perishable food for Stoke on Trent Food Bank. Schools across the city were asked to 'adopt a month' as part of a campaign to restock the 17 food banks throughout the city after a busy winter. In keeping with our Lenten fundraising and charitable works, we decided to adopt the month of March.

Thanks to your wonderful generosity we were able to fill two transit van loads (an amazing 612.8 kg), which were collected by Keith Stubbs, the co-coordinator for Stoke on Trent Food Banks on the last day of term. Keith congratulated the students for their efforts in collecting "the biggest ever single donation!" and for the additional £700 donation to cover expenses to keep their vehicles on the road for the next 3 months.



Queen's Birthday Invitation

Mr C Gilligan

It is a great honour but also a bitter-sweet feeling that Alyson and I have been invited to the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration on behalf of the Joe Gilligan Trust to be recognised as 'unsung heroes' for raising nearly £250,000 to support the Trust's main objective: to enhance the lives of 16-25 year olds in cancer treatment and provide performance opportunities for young musicians. We hope this invitation will give us more exposure and aid our future fundraising efforts. We are extremely grateful

for the tremendous support of successive year groups of St. Joseph's College young musicians and the wider community in Stoke, Staffordshire and beyond whose generosity has been fabulous.

This is a very proud moment for our family and for all those who have supported us, yet touched with sadness that none of this would have happened without the loss of Joe after his 18 month battle with cancer. He will be in our thoughts throughout the event, as he always is and always will be.



Prize Night



Former model turned author and television presenter Katie Piper was this year's guest speaker at Prize Giving on 17th March. Greeted by an immense roar of applause and affection, she spoke of how the power of positive thinking helped her overcome the acid attack that left her blind in one eye and scarred for life.

Katie said, "We all encounter barriers in life, not just medical problems but ones to do with work and relationships. These can be overcome through the power of

positive thinking – reminding ourselves to be consistent in our approach and that confidence, happiness and self-esteem all derive from a positive mental attitude and enable us to overcome problems we thought were insurmountable."

She added, "My faith and the support and friendship of everyone who supported me helped me to come through the darkest times. What happened to me has made me stronger and more purposeful. You must use whatever life throws at you to develop inner strength too."

United Nations Periodic Review



Mehak Yaqub and Alex Hibberts recently attended the United Nations Periodic Review in Geneva as Christian Brothers' Schools Student Ambassadors. These reviews allow member nations to look at social issues and make recommendations for one member nation to adopt throughout the following year. This year's review focused on health, women's rights, education and the programme for prosperity in Sierra

Leone, which made it especially meaningful for our students due to our close ties with Sierra Leone through our immersion programme. Attending these reviews provide a level of awareness for both our students and for the member nations that reinforce the understanding of our place in global society and the significance that one voice can make a difference by becoming an advocate for another country.

Daire Keogh Visit



Irish historian and President of St Patrick's College Drumcondra, Daire Keogh came to St Joseph's College during a recent Staff Inset Day. He shared an account of the life of Blessed Edmund Rice based on historical records that shed new light on the founder of the Christian Brothers. It was interesting to hear how many of the anecdotal tales concerning Blessed Edmund had developed over the years and that some of the stories about him were derived to create an interpretation of saintliness and not actually based on

a true account of his life. At first this seemed disappointing but once all the clichéd anecdotes were removed, a living picture of a real man emerged – one immersed in society and determined to make a difference of the lives of the young and disadvantaged of his day. Seeing the human side of Edmund Rice showed how an ordinary man could do extraordinary things and leave a legacy of compassion and social justice that has continued to grow across the globe today.

Young Scientist of the Year



Catherine Fitzpatrick in Year 13 has reached this year's finals of the National Young Scientist of the Year competition. Working with Keele University, she has already won a National Nuffield Science Award and a Goldcrest Science Award for her project, but she is currently appealing to local businesses to sponsor her need for a thermal imaging camera to help stage her

presentation. Catherine's project is aimed at helping police forces and rescue services worldwide find buried human bodies due to natural or manmade disasters, missing persons or murder victims. The potential implications of her research in lifesaving and criminal justice could be huge. We wish her continued success in her endeavour.

Castlerigg

Teena Saji, 8SM

One dark, chilly morning in February, Year 8 embarked on the annual retreat to Castlerigg Manor. We really didn't know what to expect so we all set out with a certain sense of apprehension. The setting of the retreat centre was spectacular! It is a beautiful old stone building set in isolation in the magnificent Lake District, surrounded by enormous hills. This peaceful environment was perfect for a few days of reflection. The staff at Castlerigg Manor were full of enthusiasm and our time was filled with a vast variety of activities. We enjoyed the magnificent scenery from a hilltop which followed an uphill walk,

followed by some enjoyable time in the picturesque town of Keswick. We planned our own Mass on the second day by creating artwork with the theme of 'Listen', a sock puppet interpretation of the bible, hymns and prayers with the help of the teachers: Mrs Rooney, Mr Weaver, Mrs McLoughlin, Miss Evans, Miss Walker, Mr Leung, Miss Tompkins, Miss Montali, Mr Wheeler and Mr Shaw. The chapel was situated in a once stable which added to the humble atmosphere. We also completed many team building tasks such as playing higher or lower, balancing in a circle and many more.

Science Club

Dr M Newton

The Science Club meets regularly on Tuesday in SC8. This past term we have been doing a series of experiments on topics including bacteria and precipitation. We found that the door handles on the inside of PIP had more bacteria than that of the boys' toilet which surprised us. We are hoping to have a trip to North Staffordshire

University next term to do some fun experiments we are unable to do in the school labs.

Well done to all members of the Science Club: Sophie Longmore 8LS, Henry Michel 8SM, Elliot Smith 8AT, Patrick Brown 8SM, Joseph Cumbo 8SM, Michael Llewellyn 8AT, Jenice Jacob 7SS and Emily Clews 7SS.

Resilience and Ziggy Shipper

Mrs C Slattery

This year we delivered workshops on mental health, positive body image and dealing with exam pressure to instil in our pupils a determination and drive to persevere and not be easily discouraged by whatever life throws at them. For our final Resilience session we were delighted to welcome inspirational Auschwitz survivor Ziggy Shipper to share his message of humanity and hope with our pupils.

Ziggy lost his grandparents, his father, and all of his extended relations apart from two cousins in the ghettos and the concentration camps during the Second World War. After losing his father, he lived with his grandmother in the ghetto until they were separated when he was

taken to Belsen at the age of 13 and then to Auschwitz for the last few months of the war.

Speaking on behalf of the Holocaust Educational Trust, the tireless 86-year-old, said: "Don't hate. I could hate every German if I chose to, but what would be the point. They wouldn't know it and my hatred would only destroy me. So don't hate, but do remember."

Enduring such unimaginable hardships and only barely surviving, he still refers to himself as 'lucky'. Who better personifies that *never say die*, courageous spirit than Ziggy Shipper. He is the embodiment of resilience – an ultimate survivor and an inspiration to our pupils.

Where Are They Now?

Ever wondered what became of your old classmates or wanted to share a bit of your own life story? Send your details to: SJCollege@stjosephsmail.com and we will gladly share them here.

DR CLIVE R. JONES, OBE

I was at St Josephs from 1942 to 1951. I started in Prep A and progressed to the Sixth Form Science. One of my classmates was Anthony Burdon with whom I kept in contact until his death a few years ago. We were always in the same Form and we both went to Birmingham University after A Levels. He to read Medicine and I to study Geology. Another classmate who went on to Birmingham in 1954 to read Metallurgy was David Brown. After gaining my degree, I joined the Colonial Geological Survey Service and was appointed to the Geological Survey of Malaya. I spent the next 12 years carrying out geological and mineral resource surveys. My work resulted in important scientific discoveries greatly interesting my former Professor at Birmingham. On leaving Malaya in 1966 he arranged for me to have a Research Fellowship to pursue my work, which earned me a Doctorate. In 1968 I joined the Overseas Division of the British Geological Survey which undertook aid work in developing countries for the Foreign Office. My first assignment was 3 years in Iran as a member of a small British Aid team sent to assist with the geological survey of the Talish Mountains. From 1971 to 1980 I was seconded to the Geological Survey of Botswana where I was Director from 1975 to 1980. At the end of my secondment I was appointed OBE for services to Geology. My last 13 years of professional work were spent administering the British Aid Programme in Geosciences to developing countries all over the world. It was based in UK but involved much travelling to distant lands. I married my wife, Elaine, in Kuala Lumpur in 1965 and we have two children. Since our retirement we have pursued various interests including walking, camping, gardening, archaeological and geological fieldwork and natural history studies.





NHS Enrichment Day

Twenty-five Year 12 students attended an Enrichment Morning at the North Staffs Healthcare & Skills Academy. During the morning, students took part in clinical demonstrations and students found the morning very beneficial.



Culture & Cuisine

Our annual 'Culture & Cuisine' event took place on Thursday 25th February and was once again a very successful evening. Our GCSE & A-Level Musicians and Drama students provided the entertainment and afternoon tea was prepared by our Year 10 Food students. Our audience included grandparents, parents, governors, residents from local residential homes and members of our local community. Well done to everyone who took part – you were amazing!

days training with half a day on bikes followed by a half day bike maintenance session. Well done to Year 7 – you were all fantastic!

Parent Help!

If you have a hobby or interest that you would be happy to share with our students, please contact Mrs Jones on 01782 418215 or via email to jjones13@stjosephsmail.com.

Look out for new clubs starting in April/May:

- St John Ambulance 'Young First Aider'
- St Joseph's 'Bake Off'
- Photography Club
- Family Learning Robotics
- Fitness.... And much more



Bikeability

Despite the weather, during the week commencing 7th March, all students in Year 7 participated in Bikeability training. This was a full



Conway

Mr C Banner

There was a sigh of relief this year as Year 9 tackled their walk on Newborough beach during their trip to the Conway Centre. The weather had been awful last year, but this year was

considerably better – the sun shone and spirits were high as the year group enjoyed spending time together. Some fantastic work has

been produced this year including Zen drawings, samba drumming and even rocket launches (thank you Mr Goodall!) – though one of the latter did end up on the Conway Centre's roof. Costumes based on the theme of exploration and adventures were amazing this year – it's quite something to see Buzz Lightyear and Lara Croft dancing at the same disco. The year group did themselves proud and a massive thank you goes to all parents and guardians who continue support everything that Conway is.

