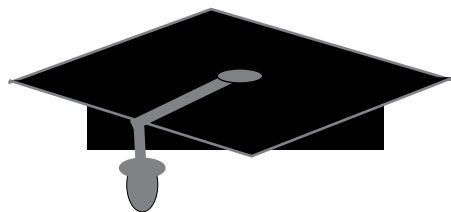


THE



CRIER

Education
Commission
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



Autumn 2021

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACROSS THE
DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



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National Translation Winner

The Richard Challoner School Community is delighted that one of its year 9 students, Finn Curtis, has recently been chosen as the Greater London winner of the National Translation Competition, run by Oxford University.

The competition work piece involved translating part of a book entitled *Le Jardin du dedans-dehors* (The Garden of the Inside-Outside) which tells the story of a young girl and her family who move to Iran in 1980 at the beginning of a war between Iraq and Iran. The girl and her brother enjoy exploring their new garden which seems sheltered from the upheaval taking place beyond the walls.

Commenting on his achievement, Finn said: "I was astonished to win! Learning French at Challoner is fantastic and I thoroughly enjoyed the translation competition."



The Translation Exchange launched a new competition for schools last Autumn which aims to promote language learning across the UK and to inspire creativity in the classroom. A team of Oxford MFL Undergraduates as well as professional translators from across the UK made up the judging panel.

The competition is inspired by the life and work of the great translator, Anthea Bell OBE who is ranked among the leading literary translators of the 20th and 21st centuries. Her work from German, French and Danish into English encompassed the writings of Freud, Hans Christian Andersen and many others.

St Fidelis Graduates



St Fidelis Catholic Primary School in Erith couldn't be more proud of the 72 children from Key Stage 2 who graduated from Children's University in July 2021. 39 boys and 33 girls collected between 30 - 165 hours each for completing additional educational activities outside of the school day. They showed great commitment during a year where Covid-19 made them face many obstacles.

The children did not give up and instead completed learning challenges online. They restarted clubs and visited locations as soon as they could, developing a range of skills and themselves as a whole. The dedication of these children is fantastic and they fully encompass our mission statement of 'Challenge, Compassion and Excellence'. We can't wait to see how many graduates we get this year.

Does your school have news to share? To feature in the Autumn term edition of *The Crier*, email your articles and photos to eceditor@rcaos.org.uk before 12pm on Friday 28th January 2022. Articles must be no longer than 300 words.

St Joseph Federation's 150th Anniversary

The Federation of St Joseph's Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools are celebrating their 150th anniversary during the 2021/22 academic year.

This year promises to be a very special year for the school, bringing together the various generations of staff, pupils and parents who make up the vibrant community at St Joseph's. The school is hosting a series of events during the year which include a fireworks evening, a Christmas fair, a Summer Fair, as well as a special Mass with the Archbishop of Southwark on 28 April 2022.

Pope Francis recently declared 2021 to be the year of St Joseph, adding further importance to these celebrations.

St Joseph's was founded in 1872 when the nuns of Virgo Fidelis pointed out to the Bishop of Southwark that, while they (the nuns) were educating the girls of Norwood, the boys had to go to a Protestant school for their schooling.

Today, we are proud to be an outstanding and inclusive school, whose pupils, parents and staff reflect the many cultures and languages of the community which we serve.



Beginning of Year Mass-Friday 1st October

Today, we had the honour and privilege of representing our school at the Diocesan Beginning of the Year Mass at St George's Cathedral in Southwark. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson and was attended by schools from across the Southwark Diocese.

Some key messages from today's Mass were: We should spread the Good News from the Gospel and love others as Jesus loves us. Today happens to be the Feast Day of St Thérèse of Lisieux; one of her inspiring quotes was:

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."

At the Mass all present were asked to share 'the little way', this means doing small acts of kindness with great love, for others and for God. All our small acts of kindness collectively become something great for God's Kingdom on earth. We were asked to share 'the little way' with you all, so that you would be encouraged to reach out in small ways to spread the Gospel with others.

During the service, Headteachers, Chaplains, Governors and members of the Education Commission were asked to stand and make promises of commitment for this year; Mrs Bryson and Miss Desbruslais did this on behalf of our school.

The Cathedral was breathtaking and the intricate ceiling art magnificent. The inspiring singing from the Ursuline High School, in particular the soloist who sang after Communion, brought us together and closer to God.

To experience this Mass was extremely enjoyable and we hope that by sharing our experience today, you will all go into the world with small acts of love.



Laleham Lea School Pupils Support Purley Food Hub



Laleham Lea School in Purley dropped off their Harvest Festival collection at Purley Food Hub this week to help support local families in crisis.

A mini-bus full of items including long life milk, soup, pasta and dehydrated potatoes were donated by Laleham Lea families to the Purley-based charity who are urgently requesting donations in the run up to the Christmas period.

Ms Barry, Headteacher at Laleham Lea said: "We are a longstanding supporter of the Purley Food Hub and the wonderful work they do for local families in need. We are delighted to help again this year with our Harvest Donations and I would like to thank all of our Laleham Lea families and Staff for their generosity.

"Helping those in need is a key part of our Catholic ethos here at Laleham Lea and we hope that this donation helps in some small way to support the fantastic work that the Food Hub does for the local community."

Louise Willmer, Acting Chair of the Food Hub's Management Committee, said: "We were so pleased to receive the mini-bus load of Harvest food donations from Laleham Lea on Wednesday and are very grateful to the school's families and staff for their generous support again this year, along with other schools and many churches, organisations and individuals.

"Already in 2021 we have delivered food for more than 25,000 meals to struggling clients and their families in Purley, Coulsdon, South Croydon and Waddon. With families in crisis this winter facing rising prices and higher energy bills, we are thankful for every donation we receive to help local people in need."

Good Shepherd Primary School Faith Ambassadors join Beginning of the new School Year annual mass at Southwark Cathedral

Good Shepherd Primary School has recently appointed Faith Ambassadors from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to help support the school's Catholic values and help everyone within the school community to develop in their faith.

A few of them were fortunate enough to attend St George's Cathedral in London for the annual Beginning of Year Mass.

It was a lovely service, within a beautiful setting. The children were enthralled and fully engaged with the service which saw the congregation join together in worship, particularly wonderful after such a long time apart.

The picture shows three of our Faith Ambassadors enjoying some time with The Most Rev. John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, who led the service. A truly special day was had by all.



Coloma Convent Girls' School – Year 7 Welcome Mass



On Tuesday 12th October Year 7 pupils and their families came together to celebrate the start of their journey at Coloma with a Welcome Mass. It was a truly beautiful and joyful celebration of prayer, reflection and song. Year 7 shared the following words together 'open our hearts and minds so that together we may be grateful for our gifts and the gifts of others; generous to one another...loving towards others...learning to find God in all things.'

During the Mass nine students from the Sixth Form were commissioned to be Eucharistic Ministers and we applaud them for being super role models and witnesses to their faith for the newest pupils as they begin Year 7. Mrs Englefield spoke about the pride she felt as the new Head teacher and being able to observe 'working hard and being kind' each and every day at Coloma.

St George's Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Our Spiritual Life committee and their siblings at St. George's Cathedral where Archbishop Wilson celebrated Mass to mark the beginning of the Synodal process in Southwark.

We pray for Archbishop Wilson and our local Church as we seek to respond to the Pope's call to grow in communion, participation, and mission



Royal Mail Stamp Competition at Notre Dame RC School

Last year, many of our students participated in the Royal Mail Stamp Competition. The designs were set to highlight the tremendous work played by key workers and others in keeping the UK connected during those unprecedented times. The competition's theme was: 'Heroes of the Pandemic'.

Unfortunately, there were no winners or runners up from Notre Dame but individual students and the school as a whole received a certificate for breaking the world record for submissions put forward.

Mamudah Kan 10J:

My stamp was inspired by my mum and that was why I drew a nurse. I think that the people who worked in the hospital during the pandemic spent tireless hours caring for those who are sick and without their hard work, we would've never gotten through COVID. My artwork symbolises the appreciation that they all deserve!

Nanaba Fynn 10J:

My stamp symbolises all the selfless efforts nurses and doctors have given during the pandemic. Sometimes we forget to appreciate them and I thought that through my artwork, I can express our unsaid gratitude.



SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, Mitcham



Children, staff and governors have been overjoyed to be able to gather physically for collective worship.

We began the year with a whole school assembly which brought smiles to everyone's faces, especially as we sang a hymn with associated actions.

We welcomed our parish priest back for our start of the school year Mass. Fr Stephen helped the children to reflect on the importance of the Mass, which was of great benefit to them.

Our prayer leaders attended Mass at St George's cathedral along with the Senior Leaders and Chair of Governors.

We have also attended Mass at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, and the younger children attended liturgies and visits too.

These events and opportunities are all contributing to the children becoming familiar with the church building and our local clergy once again, with the hope that collective worship and the sense of community will continue to grow following the pandemic.

Avila Partnership Student Conference 2021

To celebrate the feast day of St Teresa of Avila, Students from Year 12 at St Philomena's and Ursuline High School led The Avila Partnership Student Conference. The conference was held at St John Fisher Parish Hall and followed the theme of Stewardship.

The students' first session was delivered by Elenor Bowman, Youth Minister for Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church Wimbledon. This session was based on the Conference of the Parties 26 (COP26). The students discovered ways in which they could take action for climate change. As part of the activity they wrote a letter to the Prime Minister in solidarity with those campaigning for climate justice.

Pope Francis states in his encyclical 'Laudato Si' that we must 'hear the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor'. The focus of this session was to understand the links between poverty and climate change and how as Catholics we have



a duty to respond. Students took part in an augmented reality game where they had to become CEO of a charity and make decisions on projects to achieve additional funding.

The final session students gathered together for a time of prayer, as we are in the month of the Holy Rosary. Students prayed the rosary together, this activity was lead by the Chaplain from St Philomena's Deacon Errol. The students each received a set of Rosary beads. Praying this Rosary showed us that Climate change presents a time of crisis for us all, but Mary is with us and cares for us. We can commit ourselves to caring for creation wholeheartedly and courageously like Mary did to all that she experienced in life.

International Day of the Girl-Global Girl Gathering



On 11th October 2021 Form Captains in Year 10 and 11 at St Philomena's joined in solidarity with girls around the world to take part in the Global Girls Gathering. This year's theme as assigned by UNICEF, was 'Digital Generation, our Generation'. The aims of the day were to redefine the power of digital technology and how it can be used as a positive platform for empowerment and education.

Throughout the day there were two panel talks around the topics of the power of internet for girls. The panelist spoke about the importance of digital technology and how the digital era has increased the potential for girls to flourish in education, the workplace and society, if used appropriately. The panelists included; Tobi Oredein founder of Black Ballad (Black Ballad is a UK based lifestyle platform that seeks to tell the human experience through eyes of black British women), Josefa González Blanco Ortiz Mena- British Ambassador to the UK, Rozella Marie Mahjhrin- Body Diversity Activist, Nusrath Hassan - WOW Trustee and Girls' Education Activist (The WOW Foundation is a charity that believes a gender equal world is urgently required), Grace Davies Redmond - Senior Account Executive, John Doe PR, Nishma Robb - Director of Brand & Reputation Marketing at Google and Mary Ann Sieghart - Journalist. After each of the panels, students spoke in groups and submitted questions for them to answer.

This was a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills and celebrate the International Day of the Girl with women from different countries- there were some students listening from Singapore and Malaysia. The day ended with a quiz- St Philomena's was placed sixth out of 170 different schools which gave a chance for celebration. We look forward to sharing what we have learnt in our form groups, spreading the knowledge further.

St James the Great Peckham: Pupils Excel in Chinese

Four years ago, St James the Great Catholic Primary School in Peckham made the bold decision to start teaching Mandarin Chinese to its primary pupils and are now reaping the rewards. Last Summer, 23 Year 6 pupils out of a class of 26 passed the internationally recognised 'Youth Chinese Test Level 1' and celebrated with a 5-course meal at local restaurant 'Mr Bao'.

The restaurant trip was sponsored by the Swire Chinese Language Foundation who support the learning of Mandarin in 127 schools across the UK. The owners of 'Mr Bao' treated the pupils to a private opening of the restaurant with a tailored tasting menu just for them! Some of the highlights for the children



were the chance to test their chopstick skills and to taste dumplings, 'bao' buns and lychee juice. "We felt just like royalty", one pupil wrote in his review of the day.

Haniel, whilst in Year 6, entered a translation of a Mandarin poem for the Stephen Spender Prize which celebrates multilingualism and literary translation.

Haniel was 'commended' in the 14 and under category for his Chinese to English poetry. A great achievement.

As part of Haniel's commentary on his translation he stated "I added a light and dark theme to showcase the contradiction of life, how people could be living at peace while others may be in a nightmare". Haniel continues his studies at St Thomas the Apostle College, Nunhead.