



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

15 December 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 18 December 2017

- Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Workshop for Year 10

Tuesday, 19 December 2017

- Nonuniform/Christmas Jumper Day
- Sixth Form Parents' Evening (16:30-18:30)

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

- Lunchtime Concert - Violin Ensemble (13:45-14:00)
- Parents' Carol Service (18:00-20:00)

Thursday, 21 December 2017

- Pupils' Carol Service (11:00-12:00)

INTRODUCTION

We received the very sad news today that Jamarío Christie, a past pupil, passed away peacefully on Wednesday. Please pray for the repose of his soul and keep his bereaved family in your prayers at this very sad time.

This has been an extremely busy week. We had our annual Prize Giving Ceremony on Wednesday, with over 120 prize winners and 500 guests. It was a wonderful event that showcased the talent and excellent effort of many of our pupils. We were honoured that Sir Michael Wilshaw, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (2012-2016), was able to attend and present the awards to our pupils.

On Thursday afternoon, we held our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party which was attended by over 100 local citizens who enjoyed performances from our School Choir, the cast of Joseph, and Ms Greer, along with a game of bingo and carols to finish off the afternoon. It was a wonderful event and as always our pupils were outstanding ambassadors for our school.

Next Tuesday will be a nonuniform/Christmas jumper day for all pupils and there will be a collection on the gates in the morning for donations of £1 or more. All money collected will go to our Christmas charities. Also on Tuesday, we will be holding the Sixth Form Parents' Evening. On Wednesday evening, we will be holding our Carol Service, starting at 6pm, for parents and friends. Please do make an effort to come along to this joyous event in the run up to Christmas.

On Thursday morning we will have the pupils' Carol Service after which pupils will be dismissed for the Christmas break at approximately 12 noon.

This is the last newsletter of the year and next week pupils will be given a copy of the Christmas Glendalian to bring home - please ask them for it!

We wish everyone a merry and holy Christmas and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday, 8 January, 8.50am.



Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea Party

PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY

On Wednesday, the school held its annual Prize Giving Ceremony. The evening recognises those pupils who not only achieved great results across their subjects, but also showed great effort. We also presented a number of pupils with our special awards for community service; exam results; musical and performing arts achievements; and academic progress.

On the evening, we were delighted to be joined by our guest speaker Sir Micheal Wilshaw, as well as our Governors and special guests.

Congratulations to all the award winners.



Anahy Mercado Zambrana and Maja Maciurzynska, winners of the special award 'The Patrick Egan Memorial Cup for the Best Year 11 Examination Performance 2017'

REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

Gospel Reading; Luke 1:26-38

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognise God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Prayer

Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious God forever.

Amen

Thought for the Week

"Your smile will give you a positive countenance that will make people feel comfortable around you. No matter what you're going through, and it may seem hard to get to it but you can do it and just keep working towards it and you'll find the positive side of things".

SPORT

The Year 11 basketball team competed in the first annual H6 Basketball Tournament. St Thomas More School, Heron Academy, Fortismere School and Greig City Academy were all invited to compete in the first tournament based at the Haringey Sixth Form Centre in preparation for the London Youth Games.

St Thomas More made the final but marginally lost out to Greig City Academy and finished 2nd. The boys will be representing Haringey in the London Youth Games, which will commence in February - well done to the boys.

St Thomas More School boys' teams are on course to win the 'Overall Sports Shield' in Haringey for winning the most competitions for different sports in Haringey - good luck boys!



Words of the Week

Monday: Cornucopia (Noun) – An abundant supply of good things of a specified kind.

Tuesday: Nostalgic (Adjective) – A sentimental longing and affection for a period in the past.

Wednesday: Awe (Noun) – A feeling of reverential respect mixed with wonder or fear.

Thursday: Yuletide (Noun) – The period of several days around and including Christmas Day.