



St Edmund Arrowsmith Chaplaincy  
Summer 2023

# Chaplaincy News

## MISSION WEEK 2023!

Aspire, Commitment, Talent, Inspire, Overcome, Nurture, Service

After several years of setbacks due to the pandemic, we were FINALLY able to hold our Whole School Mission Week here in school starting Monday 26th June – Friday 30th June! And what a week it was!

Our theme was our school Mission Statement "**Prepare the Way of the Lord**" and the new strands that spell out the word 'ACTIONS' that help us with our preparations. The final design of our new Mission Statement will go live on our school website in the Autumn 1/2 term so keep your eyes peeled for the reveal!

There were far too many fun, exciting, prayerful, inspirational things going on during Mission Week to confine to one section of our termly newsletter so we decided to dedicate the whole thing to showcasing what an amazing week it was – certainly something to remember by all staff and students.

We hope that the prayerful witness, love for one another and the 'family feel' of our school shines brightly through these articles and pictures. Thank you for taking the time to read!



"Prepare the Way of the Lord"





# Monday 26th June



## Breakfast with God!

As is tradition with our school Mission Weeks', our day begins in prayer with 'Breakfast with God'. This is a time for all who are in school early enough to pray together, share some toast and a brew, sing together and give thanks to God for the day ahead.

Our usual daily morning prayer takes place in the school chapel, but Breakfast with God is always moved to the school canteen so many more students and staff are able to gather, eat and pray – three things we know Jesus did often with His disciples.



## Opening Liturgies!

Our first day was launched with the help of our Opening Liturgies with prayers, reflections and readings given by staff, pupils and Deacon Jim Byrne. Hymns were played by our school band and choir and all year groups were given a copy of our special Mission prayer. A perfect way to set the scene of Mission Week!



## Sports Day!

The letter 'C' in 'ACTIONS' references 'Commitment' and the letter 'O' references 'Overcome'.

What better way to make the point of showing commitment and overcoming challenges than our annual whole school Sports Day!

The whole school joined the athletes on the field for an afternoon of fun, ice cream and sport. Pupils showed how they overcame obstacles & nerves to compete in our field events and showed dedicated commitment to the teams and the school by trying their best.

All pupils were reminded and inspired that often in life, when preparing a way for the Lord to enter our lives, we may face setbacks we need to overcome, and showing commitment and dedication in overcoming those challenges is vital if we are to make our lives pleasing to God. Only through commitment and the ability to overcome our hurdles will we meet Jesus.



"Prepare the Way of the Lord"



# Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th June



## Lunch Time Fun!

Our fantastic staff members kept everyone entertained with lunch time fun over the course of the week!

Activities included: Play your Cards Right, Hook a Duck, 2 Giant Inflatable Obstacle Courses, Crossbar Challenges, Sponge a Teacher & Penalty Shoot-outs and SEA Radio station!

Pupils and staff could never be bored and a brilliant time was had by all.

The atmosphere in school was palpable, the smiles on the pupils faces when walking around the corridors at break times were infectious.



## Community Afternoon Tea Party!

We welcomed local parishioners from our Feder Parishes to a wonderful afternoon tea party on Wednesday 28th June. Finger sandwiches, tea and cakes (all lovingly handmade by our pupils as part of our Service strand of 'ACTIONS') were served by our newly appointed Y10 prefect team along with some staff volunteers.

It has been a long tradition at St Edmund Arrowsmith to welcome members of our community for a Christmas Party in the Winter term, but due to recent building work and the Covid Pandemic this hasn't been able to happen for quite some time. It was therefore an absolute joy to welcome back members of the community, some old faces as well as new for this summer party!

We had hoped the weather would allow for an outdoor tea party, but the British summer threw us a curveball so we ended up inside. But it did nothing to stop the fun that was had by all.

Parishioners were treated to the school band and choir performing alongside the dancers. We had a raffle and a few rounds of Bingo to top it all off! A perfect afternoon.



"Prepare the Way of the Lord"





# Thursday 29th & Friday 30th June



## St Peter & St Paul Whole School Mass

Thursday brought the sun again as we held our Whole School

St Peter and Paul Mass out on the field at the front of school.

This is an annual event in our school calendar but every four years when we have a Mission Week, it really takes on a whole new meaning and importance.

The examples of the two saints are so important to our community when it comes to leading a life pleasing to God. This Mass is always a highlight of the year for many of our staff and students. We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful priest Canon John Gorman and the amazing Deacon Jim Byrne for taking the time out of their incredible busy lives to come and say Mass for us as well as hear confessions and lead us in prayer & adoration throughout the week. Without them, we would be lost.



## Mission Week Summer Showcase

The 'T' in 'ACTIONS' stands for 'Talents'. And what a talented bunch of students we have here at Eddies! To round off our week, pupils from the choir, concert band, drama students & dancers took part in a summer showcase for parents, the school and the local community. It was a fantastic evening of pure talent and entertainment and we couldn't be more proud of our amazing students.

God has gifted us all with unique abilities and talents, we are encouraged at St Edmund Arrowsmith to showcase those talents, to inspire those around us and to do everything with heartfelt thanks to God the Father. This was certainly the case during this evening and we are so thankful for everyone who took part and showed everyone what our school is all about. It was a perfect way to end our week and one that won't be forgotten for a long time!



"Prepare the Way of the Lord"