

Collective Worship



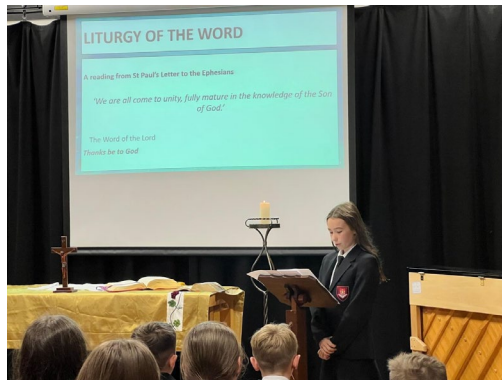
Every morning students get the wonderful opportunity to take part in Morning Prayer with their Tutor.

This is a lovely way to start the day in prayer and reflection so that staff and students alike can start their day focused on God.

Collective worship is at the heart of our school with prayer, assemblies and Mass following the liturgical calendar and themes.

We have had some amazing Tutor Prayers where tutors have planned and delivered prayers with their form class. Miss Malcolmson year 11s perfectly exemplified the Parable

of the Mustard Seed by sharing out mustard seeds before mixing mustard and bicarbonate of soda to show how small things can grow in to huge things!



The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Catholic Life

Issue #01 | End of Autumn Term | December 2022

Doing 'small things with great love' this term



This publication is a celebration of all the wonderful opportunities taken this term to put our faith into action at EMS

Meet the Team



Mr A Morrison



Mrs E Wilson



Mrs L Skinner-Howe



Miss M Smith



Mr N Dunn



Mr B Casey



Mrs R Fawcett



Mrs R Blaylock



Miss E Dunn



Mr S Conway



Canon P Douthwaite

Luxmuralis



Life by Luxmuralis

Year 12 and 13 A level RS students went to the Life by Luxmuralis exhibition at Durham Cathedral with Mr and Miss Dunn.

'Life' is designed to enable people to explore and contemplate their own personal journeys and reflect upon life on today's planet that occurs in a single 24-hour period. The viewer is taken from Sunrise to Sunset, journeying through the beauty of planet earth, witnessing the sun, the oceans and the clouds.

The outside reflected inside the majestic sacred space giving the viewer moments of awe and wonder. The artwork enables contemplation on our human existence in the creation of our planet and our human impact upon it, reflecting ecology and the beauty of the world around us. An awe inspiring experience!



Lindisfarne Gospels

On Wednesday 12th October, Mrs. Blaylock and some Year 7 students attended a workshop and then visited the Lindisfarne Gospel exhibition at Laing Art Gallery. The Lindisfarne Gospel has been loaned to the Laing Art Gallery from the British Museum in London and was part of an exhibition exploring its meaning in the world today.



As part of the visit, students also visited the Laing Art Gallery's permanent exhibition. Within this, was a painting of a ship that one of our students, Emily Barnfather's great, great, great, great Grandfather had been rescued from. It was quite a poignant moment for her and we were really pleased that she had managed to see the painting.

Many people commented on how well our students conducted themselves. They were fantastic ambassadors for the school.



The Relics of St Bernadette



Along with a number of schools from the Teesside area, a group of Year 8 students were invited to attend Middlesbrough Cathedral for the visit of the relics of St Bernadette Soubirous. As a young girl she experienced visions of the Virgin Mary in the small town of Lourdes in southwest France, in the middle of the 19th century. Ever since millions of pilgrims have visited the Pilgrimage site, lighting candles, taking part in processions of the Holy Rosary and both drinking from and bathing in the holy water from the spring.

The visit to Middlesbrough was part of a nationwide tour of the Catholic Diocese of England and Wales. The students took part in a Mass and were also able to respectfully venerate the relics. It certainly was a memorable event and the students enjoyed being part of such a memorable occasion.



CAFOD Donations



Our new CAFOD group headed by Mr Conway has been active in raising funds for Family Fast day.

This year Family Fast day was 7th October and students raised £125 to help families throughout the world.

Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be worse than any we've lived through and by raising this money students demonstrated the virtue of compassion.



Youth SVP

Youth SVP have been busy putting their faith into action this term. They have coordinated a charity collection of much needed every day items which will be distributed in the local community.

They have also been involved in the collection in a foodbank collection which will be delivered to St Aidans kitchen on the 15th December to support those in our local community who are struggling at this time.

The group are also going to be involved in Lenten projects to build up to Easter.



St Vincent
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

Strength Through Unity



A NEW student body has been formed to ensure everyone's voice is heard loud and clear across the school community.

Taking the school motto 'Per Unitatem Virtus' as their inspiration, students at The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Hartlepool, have launched the Strength Through Unity Group.

The group will celebrate diversity and promote positive inclusion by talking about issues that are important to young people today.

Head teacher Sara Crawshaw said: "Students will meet regularly to talk about inclusion and all aspects of their lives that matter to them. Care for each other and human dignity is central to our mission as a school. This group is a proactive and joyful in their approach to celebrating diversity and bringing students of all ages together."

Interfaith Week

This year saw the launch of our first ever Interfaith Week!



Mrs Blaylock and Mrs Fawcett worked hard with our Strength Through Unity group to create a fun and engaging week for students to teach them about different faiths and allow them to experience different religions and cultures.

Interfaith Week happens every year and aims to strengthen interfaith relationships and increase understanding and tolerance.

Throughout the week all lessons in the school started with Review questions connected to the interfaith prayers that students had taken part in during form time. This allowed for interesting discussions and question time.

Students enjoyed specialist interfaith lessons in RE and took part in celebration on the last day of the week run by the Strength Through Unity group.



RE Masterclasses

Mrs Wilson is one of our A Level specialist teachers at EMS. She went out to St Michaels and Northfield schools to deliver some Masterclasses to their year 11 students.

This was an exciting opportunity for students to experience A Level Religious Studies just before their Prep exams and to engage with some deep thinking!

This was also a excellent chance to build some new relationships between schools and departments.



Year 7 and 8 Retreat



On 26-28th October some of Year 7 and 8 students went to the Youth Village for the first retreat of the year.

Students had an opportunity to reflect on their own faith and to learn more about what it means to be a Christian.

Among all the prayerful activities student had time to play capture the flag and to take part in a fun filled disco.

The students were an absolute credit to the school and themselves, we are very proud of them all. Mr Hutchinson, Mr Cooksey, Mrs Chapman and Mr Corcoran also had a wonderful time!



Weekly Mass



We started off our new year by launching our new weekly Tutor group Mass. This entirely led by students who are guided by our Chaplaincy team.

These Masses could not happen without the tireless support of our Parish priests Canon Paul Douthwaite and Fr Jim Angus.

We are supported by wonderful student musicians which makes this times especially joy filled.

Student and staff were joined by past members of staff including former Head teachers Mr Relton and Mr Lee.



Remembrance



On Friday 11th November, Canon Paul joined us to commemorate Remembrance Day. We held a liturgy to commemorate those who have left their life through service.

At 11 am, students lined the decorated balconies in the dining hall and observed a two minute silence and listened to a haunting rendition of the last post played beautifully by Mr Travis.



Queen Elizabeth II



Image drawn by
Year 10 student
Stan Scott.

Following the sad passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, staff and students paused to reflect and commemorate her life.

All students participated in a liturgy in St Anne's hall to show respect for commitment and care this wonderful lady showed to her country.

Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph in Hartlepool and in London.

The English Martyrs Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Prayers for Her Majesty The Queen

The Queen has sadly passed away.

As a Catholic Community we turn to God in times of distress.

Dear Lord we keep her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in our prayers during this time of national mourning. Our prayers and thoughts go out to her family, the whole country and the commonwealth. We give gratitude for her life of service and that your love and comfort may be with her loved ones and the whole Country of England.

We pray together the Lord's prayer.
Our Father....

Eternal Rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace, Amen.
English Martyrs, Pray for us - Amen



Advent Wreath making

On Wednesday 30th November, we held our annual Advent Wreath Making competition. Every team did a fantastic job of their wreaths and left a tough job for our judges.



The final decision was 1st - JB, 2nd - JI, 3rd - AL, 4th - MC, 5th - TM. The wreaths have been placed in key locations around school: St Anne's Hall, School Chapel, Mrs Crawshaw's Office, Main Reception and the Sixth Form Common Room. Well done to everyone who took part.

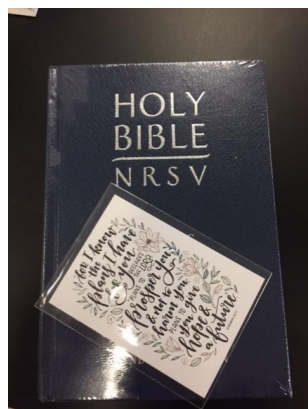
Confirmation Breakfast



On 28th November we held a 'Confirmation Breakfast' to celebrate with students who confirmed their faith in the ceremony held on Thursday 24th November.

Students had a lovely breakfast and were presented with gifts from the school.

Congratulations to you all.



Gideon's Visit



Pastoral Leader of Year 7, Mr Hutchinson, invited our old friends the Gideons to visit and bring some wonderful Gideon Bibles to gift to our year 7s.

Students listened to a talk about the value and importance of scripture and listened to stories of how the Gideon bibles had had an impact on peoples lives.

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

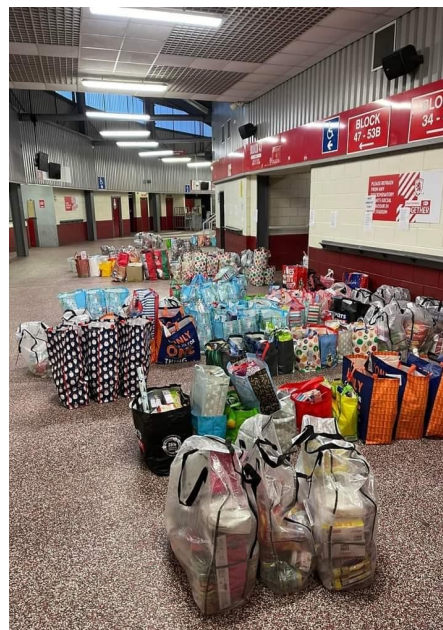
On 28th November we held a short service to bless and switch on our Christmas Tree which takes pride of place in the foyer of the school building. Mr McCartie and the choir performed some lovely carols to make the event even more festive.

Special thank you to Chair of Governors, Sue Harrison for coming in to celebrate with us and bigger thanks go Mr Wilson and his site team for their hard work putting up and dressing the tree. They have done a wonderful job.



Care Foundation Christmas Hampers

Over the weekend beginning 3rd December 15 bags of Christmas Hampers were delivered to the Riverside Stadium.



Mrs Wilson organised this collected and kindly took these to the stadium ready to be distributed to our 5 allocated families around Teesside and Hartlepool in time for Christmas.

Staff and students donated all the items that were taken demonstrating the virtues of justice and compassion.

Thank you EMS for your kind donations, these hampers will make a huge difference to these families particularly over the Christmas period.