



# Chaplaincy News Letter

## January 2024

Chaplaincy has moved to a new room, we are now in Room 049, at the very centre of college life.



Chaplaincy is an integral part of College life at St Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College. It provides our community with various opportunities to explore and deepen spiritual beliefs through voluntary prayer services, bible study, opportunities for charity work and attending residential retreats.

The chaplaincy base is a social space open to every member of the St Francis Xavier community. The base provides a safe space in which students can meet together, play games, discuss and debate issues that affect them. Working alongside the College Pastoral Team, Chaplaincy also helps to support individuals coping with the stresses of daily life and those faced with particular challenges such as bereavement, ill health and loss.

The college's Gospel choir rehearses in the base. Outreach work to older members of the local community is also a facet in the life of the college as is the charitable works that are undertaken.

## House Names

When the college was founded, the eight House Names chosen were of pilgrimage sites in England. Today our students come from a greater variety of backgrounds and cultures. The decision was made to reflect this in our houses, using the names of pilgrimage sites all over the world. therefore: -

St Albans became **Abidjan**, Canterbury became **Camino**, Durham became **Jerusalem**, Glastonbury became **Guadalupe**, Hereford became **Fatima**, Lincoln became **Lourdes**, York became **Knock** and we have retained **Walsingham** as a house name.



Each house has their own House Service in the chapel at one point in the year. Students contribute with readings prayers and sometimes singing.

When Camino House had their service, Mr Torras spoke of the two times he did that pilgrimage.

## Charitable Works

We started the year by joining many other schools and colleges in having a Macmillan Coffee Morning.



We raised a total of £110 selling everything at 50p.

There was a Rocky Road faceoff between two different types and one student's grandmother made a Jamaican Ginger and Rum Cake that proved particularly popular (in spite of no rum being evident).

Everything was sold in the twenty-minute morning break.

**Ace of Clubs** is a charity local to the college, they are based at Clapham Common. They exist to help rough sleepers and the local homeless. Just before Advent a group of students visited Ace of Clubs to see how we might best serve them in the run up to Christmas.

The following week we started our collection of contributions. This resulted in over thirty carrier bags full of donated items taken to them.

We must thank those parents who contributed to this cause.



## This Term's Charities.

Between now and Easter we will be supporting three charities, the Afro-Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT), Cafod and Great Ormond Street Hospital. For Great Ormond Street we will be having a 'Yard Sale'. So, all those odd things you have no more use for, we will. Cafod are asking schools and colleges to take part in their BIG LENT WALK



This will see a group of students being sponsored to walk around Clapham Common.

Anyone who wants to be involved in this just needs to let Deacon Tony know.

However, we do not confine ourselves to just these charities, supporting Great Ormond Street this term was the idea of one of our students. If there is a charity close to your heart we might support, please do let us know.

## Prayer and Liturgy

Prayers are said at 9.00am every Tuesday to Friday in the chapel. At 11am each day the whole college shares a reflection via a Teams meeting. The themes of the reflection can vary with topics such as feast days in the church, saints and public figures who inspire us, Black History Month and Poetry Week. If any member of the college community has a theme they would like shared, just let the chaplain know.

Mass is said once a month thanks to the generosity of the local clergy, as previously mentioned there are House Services and 1pm each Wednesday is reserved for quiet prayer time in the chapel.

Just last week a group of students, along with Deacon Tony and Ms Shortland shared a three-day residential retreat at St Cassian's Centre in Berkshire.

Currently twelve students are undertaking a course of preparation to be confirmed on 2<sup>nd</sup> May this year, here at the college.

Fourteen families took part in our Advent Novena. Another novena will be offered to families at the end of the academic year. The theme of which will be for the futures of our students.

From next week a regular email with a reflection on the coming Sunday's Gospel reading will be shared.

But for now, let us share a prayer that encompasses all our college values.

*May we, in **Kindness** be of **Service** to those we encounter In love and **Faith**. Let us foster **Inclusion** with the **Courage** of the Holy Spirit. For **Honesty** to be valued **Respect** must be shown. **Forgiveness** must be shared, forgiveness must be sought. Amen*