



AllSaints

CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

1st May 2025



Bishop Alan Williams' visit - 1st May

**"Christ is
alive! He is
our hope,
and in a
wonderful
way he brings
youth to our
world."**

Pope Francis

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! As we continue to rejoice in the light and promise of Eastertide, our school community holds in prayer both joy and sorrow. The death of Pope Francis, a shepherd to the world and tireless witness to mercy and justice, invites us to reflect more deeply on the hope of the Resurrection he so passionately proclaimed. In this season of renewal and new life, we commend his soul to the Risen Lord and give thanks for his courageous commitment to peace, dialogue, and the dignity of every human person.

This Eastertide has also brought moments of celebration to our school. We were honoured to welcome Bishop Alan Williams on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker—a powerful reminder of the dignity of work, the beauty of quiet faith, and the strength of service. His visit, together with the many achievements of our students and staff over the past year, fills us with gratitude and purpose. May this holy season remind all our families that even in uncertain times, the light of Christ is never extinguished. **Let us continue to be people of hope, building a future rooted in faith, love, and the joy of the Gospel. Alleluia!**

All Saints Remembers Pope Francis



The death of Pope Francis has been a deeply moving moment for the global Church, and for our school community. As the successor of St Peter, Pope Francis served with humility, compassion, and a radical commitment to the Gospel. His witness reminded us that faith is not a private possession, but a call to action—especially in the service of the poor, the marginalised, and the environment. In classrooms, assemblies, and chaplaincy life, his leadership consistently guided our understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, helping us see that every human being has dignity, that we are called to care for our common home, and that true discipleship means building a more just and loving world.

One of Pope Francis' most powerful gifts to young people was his apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive), written after the Synod on Youth. In this document, he spoke directly to young people, reminding them that they are not only the future of the Church—but its present. He encouraged them to live boldly, to bring their faith into the world with joy, and to recognise that God calls each of them uniquely to be saints of the 21st century. His words continue to inspire our students to live out their faith with courage, compassion, and integrity, both within school and in the wider community.

To mark his passing, students were invited to make prayer cards and offer prayers for the repose of Pope Francis' soul. On Friday 25th April, the school gathered together in the Chapel to celebrate Holy Mass, praying not only for Pope Francis, but also for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the election of a new Pope. In this time of mourning and reflection, we are reminded that we belong to a universal Church—one that is united in prayer, in hope, and in love. Pope Francis' legacy will live on in the lives of our students, as they continue to walk the path he so faithfully laid out: one of service, simplicity, and joy in Christ.





VISIT OF BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS



On Thursday 1st May, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, our school was filled with joy as we welcomed Bishop Alan Williams, the Bishop of Brentwood, for a very special visit. His presence among us marked a day of celebration and thanksgiving in this Jubilee Year of Hope, as we gave thanks for the many blessings our community has received. Bishop Alan joined us to recognise some of our proudest achievements over the past year, including our Outstanding OFSTED report and being named the Pearson National School of the Year for Making a Difference. His encouragement and prayers reminded us that these accomplishments are not just successes, but signs of a school rooted in faith, service, and the pursuit of excellence for the good of all.

The day centred around a joyful celebration of Holy Mass, where Bishop Alan prayed with and for our Year 7 and Year 9 students, members of St Margaret House ahead of their house feast day, and our outgoing and incoming Sixth Form student leaders. A highlight of the celebration was the induction of four new members into our student chaplaincy team, the Society of St Joseph—a moment of great pride and commitment to faith in action. In a surprise gesture, Bishop Alan himself was named an honorary member of the Society and presented with the red tie and St Joseph medal, symbols of dedication to service, humility, and prayer. In this season of Easter and in the spirit of St Joseph, the day reminded us that through faith, hope, and community, we continue to grow together as One in Christ.



ASSEMBLY FOCUS

w/c 22nd April

He is Risen

In the first week back to school after the Easter holidays, every year group has taken part in assemblies led by their Head of Year on the theme 'He is Risen', drawing us more deeply into the joy and meaning of the Easter season. Rather than seeing Easter as the conclusion of Lent, students were encouraged to reflect on it as a new beginning—a fresh chapter filled with hope, purpose, and renewed faith. The Resurrection is not only a moment of triumph but an invitation to live differently, to carry the light of Christ into our daily lives and relationships.

Among the most powerful reflections came from Mr Calver, Head of Year 9, who shared a personal testimony about becoming a father for the first time last year. He spoke with honesty and warmth about how life-changing the experience has been—filled with both challenges and overwhelming joy. Just like the Resurrection, this new beginning has brought unexpected moments, great responsibility, and a deep sense of hope for the future. His story reminded students that even when new beginnings feel daunting, they are often where God is most powerfully at work.



w/c 28th April

The Merciful Love of God - House Assemblies

In the second week of assemblies, our Year 12 Student Heads of House led their peers in thoughtful and prayerful reflections on the theme of the merciful love of God, in honour of Divine Mercy Sunday. Speaking with maturity and compassion, they invited students to consider how God's mercy remains constant, even when we feel we have strayed or fallen short. The assemblies offered a message of reassurance and hope—that no matter our past, God's love is always ready to restore and renew us. In light of the recent passing of Pope Francis, students also gave thanks for his life and witness, recognising in him a powerful example of mercy in action, lived through humility, compassion, and a heart open to all.

MARGARET HOUSE FEAST DAY



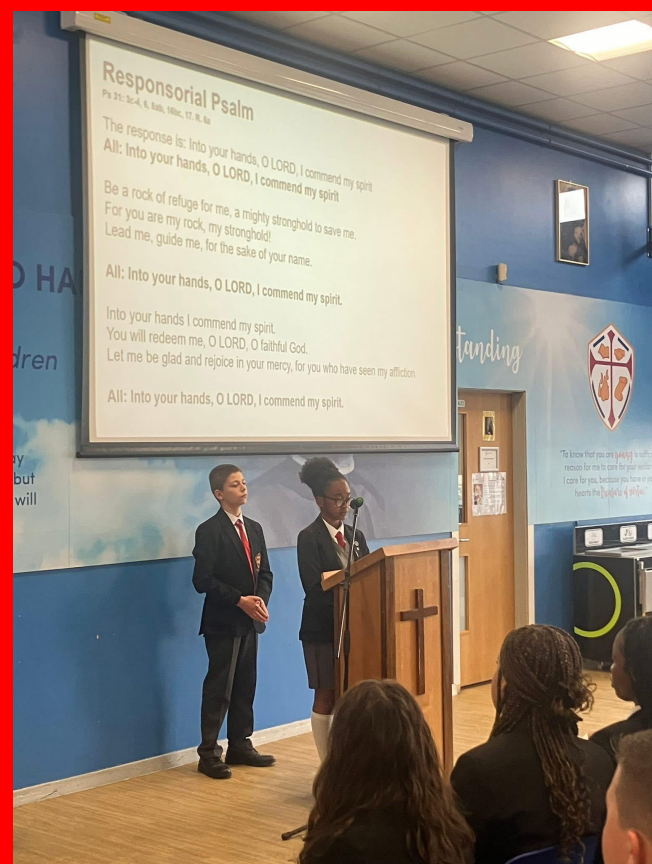
On Friday 2nd May, the students and staff from St Margaret House gathered to celebrate their feast day.

They had already been specially invited to join the Mass celebrated the previous day by Bishop Alan. The Friday celebration began with a Liturgy of the Word, some joyful singing of hymns and a reflection on St Margaret Clitherow. Some time ago, the BBC put together a history programme on the Gunpowder Plot, looking at the impact of the martyrdom of St Margaret on the local Catholic community during the reformation.



We took the opportunity to think about those all around the world now who are persecuted for their faith, as well as to reflect on how blessed we are to be able to gather as a school community and worship freely.

The morning celebration continued as the whole house moved across to the St John Paul II dinner hall, to share in fellowship and mark the feast day with cakes, doughnuts and cookies.



Chaplaincy Timetable Eastertide

Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 8.10am		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Mass
Lunchtime 12.40-1.10pm	Rosary	Lectio Divina (Pray with the Bible)	Eucharistic Adoration	The Chosen	The Big Question (RE)

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning 8.10am		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Mass
Lunchtime 12.40 - 1.10pm	Rosary	Lectio Divina (Pray with the Bible)	Eucharistic Adoration	The Chosen	The Big Question (RE)

New Alpha Youth Programme

We're excited to announce that we'll be launching *Youth Alpha* at school from Wednesday 14th May, running weekly from 3.15–4.30pm. Alpha is a world-renowned Christian programme used by Catholic parishes, schools, and other Christian communities to help young people explore life's big questions in a relaxed and friendly setting. Each session includes a short video, open discussion, and space to reflect on what faith means in today's world—no pressure, no judgment, just honest conversation.

This programme is ideal for students who are thinking about preparing for Confirmation next year, want to explore their Christian faith more deeply, or simply have questions they'd like to ask in a safe and supportive space. With only 30 spaces available, we encourage early sign-ups to avoid disappointment. Whether you're full of faith, full of doubt, or somewhere in between, Youth Alpha is a brilliant opportunity to grow, connect, and discover more about yourself and God.

