



AllSaints

CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

16th May 2025



“Peace be with you! Dearest brothers and sisters, this was the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave his life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are; and all the peoples, and all the earth: Peace be with you.”

Pope Leo XIV - 8th May 2025

We begin this edition of our Catholic Life and Mission newsletter with joyful hearts as we reflect on the historic election of our new Holy Father. The announcement of the new pope has brought a renewed sense of hope and unity to the global Church. In his first address, the pope emphasised a powerful message of peace, calling on all people—regardless of nation or background—to be instruments of reconciliation, compassion, and justice in the world. As a school rooted in faith, we are inspired by his words and recommit ourselves to living out the Gospel values in our daily lives. In this edition, we also look at how we are marking the month of May as dedicated to Our Lady, share highlights from recent assemblies, and celebrate our Catherine House Feast Day Mass.

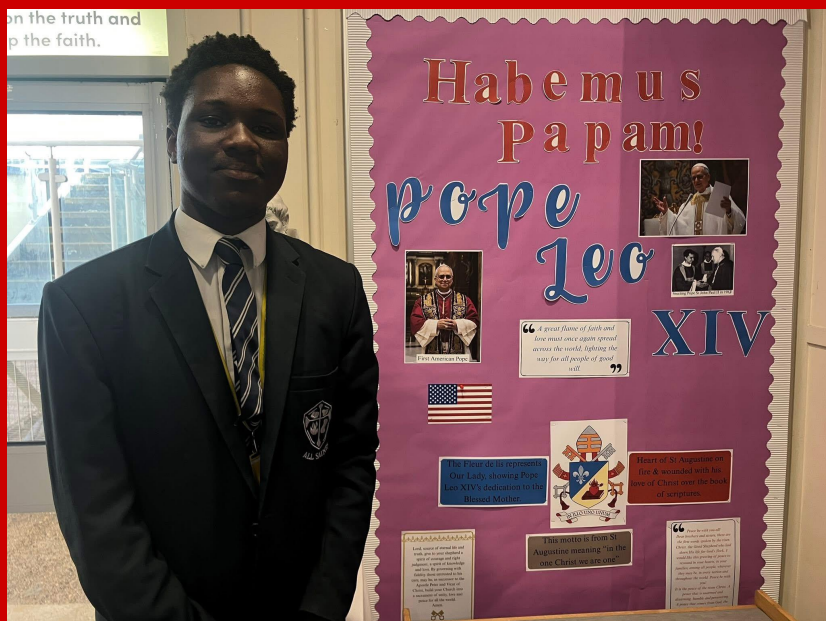
Habemus Papam!

We have a Pope!



Our community at All Saints is joyfully celebrating the election of the new Pope Leo, whose appointment has brought fresh hope and inspiration to Catholics around the world. Following a period of anticipation, Pope Leo stepped out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to greet the faithful with a message of peace, humility, and unity. "May we walk together as brothers and sisters, one in Christ," he declared—words that deeply resonate with our school's mission and values. His calm presence and heartfelt address immediately struck a chord with millions, inviting the Church to renew its faith and trust in God.

Pope Leo's papal coat of arms is rich in meaning, bearing symbols that reflect his pastoral heart and theological priorities. Most strikingly for our school, his motto—*In illo uno unum* (in the one Christ we are one)—mirrors our own: a powerful reminder of our shared mission to live in communion with Christ and one another. His coat of arms also features a fleur-de-lis, a traditional symbol of purity and the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose month we celebrate in May. This delicate flower is a fitting tribute to Mary's guidance and grace, and a call for all of us to deepen our devotion during this special time.



To mark this historic moment, we have created a special display board in the main foyer of the school. It showcases the story of Pope Leo's election, his first public words, and detailed information about his coat of arms and papal motto. Most importantly, the display includes a school-wide prayer for his ministry, inviting students, staff, and visitors to pray for Pope Leo as he begins his sacred mission. We hope this tribute not only informs but inspires all who pass by to feel part of this new chapter in the life of the Church.

ASSEMBLY FOCUS

In our first assembly of the fortnight, Mrs McCormick and Sister Bora led a reflection to mark the month of May—traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. With the theme *"Mary as the First Disciple,"* the assembly encouraged students to consider both the extraordinary and everyday moments of Mary's life.

We reflected on the awe-inspiring events surrounding Jesus' birth: Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit of the wise men. Yet, after these miraculous moments, Mary returned to Nazareth and lived a quiet, faithful life.

This contrast was central to the message: God is present not only in the miraculous, but also in the ordinary. From the Eucharist and scripture to the quiet moments as we walk the school corridors, we are surrounded by opportunities to encounter God.

Students were challenged to become more aware of these sacred moments—and to share them with others. Like Mary, we are called to live with open hearts, recognising God's presence in both the extraordinary and the everyday.



This week, Mrs McCoy led a reflective assembly to mark Vocations Sunday. Centred on the image of Christ as the Good Shepherd, the message invited students to think about the many ways God calls us—often quietly, and sometimes in surprising ways.

We heard the story of Saint Matthias, chosen to replace Judas among the apostles. Though not part of the original Twelve, Matthias responded with faith and humility when called to serve. His story reminds us that vocation can take many forms and often unfolds in ways we don't expect.

Mrs McCoy also introduced our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, sharing his background and vision for the Church. His papal motto, "Ut unum sint"—"In the one Christ we are one"—beautifully echoes our own school's mission statement, reminding us of our shared calling to unity and service.

Students were encouraged to listen carefully for God's call in their own lives and, above all, to trust in God's plan—even when it doesn't seem to align with their own. Faith, like vocation, often begins with **trust**.



CATHERINE HOUSE FEAST DAY



On Friday 16th May, the students and staff belonging to St Catherine House gathered together to celebrate Holy Mass in lieu of St Catherine's feast day (which fell on the 29th April). It was also the first time we were able to celebrate a House Mass with the name of our new pope, Leo, included in the Eucharistic prayers. This was particularly special as St Catherine of Siena was known as being a great spiritual and practical advisor to the popes of her time.



In our bidding prayers, we remembered those sitting exams, as well as those who are discerning religious vocations in this week of Good Shepherd Sunday.

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.

