

St Philip Howard

Catholic Life

Newsletter

ST. PHILIP HOWARD
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



Team SPH - Heads, Hearts, Hands
Together on the Success Journey

Welcome to the SPH Catholic Life Newsletter which provides information on our collective Worship, charity and community events. This year we continued to explore and live out the principles of Catholic social teaching, deepening our faith and commitment to service.



WORSHIP



Dates for the Calendar

We invite parents and parishioners to join us for our end of term Masses as follows:

Mass: Thursday 10th July

Mass: Wednesday 16th July

Masses are celebrated at St Mary's Church. Parents and carers are invited to attend. However, Mass days and times may be subject to change due to Parish commitments. Please check the Parish newsletter for weekly updates regarding this.

End of Term Masses will be at 10am.

Should you wish to attend the End of Term

Masses next year, please contact Ms Neves:

cneves@sph.srscmat.co.uk

Well done!

Catholic Inspection



We are delighted to have been graded Good overall in our latest Catholic Schools inspection, with Catholic Life and Mission being graded Outstanding.

Inspectors said:

"Students enthusiastically support the school, embodying the mission at St Philip Howard, summarised as '#TeamSPH- Together on the Journey'. Student describe an inclusive community, where they are accepted and can be themselves."

School Inspection Report Highlights

Catholic Life and Mission - Outstanding

- Students feel included, respected, and part of a caring Catholic community.
- The school promotes values like dignity, service, and justice.
- Staff and students live out faith through action - fundraising, community service, and supporting others.
- The Chapel, prayer spaces, and faith-based displays create a vibrant spiritual environment.

Collective Worship - Good

- Daily prayer and weekly liturgies help create a calm, unified school atmosphere.
- Students appreciate prayer, especially when it's interactive and meaningful.
- The school in working on helping students feel more confident in leading prayer.
- Teachers are supported to lead worship, and everyone is encouraged to get involved.

Religious Education - Good

- Teaching is improving, with enthusiastic leadership and a clear plan for continued progress.
- Students enjoy RE and show pride in their work, but feedback consistency could improve.
- The RE curriculum is well-aligned with church teachings and encourages both academic and spiritual growth.

What's going well:

- Strong sense of Catholic identity across all areas.
- Dedicated leadership and staff.
- Students actively contribute to the mission of the school.

Liturgical Celebrations

Prayer and Liturgy



Lent Term

- The origin of the word “Lent” comes from the Old English word *lencten*, meaning “spring”
- Relates to the Lengthening of days during this time of year.
- In Latin, Lent is called Quadragesima, meaning “forty days,” referencing its duration.
- Lent Commemorates Jesus’ 40 days of fasting and resisting temptation in the desert.
- We use this time to reflect, penance, fast and pray.
- Lent prepares us for the celebration of Easter, which marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost Term

- Pentecost marks the birth of the Church: It celebrates the day the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles.
- It occurs 50 days after Easter: The name “Pentecost” comes from the Greek word for “fiftieth.”
- The Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles: They were able to speak in different languages and boldly preach in Gospel.
- In Fulfils Jesus’ promise: before His Ascension, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen His Followers.
- It’s a call to mission: Pentecost reminds all Catholics of their mission to spread the Good News with love and courage.

Weekly Reflections

Our weekly reflections remain a meaningful part of our liturgical prayer at SPH, allowing all in our school community learn about and reflect on relevant liturgical themes and feast days within that week. The key themes are listed below:

06/01- Epiphany	23/06- Eucharist
13/01- Baptism	30/06- Missionary
20/01- Discipleship	Discipleship
03/02- Humility	07/07- Support
10/02- Diversity	14/07- Gratitude
24/02- Belonging	21/07- Celebration
03/03- Temperance	
10/03- Prayer	
16/03- Fasting	
23/03- Almsgiving	
31/03- Sacrifice	
22/04- Passion	
28/04- Mercy	
5/05- Faith	
12/05- Vocation	
19/05- Witness	
02/06- Communication	
09/06- Pentecost	
16/06- Trinity	



Holy Week and Easter Sunday



Palm Sunday - We commemorate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The blessing of palms reminds us of the crowds who welcomed Him as the Messiah.

Holy Thursday - Holy Thursday is the next major event in the Holy Week. This is the day in which the last supper took place and Jesus was betrayed by Judas and was arrested.

Good Friday - A solemn day of fasting and prayer. On Good Friday, we commemorate Jesus’s trials, punishments and crucifixion. The Tabernacle (and the place of reservation) is left empty, to symbolise the absence of Jesus Christ during his Passion.

Maundy Saturday - A time for prayer and anticipation, The Church does not celebrate Mass during the day, and the altar remains bare as a sign of mourning.

Easter Sunday - Is the most joyful celebration of the church with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Chaplaincy Team Joins Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Some members of the chaplaincy team attended a service at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Dinting Glossop. The service was part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



Celebration of the Word

Celebration of the Word assemblies provide a meaningful opportunity for students to come together in prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth. Students gather in the hall to focus on a key theme such as Baptism, Scripture and Diversity, and other very important aspects of our faith. Through Bible readings, reflections, and prayers, these assemblies guide us to connect with God's Word. By celebrating the Word, students not only grow in knowledge but also in faith, helping them live out their values in their daily lives.



Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Shrove Tuesday, often known as Pancake Day, is a day of preparation before Lent begins. Traditionally, it was a time to use up rich foods like eggs, milk and butter before the fasting season. More importantly, it is a reminder to seek God's forgiveness and enter Lent with a renewed heart.

Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent - a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During the Ash Wednesday assembly, students and staff received ashes on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, symbolising repentance and our commitment to turning back to God.



Pope Francis



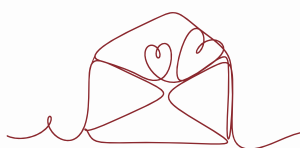
It's with deepest sympathy that we joined in global Catholic community in mourning of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. A Shepherd of peace, humility, and compassion, Pope Francis led the Church with heart rooted in mercy and vision grounded in the Gospel.

The whole school came together in prayer for Pope Francis, taking the time to remember his leadership and example. Students remembered his memory by living our faith with the same courage, tenderness, and joy that he so beautifully embodied.

*Enterl rest grant unto him, O lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Form Prayer Boxes

As part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of our students, each form group has its own Prayer Box. Students can write down Prayers, place candles, or a pilgrimage shell and place them inside. This practice serves as a symbolic act of letting go of worries, acting as a sense of peace and calm, reinforcing the belief that no one is alone.



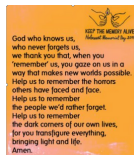
Pope Leo XIV

The Catholic Church enters a new chapter with the election of Pope Leo. Pope Leo XIV brings with him a deep commitment to faith, compassion, and service. Already, his message of unity, hope, and renewal has begun to inspire Catholics around the world. To mark this special occasion, students at SPH took the time during form to reflect on the significance of welcoming a new Pope. Together, students joined in prayer, asking God to bless Pope Leo XIV with strength, wisdom, and guidance as his ministry as the Holy Father.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On January 27th, SPH came together for a Holocaust Memorial Day, honouring the millions of lives lost during one of history's darkest chapters. The Memorial was led by Head of Humanities Mrs Kernohan. It served as a powerful reminder of the importance of remembrance, tolerance, and standing against hatred. A key message of the assembly was the importance of learning from the past to ensure that such atrocities never happen again. Focusing on prejudice, discrimination, and the dangers of remaining silent.



Visit from Bishop Patrick and Father Simon

On Monday 19th May, St Philip Howard we were honoured to welcome Bishop Patrick and Father Simon to our school. The day began with prayer in the chapel, where some students and staff gathered for a moment of reflection. Following the service, the Bishop and Father Simon met with our Justice Team to hear about the important work they do, such as leading prayers, liturgies, and organising charity events. The visit concluded with a guided tour of the school, where both guests had the opportunity to see how we

live out our SPH values throughout the school day.



The Month of May

May is a special time in the Catholic Church dedicated to honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and our spiritual mother. Throughout this month, we reflect on Mary's unwavering faith, humility, and love—a perfect model of discipleship for us all.

SPH has its own pilgrimage, where we visit stations and display boards around the school, taking special consideration of Mary during this holy month.



SPH Food Pantry

As we progressed through the Lent season pupils collected food items to stock our SPH food pantry. This is highly beneficial not only for the school but for the people that will receive the perishable items. A huge thank you to all the pupils and parents for their generous donations.

Food pantry collections can be made at Visitors' reception on Sunlaws St, between the hours of 8.30-3.30. Alternatively, email admin@sph.srscmat.co.uk.



Trust Mass and End of Year Masses

As the school year draws to a close, St Philip Howard has come together in faith through special celebrations. Earlier this term, Mrs King took a small group of students to the annual Trust Mass, joining schools from across our Catholic Trust for a joyful and reflective liturgy. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to represent the school and celebrate the unity of our wider faith community.

We also gathered for our end of term Masses, where each year group came together to reflect, give thanks, and pray as we looked ahead to the summer break. These liturgies are a cherished part of our school tradition.

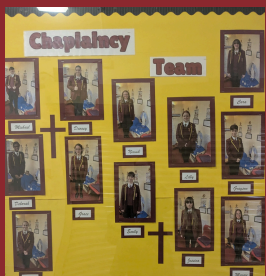
International Women's Day

On 7th March, St Philip Howard Celebrated International Women's Day. Students focused on the theme Temperance - a virtue that represents strength, self-control, and resilience. The day was a strong reminder of the role women play in shaping our world. Students joined together in prayer, reading scripture celebrating women, and gave thanks to the women in our lives.



Feast Days

These special celebrations, held in honour of our form Saints are time for reflection, unity, and fun. On each form's Feast Day, students in the corresponding house enjoy an extended break as well as a free snack from the canteen. Feast Days are a chance to come together and reflect on the values of our patron saints.



Meet Our Chaplaincy Team

At SPH, Our Chaplaincy Team plays a vital role in bringing our school community together through faith, service, and charity. Led by our Chaplain Mrs King, the team is dedicated to supporting students, organising events, leading assemblies, and making a difference both inside and outside of the school.



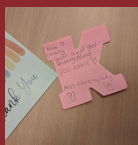
International Day of Peace

International Day of Peace was Celebrated on the 6th January, students where educated on the importance of the culture of peace and non-violence on the children of the world. It served as a strong reminder to all students on the importance of our permanent commitment to peace, above all interests and differences of any kind. Students came together to pray for those affected by war and violence.



Acts of Kindness

As part of our Lenten journey, students were given Post-it notes to write down acts of kindness and share them with others throughout the school community. These small but meaningful gestures serve as reminders to spread love, compassion, and gratitude in our daily lives. Whether it's a note of encouragement to a fellow student, a thank you note to a teacher, or a simple reminder to be kind, each act reflects the spirit of Lent - giving selflessly and uplifting others.



The Big Lent Walk

On the 1st of April, pupils from St Philip Howard participated in the Big Lent Walk, for CAFOD. This event encourages participants to walk a set distance during Lent time to raise funds aimed at combating global poverty. The students' involvement exemplifies the school's commitment to faith in action.



Mrs Ann King

After four years of dedicated service, we bid a fond farewell to our beloved Chaplain, Mrs Ann King. Throughout her time with us, Mrs King's unwavering commitment to her role has left a lasting impact - whether leading liturgies, pilgrimages, or championing countless charity events. St Philip Howard would like to express our deepest gratitude for everything she has given our community. Ann's presence will be truly missed, but her influence will remain with us for years to come.

Thank You!



Thomas Thayer Charity

A huge thank you to the generous support of the Thomas Thayer Charity, a group of our students had the incredible opportunity to visit Whitehall this spring. The charity helped cover the costs of the trip, making the trip accessible to students who might not otherwise have been able to attend. We're deeply grateful for the Thomas Thayer Charity's commitment to enriching student learning beyond the classroom.



We continue to drive our motto, 'Team SPH: Heads, hearts, hands- together on the SPH Success Journey'.