

Chaplaincy Newsletter

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Saintly Inspirations

St Angela Merici- Feast Day January 27th

St. Angela Merici was born on March 21, 1474 in Desenzano, a small town on the shore of Lake Garda, Republic of Venice, Italy. At just 10-years-old, Angela and her older sister became orphans and went to live with their uncle in Salo. There they led a quiet and devout Catholic Christian life. Following the untimely death of her sister and then her uncle, Angela returned to Desenzano at the age of 20.

In 1506, while praying in the fields, Angela had a vision in which she was told that she would form a society, an order which would look after, instruct and educate girls. And so, she formed the Ursuline order, which remains the oldest religious order of women in the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to the education of girls.

Angela believed that providing Christian education of girls restored the family and, through the family, the whole of Christian society. Angela died on the 27th January 1540. She is the patron saint of the sick, disabled and physically challenged people and those grieving the loss of parents.



St Blaise - Feast Day February 3rd



St. Blaise was born in Asia Minor, now Sivas, Turkey. According to tradition, Blaise was of noble birth and, after being educated in the Christian faith, was made bishop of Sebastia. Although Christianity had been adopted about 300AD as the state religion in Armenia, the Roman emperor Licinius began a persecution of the Christians, and Blaise was discovered and apprehended. While imprisoned, he miraculously cured a boy from fatally choking. Blaise was martyred in 316, after being torn with wool combers' irons, he was beheaded. Subsequent legends claim that, before Blaise was made bishop, he was a physician possessed of wonderful healing power and numerous miracles were attributed to him. Blaise's popularity spread throughout the Christian world from the 8th century, leading to St Blaise being one of the most popular saints of medieval time. He was venerated as the patron of sufferers from throat diseases in the East by the 6th century and in the West by the 9th century. He is also the patron saint of animals, wool combers, and wool trading.

Chaplaincy News.....



Thank you from the Catholic Children's Society

'Thank you for Cardinal Wiseman School's very kind donations totalling £445.14. We are so grateful to your Year 8 Justice and Peace Group for raising £120 selling Christmas cards, and to your staff and 6th Form students for raising £325.14 through your Christmas Jumper Day. Your school's support during this challenging time means so much to the local children and families we work with.'



'Recently we helped a family with three young children, including an 18-month old, to keep their home. On hearing that we could help the Headteacher responded: "I cannot believe that you can help in this way! I spoke to the parents this morning and they were absolutely terrified and so worried about ending up on the streets with their children. Thank you so much for helping this desperate family through a very scary time." Thank you once again to everyone at Cardinal Wiseman for your continued generosity and support.'

All Things for Christ

Mark 1:14-20 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Sunday's Gospel begins in the middle of Chapter One of Mark's Gospel. This section of the chapter immediately follows the account of John the Baptist's arrest. Even though John had been arrested, Jesus continued on to Galilee to proclaim His message. Everywhere He went, He proclaimed that the time of fulfilment, the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Jesus preached a message of repentance. He invited people to believe in the Gospel.

I wonder what the people who heard him preach thought of Jesus and His message; He must have been a powerful speaker and His message was very different from what the other prophets preached. Andrew and Simon were among the crowd who listened to Jesus' message. Jesus singled them out and invited them to follow Him. Immediately they dropped their nets and left their families to follow Him. There was something about Jesus that deeply touched Simon and Andrew. Jesus had something they longed for, hence, they left their nets and boat to follow Him.

Then going a little further, Jesus also called James and John to follow Him. What was it about Jesus that inspired these common, down-to-earth men, to leave their livelihood, their families and their home to follow this itinerant preacher? Jesus must have had a powerful presence but also a message that spoke to their hearts.

Why do we follow Jesus? Do we do it because it is what we learned as children? Do we follow Jesus because that is what we are supposed to do? Is Jesus a real person to us or is He simply a character in a story to us? Today, take some time and reflect on these questions: who is Jesus to you? Does Jesus make a difference in your life?

Message from Our Lady of the Visitation Parish:

The closing date for this year's Confirmation programme is 31st January. If you are a student in Year 10 or above and wish to enrol on the programme, please fill out an application form and return it to the Parish Office by the closing date.

For an application form and further information, please follow the link:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/sacramental-prep/confirmation/>

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Is now taking place every Friday lunchtime in the Chapel for all students and staff on site.



Don't forget!

We take donations for the Ealing Foodbank all year round. The collection box is in the RE Office, on the 1st floor of Jerusalem.

Dear Lord Jesus

We ask for your blessing and protection on our school community as we seek to live out Your gospel values.

May our Peace within, touch the hearts of those we meet

May we always be the bearers of Your Truth

May we show Your Love in all we say and do

May our search for Justice be guided by You

May we forever seek Equality for all.

May we always have the power of Forgiveness, for ourselves and others

And may we all, at the Cardinal Wiseman, continue to serve you daily, in all that we do.

Amen