

# Chaplaincy Newsletter

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## Saintly Inspirations

### St Peter Claver - Feast Day September 9th

A native of Spain, young Jesuit Peter Claver left his homeland in 1610 to be a missionary in the colonies of the New World. He sailed into Cartagena, a rich port in the Caribbean and was ordained there in 1615. Cartagena was a centre for the slave trade which had, by this time, been established there for nearly 100 years. Ten thousand slaves poured into the port each year after crossing the Atlantic from West Africa, it is estimated that one-third of the passengers died in transit. As soon as a slave ship entered the port, Peter Claver moved into its hold to minister to the ill-treated and exhausted passengers. During the 40 years of his ministry, Claver instructed and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves. Fr. Claver's apostolate extended beyond his care for slaves. He became a moral force in Cartagena. He preached in the city square and gave missions to sailors and traders whilst avoiding the hospitality of the planters and slave owners choosing to lodge in the slave quarters instead. After four years of sickness, which forced Peter to remain inactive and largely neglected, he died on September 8, 1654. St Peter Claver is the patron saint of African Americans, African Missions, Colombia, and Interracial Justice.



### St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) - Feast Day September 23rd



Born into a poor Italian farm family, from a young age Francesco Forgione desired to be a friar. When he was sixteen, he entered the Capuchin Order, and took the name Brother Pius (Fra Pio). He was ordained to the priesthood in 1910 and six years later, joined the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in southern Italy. He spent many hours everyday hearing Confessions. The highlight of his priestly commitment was the celebration of the Holy Mass. He described himself as "a poor brother who prays." It was on September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned; Padre Pio was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions, a decision which was quickly overturned. Padre Pio died during the night of 23 September 1968, at the age of 81. On 16 June 2002, In front of more than 300,000 people, he was proclaimed a saint by Pope John Paul II. In his homily, the Pope said, "The life and mission of Padre Pio prove that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted out of love, are transformed into a privileged way of holiness, which opens onto the horizons of a greater good, known only to the Lord."

## Chaplaincy News.....



Last term we said farewell to our Year 13 students as they start the next chapter of their lives. We did not say goodbye as we had wanted to but were still able to give a little something, as a token of our love and prayers, to those who came in to collect their results.



Due to the need to social distance and remain in our 'bubbles' things will be quite different this term and for the foreseeable future. It has been necessary, for the wellbeing of staff and students, to implement opening times in the Chapel. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Chapel Opening Times

Monday to Friday, before school - Staff only

### Break time and Lunch time

✠ Monday - Year 7 ✠ Tuesday - Year 8 ✠ Wednesday - Year 9 ✠ Thursday - Year 10 ✠ Friday - Year 11  
Years 12 and 13 can use the Chapel outside of break and lunchtimes

**All Things for Christ**

# The WORD Explained

## Sunday's Gospel

### 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Matthew 18:21-35** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt." At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Yesterday we had another challenging Gospel. Peter comes to Jesus and bluntly asks him how many times he needs to forgive another, be that his brother, his sister, friend, or co-worker. Peter asks if he should forgive the other person seven times? I wonder if Peter had a family member or a friend whom had wounded him multiple times. Or was Peter simply asking the question because he wanted to hear how Jesus would answer it?

As often is the case, Jesus does not answer Peter's question directly. Rather Jesus bluntly tells Peter that he should forgive the other person, not just seven times, but 77 times. That is a lot of forgiveness. It is easier to forgive another if the hurt or insult is minor. However, when a person has betrayed or slandered us, we may find it more difficult to forgive the individual. This is understandable because our trust has been betrayed.

Hopefully, over time, we will forgive the person who wounded us and, in this process, we will free ourselves also of the heavy burden we have been carrying. Lack of forgiveness usually has more effect on us than on the individual we need to forgive. Resentment and anger poison us. True, it is not easy to let go of our anger and hurt. If we can place our anger, hurt, and resentment into God's hands, God will heal us. It may take a long time. The grace is Jesus does not expect us to deal with these hurts and resentments alone. Jesus walks with us, encourages us, and gives us the grace to let go and to forgive those who have hurt us. We must be patient with this process, and we need to keep coming back to Jesus and asking him to help us forgive. Jesus wants us to ask him to free us of this burden. Jesus is with us and He will answer our prayers. Today may we place all our burdens, our anger, and our pain in Jesus' hands. This will lighten our loads immensely and will free us also.

## Welcome!

It has been truly wonderful to see everyone back in school last week. As expected, things have changed; new timetables, a one way system, and for some, a change in tutor group. We have also seen a change in how and when we worship. For this term, at least, there can be no Mass on a Thursday morning and assemblies are for half a year group at a time. Both of the schools choirs are also unable to meet, as are the groups which span over different year groups such as the Justice and Peace group and Faith in Art. However, we are very good at adapting and we will be looking to start up the 'Chaplaincy' clubs and devotions again once we have settled into the term.

A special welcome to our Year 7 students. It was lovely to meet them and their tutors during their retreats last week. The students had the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. During the retreat the students played games, made their own personal coat of arms as well as contributed to their forms shield and wrote letters to God.



### Year 7 Prayer

Heavenly Father

We ask for your blessing as we begin our journey at Cardinal Wiseman School.

Bless our friendships, old and new, and bless our relationships with our teachers.

Help us to use the minds You have given us to learn and study effectively, to turn our ears to wisdom and apply our hearts to understanding. Help us to abide in You as we read, listen, and work.

And may we grow in wisdom and knowledge of You as we start this new chapter in our lives.

Amen

## All Things for Christ