

CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL



FAITH LIFE IN OUR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Prepared by our S6 Caritas Pupils



Introduction

This is the inaugural 'Cardinal Newman High School Parish Mass'. We are very grateful to the local clergy for allowing us this opportunity. It is important for the Catholic school to have a strong presence in the local Catholic community. It also allows us to further develop our excellent relationships with priests and parishioners alike. Therefore as part of our School Pastoral Calendar we will be visiting our local parishes throughout the course of the academic year.

These visits will give our young people a chance to be involved in leading many aspects of the liturgy and to give them an opportunity to speak about their faith journey, including those who are undertaking the 'Caritas' award.



For Parents

Parents have a vital role as partners, in helping a Catholic school to provide the solid foundations in faith and learning. We send our children to Catholic schools because we know that our children will be taught about how to live their lives formed in faith as well as acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to live fulfilling lives. Parents can reinforce this faith by how they live their own lives. Parents can provide encouragement to teachers to give witness to faith and we can work with the parish and school to build communities of faith. Parents have a role in working with the school to strengthen the ways in which the school lives out faith and puts faith into action.

We realise the importance of the strong bond between school-parish-home. We are committed to involving the wider community in the faith dimension of our school. To further enhance this aspect of our school, we are introducing a 'Parent Faith Group'. This group will help us to make decisions and give guidance on the faith aspect of our school community. As always we are looking for parents to come forward and volunteer. If you feel this is something that may interest you or you require further information please contact the school by telephone 01698-274944 or by email enquiries@cardinalnewman.n-lanark.sch.uk.

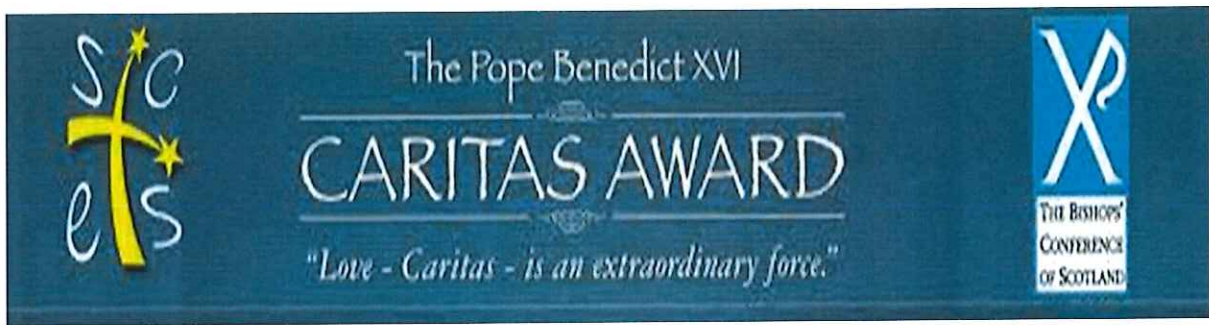


Enhancing the Faith dimension of our school

In our school community we are working hard to enhance the faith dimension of the school, allowing our pupils more opportunity for prayer and worship. We are very grateful to the hard work, effort and guidance given by our school chaplain Fr. Krzysztof Garwolinski, parish priest of St. Thomas', Shieldmuir. We have Mass at 8.30am on a Tuesday morning and all members of the local community are invited and welcome to come along. On a Friday at lunchtime we pray the rosary. During our 'Home Room' slot pupils have been given the opportunity to attend a short 'Exposition' service, led by a member of staff Deacon Mario Vannini. We have introduced a daily prayer booklet. This booklet is made up by a different member of staff or pupil each week. It covers many themes and offers a great opportunity for the school to be joined in communal prayer and reflection. At the beginning of Advent the entire school will be given the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. In Religious Education we are continuing to guide our pupils through the various courses which contribute to the 'new' RE curriculum, 'This is Our Faith'. We are always looking to witness to the Gospel in a variety of ways and our community is a reflection of the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis,

"What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What should I do for Christ?"





What is the Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award?

In 2011, the Bishops Conference of Scotland and Scottish Catholic Education Office created an award to commemorate Pope Benedict XVI visit to Scotland and they were to be “Saints of the 21st Century”. The Caritas award is given to S6 pupils who have completed 20 hours in their Parish life, and 20 hours in the community. Over the past 3 years, we had 100 pupils participating in the award, and all have successfully obtained their award held at the Glasgow Armadillo. Over the year, pupils take part in a variety of activities. Many of our pupils become St Andrew Ambassador’s, whilst others are extra-ordinary ministers to enhance the school faith life. Further, pupils are altar servers in their parishes, others are readers or in the choir. Within the community, pupils actively work with our Primary Schools providing retreats and Play in the Sports Environment. All of these opportunities showcase the gifts and talents our pupils all have, and are living out the Popes words from Bellahouston.



The Caritas Experience So Far in 2014/15

In the first week of December, a group of St Andrew's Hospice Ambassadors held a Winter Wonderland showcase in Cardinal Newman High School to raise money and awareness for this excellent cause. Pupils and teachers performed on the night demonstrating their gifts and talents and using them for the greater good of others, particularly relevant during the Season of Advent. The money raised by this event will go towards the Hospice and for those who need palliative care. Through participating in the Caritas Award, it has made me aware of the impact and difference that I and my friends can make to others. It has given me so many opportunities to provide support and assistance in my Parish and Local Community and I know that I can make a difference.

Beth Ellis

Throughout my 6 years at Cardinal Newman HS, I have had many fulfilling experiences within Religious Education and the School's faith life. In S1 and S2, I regularly participated at Weekly Mass and other Liturgical celebrations as an Altar Server. I have fond memories of serving for Bishop Devine at many Newman Day masses in this time, and working closely with Fr Michael and now Fr Krystof. In my senior years as a pupil, I decided to embark upon the Caritas Award within Holy family Parish. I continue to be an Altar Server, and recently organised alongside friends a St Andrew's Night to celebrate our patron saint. I have thoroughly enjoyed this as what I have taken from being a catholic is that we all have a common bond and that is our faith. Our faith makes us stronger and unites us.

In school I was recently became as an extra-ordinary minister which was a great privilege. Throughout RE, I have learned about topics such as 'God Speaks to his People', 'Called to Love' and 'Living in a Wounded World.' All of which provided myself with a sound knowledge of Christian teachings and that Love is vital within this world and that we must strive to help others less fortunate. I am now studying Higher RMPS, which has been a great experience and allowed for a greater understanding of the various debates on religion in today's society. Reflecting upon my time, undoubtedly I have become a better person and has made me appreciate the impact of Caritas upon me in particular.

Daniel Waring

The Holy Family Caritas participants have been helping the Primary 7 children develop their faith through the Pope Francis Award. We encourage them to engage within Parish Life and in turn nourish them. It is important that they continue they retain their faith in God as they grow up and never to be afraid of practising it. It is a great experience for us as we have the opportunity to interact with the younger pupils and share our experiences with them on the importance of helping others. We teach them about the gifts of the Holy Spirit whilst we continue to develop our own faith.

Danielle Harte

I have recognised that love is not merely a word but is an action, we cannot show love solely through what we say, we must effectively put love into action. I truly believe that whilst it may be true that you cannot change attitudes or beliefs of those around you, it is undoubtedly possible to influence them through you own behaviours and the way in which you conduct yourself. Caritas has shown me that to be loved is blessed, and we in turn are blessed with the ability to share our love in our actions amongst our friends, parishes and wider community.

Gerard McCusker

