



Bellerive FCJ Catholic College Catholic Life newsletter

Issue 1 December 2023

Welcome to this first edition of the Bellerive FCJ Catholic College Catholic Life newsletter. We hope that this will be a useful resource for you to celebrate our activities in school as well as providing an opportunity for you to reflect on your own faith.

Advent

Advent began on Sunday 3rd December. It is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It is all too easy to get caught up in the practical preparations for Christmas, but we need to remember this is a time to prepare spiritually too.

The website

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent/> has lots of ideas for how to mark Advent.



Feast Day

Our school Feast Day is celebrated each year on the Friday closest to the feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a real highlight of our school calendar! Pupils will attend Mass and spend time playing games and celebrating with their form groups.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the Virgin Mary, born without sin. It refers to her own conception, not that of Jesus. Even though Mary was born without sin, she is still a model to each one of us.



Year 7 Welcome Mass

On 25th October we held our welcome Mass for our new year 7s. Pupils made promises as part of their induction into our FCJ community. Thank you to all those parents who joined us for this celebration and to Mrs Henry and Mrs Winstanley for making this event possible

Remembrance Mass

Although the feast of All Saints Day fell during half term this year, we still wanted to mark this month of remembrance within our school community. Thank you to all those staff and students who joined us for this voluntary Mass.

Chapel lessons

Our Key Stage 3 students have been taking part in Chapel lessons on the theme of joy. They have reflected on how they bring joy to others.

Parent Survey

Please complete the survey below to give us your views on the catholic life of our school



<https://forms.office.com/e/cW3f5ptjxA>

Upcoming events

Christmas Fayre

Please come and support our school Christmas Fayre, 11AM-2PM on Saturday 9th December. All proceeds will be split between CAFOD and our school charity.

Carol Service

Please join us for our annual carol service on Tuesday 19th December at 5PM in Loyola Hall. It's a great way to start the Christmas holidays!

Year 7 FCJ Group

Our year 7 FCJ group continues to thrive! This term, pupils have reflected on stewardship, made rosary beads and considered the meaning of some stories from scripture in their own lives.



John Pridmore visit

On 5th December, year 10 and year 12 students heard from John Pridmore, a former gangster who is now a Catholic evangelist. Students were moved by his fascinating witness. Thank to Ms McCourt and the parish of St Francis of Assisi for facilitating this event.



Upcoming events in the archdiocese

Vatican II Lectures 7th December, Hope University The next Vatican II lecture will take place on 7th December with Prof. Paul McPartlan (Catholic University of America) on Lumen Gentium: Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The seminar begins at 3pm at Liverpool Hope University and the lecture starts at 5.30. The lecture can also be attended online through zoom. Places are limited, so please book your free tickets here <http://bit.ly/3Ql4e5R>

RCIA Workshops Following the feedback from our previous series of workshops, we have arranged a second list of meetings for anyone who coordinates or helps at RCIA meetings to come together for a catch up, training and sharing of resources meeting. This will be a continuation of the discussion we began in September, but if you were unable to attend previously, you're very welcome to join us now. To book your place, please email rcia@rcaol.org.uk

Catechist training Beginning on Wednesday 24th January 2024 until June, we will be offering 3 modules over 13 weeks offering training for Catechists. Whether you are considering being a catechist, or are an existing catechist, looking to refresh your knowledge, this course could be for you. The first four sessions will explore key principles of Catechesis to build confidence. This course is initially being offered on Wednesdays at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre at 7pm –8.30pm for free, and I'm hoping to confirm an alternative location soon. To register your interest for this course, please email training@rcaol.org.uk



Parish events

We would like to include details of events happening in our local parishes in future newsletters! Please email rowlandsj@bellerivefcj.org with details of your event.



An Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people,
walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

'Let us make good use of our time on this earth. Let us do the good we can, while we can'
Venerable Marie Madeleine d'Houët