

Easter 2025

Welcome to our Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT's newsletter
for our 36 primary and secondary schools across
Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

Newsletter

Remembering Pope Francis (1936-2025)



As the world mourns his passing, Pope Francis' legacy will be remembered as one that brought the Church closer to its mission of love, mercy and justice.

Pope Francis was a passionate advocate of children and young people, calling them the 'joy and hope of the Church and the world'. He has also been such an advocate for those on the margins, the disadvantaged and those suffering injustice and inspired us all to work for a better world.

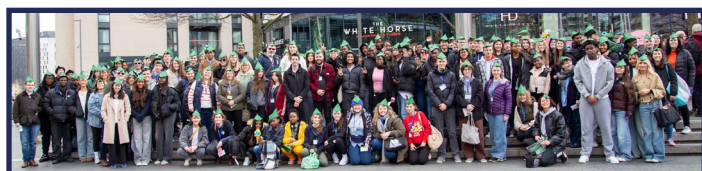
In the next edition of our newsletter, we will share stories on how our Trust community has reflected on the legacy and life of Pope Francis.

Trust Students Glow at Flame Congress

On Saturday 15th March, students from across the Trust gathered with Diocese members and Bishop McKinney for CYMFED Flame Congress 2025. Hosted at the OVO Arena in Wembley, this event is the UK's largest Catholic youth conference, drawing over 10,000 attendees every year.

The day featured music from Guvna B, Adeniké Adewale, Lily Jo and One Hope Collective, inspiring talks from speakers like Bear Grylls and Brother Chris Patiño and performances from the World Youth Dance Crew.

It was a joyful celebration filled with worship, prayer, and community. A huge thank you to all the young people and staff who represented the Trust and our Diocese.



Inspiring Conversations Shape the Future at Trust Synod 2025

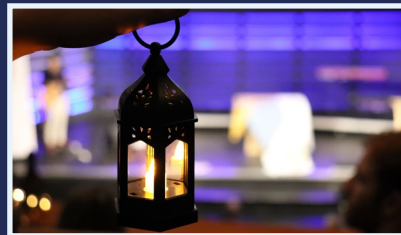
On 21st January, we held our second session of our Trust Synod, bringing together over 200 participants representing the whole of our CMAT community. The inspiring conversation centred around the three themes of Relationships, Pathways and Places.

A Synod is a time for voices to be heard and for subjects to be approached, allowing the Catholic church to continue to grow in inclusivity. Understanding other people's opinions and suggestions enables the church to move forward along with future generations.

The thought-provoking dialogues at our event will shape our Trust strategy and how we grow and move forward together.

For more information on our Trust Synod event, watch the following video:

[Synod Oceans Montage - Trust Synod 2025](#)



Trust Community Celebrates Jubilee 2025



Pope Francis decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year that happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. This year's theme

is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

On 24th January, students, teachers and staff members across our Trust came together to celebrate the launch of this Jubilee. It was a moment to pause, reflect, and begin our journey together as pilgrims of hope. If you missed it - or would like to rewatch - you can find our livestream here:

[Jubilee Launch Live Stream](#)

In this edition of our newsletter, we are delighted to share stories and reflections from across our Trust as we celebrate this special Jubilee year.

Meet Luce!

Luce is the 2025 Jubilee mascot, created by artist Simone Legno.

She carries a pilgrim's staff, wears a World Mission rosary, and has scallop shell shaped eyes, a symbol of hope.

She's joined by her pet dog, Santino, and three friends.

Can you spot Luce in any of the photos in this newsletter?



Ofsted and CSI Update

Well done to all our hardworking and dedicated staff and young people for their work and support during recent Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspections (CSI).

Click the logos below to read the full reports:

Ofsted



The Trinity
Remains a 'Good' school



St. Hugh's
Rated: Good



St. Augustine's, Stamford
Rated: Good, with an Outstanding Early years provision

CSI



St. Mary's, Grantham
Rated: Good



St. Joseph's, Shirebrook
Rated: Outstanding



St. Mary's, Grimsby
Rated: Good overall, Outstanding for Catholic Life and Mission

Celebrating OPAL Excellence in Our Schools

What is OPAL?

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is a mentor-supported school improvement programme. It helps schools to strategically and sustainably improve the quality of their play opportunities.

St. Joseph's, Shirebrook

We are pleased to announce that St. Joseph's have achieved the Platinum Standard for OPAL play following an audit in February. Platinum is the highest accolade available, putting them in the top 1% of all schools nationally with the quality of their play provision.

Congratulations to all involved at St. Joseph's for this fantastic achievement!

St. Augustine's, Nottingham

A shoutout to Miss Rice at St. Augustine's, Nottingham, who is leading their new OPAL initiative. This new approach has not only made playtimes more fun and engaging but has also encouraged teamwork, creativity, and social development.

It is wonderful to see pupils enjoying their time outside, discovering new games, and making new friendships.



Our Lady of Lourdes remembered

In February, pupils and staff at St. Patricks, Wilford came together to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The school community honoured this special day with a heartfelt Celebration of the Word, followed by a candlelight procession.

The Year 5 Chaplaincy Team led the service with confidence, guiding the school community through a meaningful time of reflection and worship. Following the service, all pupils took part in a candlelight procession into the school's Prayer Room which was transformed into a replica of the Lourdes grotto.

The event was not only a beautiful tribute to Our Lady of Lourdes but also a powerful reminder of faith in action.



The Becket showcases talented musicians

Singers and instrumentalists from The Becket School, West Bridgford took part in this year's Nottinghamshire Music Conference at the Albert Hall, organised by the Inspire Music Hub.

30 musicians had the opportunity to take part in a Musical Theatre themed day and took part in workshops with professional actors, choreographers and had the opportunity to play alongside other schools in an orchestral pit band.

There was also an open mic performance session in which Taylen, Holly and Isla sung to all of the participants. A big congratulations to all who took part and represented the school community.



St. Norbert's Triumphs in Choir Competition



A big congratulations to St. Norbert's, Spalding, who have won the Schools Choir Competition 2025, organised by their local Rotary Club.

SEND Teaching Assistant, Mrs Nespoli leads the choir club on Monday nights after school. Working alongside Music Lead Mr Gilbert, the choir have worked hard all year and came first place at the event on 13th February.

As the winners, the Rotary Club have awarded St Norbert's £200 to spend on music development. Congratulations again to all involved!

Read more about this story at: spaldingvoice.co.uk/choirs-on-song-for-competition

St. Teresa's Dance in to National Final

We are thrilled to announce that pupils from St. Teresa's Catholic Primary, Aspley, have won their regional heat to get to the final of The Great Big Dance Off, a prestigious national dance competition exclusively for schools across England and Wales.

Competing in the East Midland's heat on Thursday 27th February at The Albert Hall, Nottingham, the group went up against 17 other schools in a thrilling display of skill, creativity and teamwork.

The Great Big Dance Off is the only national dance competition dedicated to schools, bringing together young dancers of all abilities to celebrate movement and expression in a supportive environment. With an emphasis on having fun and enjoying the experience, the event is an incredible opportunity for pupils to develop confidence and showcase their passion for dance.

St. Teresa's Dance Group, made up of enthusiastic Year 5 and Year 6 pupils (ages 9-11), delivered an inspiring performance, demonstrating their dedication and hard work which won them a place in the final, to be held in Oxford later this year.



Bridge Church, Lincoln Supports Local Families



The Bridge Church, Lincoln has received £30,000 from the Local Authority to help combat child poverty in Lincoln.

As part of this, Our Lady of Lincoln have secured £1,800 in vouchers for school uniforms from Uniform Direct and Asda shopping vouchers for families at the school.

This support will make a real difference, ensuring children have the essentials they need.

We're delighted for the families who will benefit from this.

Purple Power: Supporting Epilepsy Awareness Day

On 26th March, staff members and Year 6 pupils at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Bulwell, wore purple for International Epilepsy Awareness Day, in support one of their families who have been greatly impacted by this illness.

For more information on International Epilepsy Awareness Day, please visit: epilepsysociety.org.uk/get-involved/purpleday



Catherine McAuley Hub News

Pupils from Trinity Sixth Form who are heading to Lourdes as helpers with the Diocese, went on their own shorter pilgrimage to help raise funds for their trip to France in the summer.

Starting at Trinity, they walked around all the primary schools in our Hub, being joined by pupils from the primary schools, but also collecting each primary school's Luce, so that there could be a representative from each school in our hub at the destination of our pilgrimage: our local Jubilee church, the Cathedral of St Barnabas.



St. Mary's made their Big Lent Walk a Pilgrimage in this Year of Jubilee, to our local Jubilee church, the Cathedral Church of St Barnabas.

All of year 3, 4, 5, and 6, walked from the door of St. Mary's, right the way through town, to the Cathedral, accompanied by their mascot Luce, who was walking and supporting them all the way.

At the Cathedral, they had some insight from Cannon Malachi on the cathedral and then had lunch at the cathedral hall.

Additionally, the hardy pupils of St. Mary's then walked back to school, to show their commitment to the pilgrimage!



Article by Tim Edwards, Lay Chaplain

Saint Oscar Romero Hub News

On Monday, 24th March, students from Christ the King Voluntary Academy, The Good Shepherd Catholic Academy, Sacred Heart Catholic Academy, St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy, and Holy Cross Primary and Nursery Catholic Voluntary Academy came together to mark the feast day of St. Oscar Romero, our Hub saint.

The event took place at The Good Shepherd Church in Woodthorpe, one of the Diocese's Jubilee churches. Throughout the afternoon, students reflected on St. Oscar Romero's life through prayer, songs, and readings. Each school shared insights into his impact on the people of El Salvador and how his actions continue to inspire us today.

Music played a key role in the celebration, with each school performing a song on the theme of hope. The Christ the King band led the opening hymn, and the event concluded with a shared performance of the Jubilee hymn.

It was lovely to be able to gather as a Hub of schools along with parents who joined us for the occasion. During this Jubilee Year of Hope, we continue to follow St. Oscar Romero's teachings to 'Aspire not to have more but to be more'.

Article by Vicky Squire, Lay Chaplain

Saint Jude Hub News

On Tuesday 1st April, a group of pupils from Saint Augustine's in Stamford travelled to Saint Norbert's School in Spalding for an afternoon retreat and shared meal ahead of the evening Jubilee Mass in church.

It was amazing to have Tom Baptist, Director of Chaplaincy and Hannah Leech, Lead Lay Chaplain join us to help us practice some of the hymns in preparation for Mass, including the Jubilee Hymn.



Throughout the afternoon, one of the activities involved visiting three prayer stations linked to some of the termly themes of the Jubilee Year. These were on the themes of forgiveness, hope and rest. After experiencing each one, each pupil received a stamp on their own special Jubilee Passport which was designed in the style of a keepsake bookmark.

After enjoying a shared meal, the pupils and staff prepared to leave school and make their way on foot to church. The sunny spring weather made this all the more enjoyable. Along the route of our pilgrimage, we carried our school banners, and we took the Jubilee Mascot, Luce, and our lanterns of hope with us.

We were delighted to be able to join the procession at the beginning of Mass with our school banners and for two pupils from Saint Norbert's to be asked to do the offertory. The Mass was a truly special



occasion, and it was lovely to share in this with pupils, staff, governors and parishioners.

Saint Mary's in Grantham have worked hard to get their new Sacred Space finished this term. During Lent, it was wonderful to be able to use this space to offer a hope themed meditation during playtime which was well attended by pupils who used the session to reflect on the theme of the Jubilee Year and on their own hopes and dreams.

We have also set up an Agents of Change group in school this term and, so far, they have created prayer cards to share with parishioners and posters that we proudly took with us when KS2 embarked upon their Big Lent Walk in the local park.

Saint Mary's in Boston were delighted to be awarded with the CAFOD Live Simply award this term after all of their hard work and determination. Pupils spoke passionately to Ann from CAFOD about their commitment towards living simply, sustainably and in solidarity.

The continued development of our outdoor sacred spaces, our ongoing commitment to those in need both locally and globally, the work of our wonderful Eco-Team and our community outreach work have all contributed towards us receiving this prestigious award. Saint Mary's are looking forward to celebrating this achievement with Bishop Patrick when he visits the school for a special celebratory Mass in June.

Article by Lucy Wright, Lay Chaplain

Flipping Pancakes, Raising £334 for Charity

Our Central Team came together with our neighbours in Loxley House, Nottingham and the surrounding area to share pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.

The complimentary pancakes were kindly provided by Aspens School Catering with a variety of sweet and savoury toppings!

An incredible £334 in donations was raised for Emmanuel House Support Centre, a Nottingham-based charity that supports people who are homeless, rough sleeping or are at risk of homelessness.

To find out more about Emmanuel House, visit their website: emmanuelhouse.org.uk



Holy Trinity Hosts Lenten Prayer Stations



As part of the Jubilee Theme of Reconciliation and Forgiveness and also in response to the Trust's Synod actions, Holy Trinity's Chaplaincy Team planned and prepared Lenten Prayer Stations which they set up and offered as personal prayer opportunities to parishioners after Mass.

The Chaplaincy Team led some beautiful prayer stations on the theme of Holy Week for their Lent Retreat Day, as well as preparing outdoor stations of the cross.

Parents and parishioners attended and gave some beautiful feedback and Fr. Michael and Matthias offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration.

Well done to all involved, it is wonderful to see pupils putting their faith into action through intergenerational engagement.



Schools' Football Triumphs: Goals Galore!

St. Teresa's, Aspley

Both the Boy's and Girl's football teams at St. Teresa's have been in action recently and performed extremely well.

The boy's football team finished joint top of the league, losing only one match all season. They now move onto the 'Champions League' event at Forest Sports Zone on Monday 7th July.

The girl's football team have recently finished third in a competition at the Forest Sports Zone, losing on penalties. They played a good brand of attacking football and supported each other well.

Well done to all the pupils who have represented St. Teresa's and contributed to the success of their teams.

St. Patricks, Wilford

We are also pleased to celebrate the achievement of St. Patrick's, Wilford, football team who have been crowned league champions.

Fourteen pupils from Years 5 and 6 at St. Patrick's began training in November 2024 and attending after-school sessions to develop their skills and build strong team bonds.

Coaches Miss Thornhill and Mr Bonner are immensely proud of the team's effort. After an impressive season of 14 matches, the team secured 13 wins and only 1 loss, earning them a place in the upcoming Champions League, where they will compete against other league winners across Nottinghamshire.



Supporting Mental Health

At Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT, we are committed to fostering a thriving community where mental health and wellbeing are integral to our mission of enabling all to fulfil their God-given potential. As part of this strategy, we have put together resources to support mental health and wellbeing.

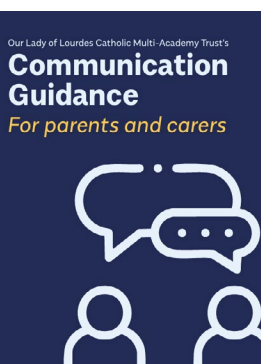
Whether you're a staff member, student, parent, carer or a mental health first aider, you'll find key information, practical guidance, and signposting to support services designed to raise awareness and promote positive wellbeing across our school communities.

Access here: [Mental Health & Wellbeing Space](#)

New Guidance Launched

In March, in collaboration with our schools, we launched our Communications Guidance for Parents and Carers. We hope the guidance will strengthen the relationship between our schools, families, and staff – helping us stay connected and ensuring everyone feels informed and involved while being respectful and valuing the dignity of every member of our community.

Read the guidance on our website [here](#).



Looking for your next career adventure?



We have a number of teaching and non-teaching vacancies available in our trust.

If you are seeking a rewarding career with ample opportunities for growth and professional development, we want to hear from you!

Current vacancies:

- Trainee Teachers (Primary and Secondary)
- Primary School Teachers
- Early Years Lead Teacher
- Lead Teacher for Biology
- Wrap Around Care Lead
- Subject Leader (ICT and Computing)
- Cleaner
- Site Technician
- Site Manager
- First Aid Administrative Assistant
- Lay Chaplain

Visit our vacancies page to find out more:

www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/work-with-us

Helping our families with financial support



Have you heard about our Trust initiative, the **Little Acts of Kindness Fund**?

The fund offers financial support for all eligible registered pupils attending our schools.

The fund helps families with any costs associated with their respective academy which includes paying for curriculum trips, school uniform, educational equipment, school meals, travel and more.

All requests will be considered against the rules and eligibility criteria detailed on our website.

To find out more about the fund and how to apply, please visit: www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/our-trust/little-acts-of-kindness-fund

Have you got a story to share with us?

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of the newsletter, we love showcasing the amazing accomplishments of our students and staff.

If you have a story you would like to share in the next edition, please email us at marketing@ololcatholicmat.co.uk or send us a DM on Instagram (@ourladyoflourdesmat), ensuring necessary consents are in place for GDPR purposes.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to share your school's stories and accomplishments with the Trust community!

Follow us on social media:



[Our Lady of Lourdes](#)



[@OurLadyofLourdesCMAT](#)