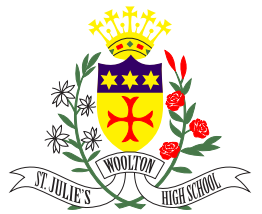


Spirit

St. Julie's Catholic High School
Chaplaincy Newsletter March 2015



Welcome to the Lent term edition of Spirit - our chaplaincy newsletter at St. Julie's!

You'll see when you go to Liverpool Hope University and take over their chapel for what will be a fantastic event involving the Sisters of Notre Dame, some wartime pupils from Notre Dame, Mount Pleasant, our own senior pupils (the 1804 Society) and our Y7 and Y8 pupils. It really is going to be great and I'll report back on that next term!

In the meantime, I wish you all the joys of the forthcoming Easter Season!

from the contents that this has been a busy old term. It's not possible to record all the things that have been happening in one newsletter but I hope this gives you at least a flavour of what's been going on!

At the end of March we will be celebrating 164 years of Notre Dame education in Liverpool

**Mr Anderson
Chaplain**

St. Julie's Celebrates Notre Dame Feast Day



Monday, 2nd February is the Feast Day of the Sisters of Notre Dame and, as a Notre Dame learning community, this is a special day in the life of St. Julie's.

On this day in 1804 - St. Julie and some other women made vows committing themselves to *"the education of the poor, the illiterate and the spiritually deprived"*. By doing this they gave their lives to God - to the church - and to education.

These extraordinary women and those who followed were very successful and, today - 211 years later, Y7 pupils and the staff of St. Julie's had a service remembering what they did!

We made our own commitments, recited a beautiful prayer *"I am a link in a chain"* and raised our new papal flag. As the flag went up, raised by Head Girl, Lea (flanked by Emily and Lorna), the sun came out - warming us up on what had been a bitterly cold day - and we closed our ceremony by singing a spirited *"Happy Birthday"* to the Sisters of Notre Dame.



This term we have launched our Chaplaincy website : chaplaincy.stjulies.org.uk It's got all kinds of features and it's one way pupils, staff, families and communities can keep in touch with what's going on. One important feature is our weekly topical prayer video where we explore news from around the world and consider it from a faith perspective. It also reminds us to pray for those close to us and it always ends with a Good News Story of the Week!

Our chaplain also does a daily blog entitled *"Thoughts from the Chaplain"* so you can keep up to date with what he's up to!

If you fancy a bit of singing, there's the Hymns and Lyrics section - which

contains unsurprisingly videos of hymns together with the words - a kind of Spiritual Karaoke!

The calendar reminds us of different aspects of our school Mission Statement each week and we also have a weekly saying from St. Julie - the inspirational woman who founded the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1804! The Sunday Gospel section features a video of the gospel reading that is read all over the world for that Sunday! Finally, there's the Make a Difference section where you can find out about e-campaigns on issues such as poverty, slavery and climate change. Why not bookmark the Chaplaincy website at St. Julie's as one of your favourites?

chaplaincy.stjulies.org.uk



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday fell during the half term holiday this year so, the following Wednesday, a group of pupils and staff gathered to mark it at lunchtime in The Chapel. Ruth and Charlie (Y7) told us a bit about Ash Wednesday and we watched a video about what Lent is all about. (You can see it on the

Sacred Space section of the Chaplaincy website.) One or two were surprised that there are actually forty six days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday! Then Abbie and Livvy (Y9) put ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads and told us *"Turn away from sin and believe that God loves you!"*

It was a really moving service which gave us the ashes which are a public sign of our willingness to repent - and turn towards God.

Thanks to all involved with a special shout out to Shelby who did the 'PowerPoint' stuff!



Keeping The Memory Alive

The St. Julie's community marked Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January) with two lunchtime services.

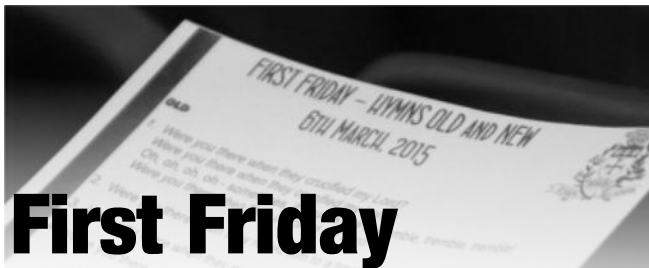
27th January, 1945 was the day Allied troops arrived at Auschwitz, that most notorious of concentration camps where over 1 million - mostly, but not exclusively, Jewish - people died. Over 6 million people died during that most awful of events in human history that we call The Holocaust.

It's important to mark this special day as those who survived The Holocaust are now few in number. The theme this year was *"Keep the memory alive"* and we looked at three women's experience of The Holocaust:

Janine - who had recurring dreams for years about the Nazi boots which she saw and heard as they took her family away; an unnamed woman from Ravensbruck (the women only concentration camp just 56 miles from Berlin) who wrote a prayer asking God to forgive those who had perpetrated evil and Anne Frank whose diary has inspired millions. We looked at some of her diary entries including:

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

We lit candles in their memory and resolved to take up the challenge and start to improve the world today. Instead of waiting for it to get better, we can make it better by our smiles, our willingness to make the most of every moment and by how we treat each other!



First Friday

The first Friday of the month has long been a special day in the Catholic calendar. St. Julie's marks it with an event called Hymns Old and New. Pupils and staff gather at 8:20a.m. and we sing an old hymn. Then we pray the psalm of the day which expresses our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the worldwide Body of Christ since this is the same psalm which is prayed all over the world on this day. Of course, the psalms are actually the oldest hymns around - some dating back over 3000 years! It's just unfortunate that the music that goes with them seems to have been lost.

We close our service with a 'new' hymn - ready to face the day! Over the last few months, the 'old' hymns have included: Soul of my Saviour, Abide with me and in Lent we sang 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?'

One of our new songs is a setting of our school motto 'Serve the good God well with much liberty of spirit'. We videoed it and sent it to all our Notre Dame contacts around the world getting rave reviews from as far away as the United States! You can see it at the Hymns and Lyrics section of the Chaplaincy website.

Angel of the Amazon



Sister Dorothy Mae Stang
7th July 1931 - 12th February 2005

12th February is a very special day in the life of all Notre Dame schools and, of course, we are so lucky to be the only Notre Dame school named after the foundress, St. Julie Billiart. It's special because it's the day we remember Sister Dorothy Stang, SND, who, ten years ago, was murdered because of her campaigning against those who exploit the disadvantaged and who seek to gain wealth at the expense of the biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest.

When she was approached by the gunmen who came to kill her. They asked if she was armed and she took out her bible and said "This is the only weapon I need!" She started to read The Beatitudes (Matthew 5) and got to the part *"Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God"* when the gunmen shot her six times.

You can see a mini-biography of Sr Dorothy in the Sacred Space section of the school website. In Sacred Time, forms reflected on the life of Sr Dorothy and contributed to discussion about the importance of biodiversity and sustainability.

At lunchtime, we held a service in the Dorothy Stang Theatre and Lucy, Amy and Olivia read while we all wrote our own commitments to continuing the work of Sr Dorothy who loved God's creation and people so much.



Spirit

"Serve the good God well, with much liberty of Spirit"