

Chaplaincy has been very busy (as always) this term at St Joseph's and remains the heart of our community.

The **Student Chaplaincy Team** is perhaps the largest it has been in a generation, with two distinct groups totally nearly 40 Year 7 pupils, meeting at alternate lunch and citizenship periods fortnightly. Students have been enthusiastically creating prayerful displays for All Souls' and November's month of Remembrance and adding to the chapel's decorations. The Chaplaincy Team are at the centre of the school's prayer life and are inspired by the words of St Paul, 'to pray without ceasing' for the college's needs.

Additionally, Staff Reflections continue each Monday morning before assemblies where teachers and support staff can come to listen to God's plan for the day ahead. Each week centres on a theme such as Peace, Service and Leadership.

St Joe's own **St Vincent de Paul (SVP)** chapter is up and running and plans to do much in the way of local charity in Swindon. They plan to have regular visits to a local Swindon care home after Christmas and possibly get involved in raising money for projects at the Great Western Hospital.

The **Young Cafod Leaders** student group will be leading Advent Assemblies and will be raising money for World Gifts, Cafod's 'alternative' Christmas presents, where instead of contributing to the vast income of Amazon UK (for example), farming equipment or health care materials are purchased for our brothers and sisters around the world.

Year 13 students will be leading the annual 'trolley dash' around the college on 6 December to collect stockpiles of non-perishable food items and clothing from each tutor group to send to **Christmas Care Swindon**, a shelter for the homeless and vulnerable.

Tuesday 12th December is **Christmas Jumper Day**. Students and staff are asked to bring in a £1.00 donation in order to wear their own clothes. All funds raised will be split equally between the chosen school charities of Threshold Housing Link and Medaille Trust, a charity which supports trafficked persons.

On the 13th December, the whole College will be invited to attend the **Christmas Service**. The theme each year is to encourage the Students to always remember the true meaning of Christmas, and this is presented in a fun and entertaining yet spiritual way. A script has been written by Drama teacher Zosia Mobey and it involves almost 50 Students from all year groups. The Students have been using their Enrichment time as well as after school rehearsals to ensure the Service is a huge success.

The Services range from a drama performance, prayers, Christmas carols, lighting the Advent wreath and even street dancing. It is aiming to be a Service that lifts the students spiritually and prepares them for this very special time of the year.

I wish you all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas season on behalf of the Chaplaincy Team. Please continue to pray for us.

Alex Marra

Chaplaincy Co-ordinator