

May 2026

The weekend of 2nd and 3rd May



Students from St Albans Catholic High School took part in the biggest Catholic Youth Event that takes place in the Diocese of East Anglia each year.

This year, the festival took place at St Benedicts Catholic High School, in Bury St Edmunds and over 400 teenagers from across the diocese attending.

This was a weekend that had faith, friendship and fun at the centre of everything. The programme included music led by priests of the diocese, faith testimonies from young people across the Diocese, Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia and Adoration led by Fr Luke Goymour from St Mark's Parish in Ipswich.

There were ample activities to keep the young people engaged with team building sessions, pizza and rosary making, and more reflective sessions regarding vocations, living faith in the 21st century and the differing ways that faith can be lived through marriage, priesthood, religious communities and being open to listening to God.

One particular point was during the Mass, when Bishop Peter highlighted the vital role of deacons in the life and mission of the church and spoke about this call to service at the heart of the diaconate and made a warm reference to the school chaplain at St Albans Catholic High School and asked the young people gathered to pray for the upcoming ordination and asked him to raise his hand so that every teenager could see where he was.



Those who attended from St Alban's engaged wholeheartedly, and it was great to see so many young people sharing the faith in same setting and that they were all united and there for the same reason. Many felt a powerful encounter with Christ.

Some of the students, also went on to take part in the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on the bank holiday Monday where they were warmly welcomed by the shrine director and Bishop Peter.

Friday 8th May



A special staff prayer service was held on Friday 8th May to mark the first anniversary of the election of Pope Leo XIV. Led by the school chaplain, the gathering offered staff a quiet moment of reflection, unity, and remembrance.

The chaplain guided the team through prayers focused on Pope Leo's ministry of service, compassion, and leadership. Staff were invited to pause from their busy routines and reflect on how his values continue to shape the school's mission and daily life.

Loving God,

As we celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Leo's election as the Successor of St Peter,

We thank you for the joy and encouragement he has brought to the Church

and for the excitement he sparked in our own students and staff

who were blessed to meet him.

Through his ministry,

May the Face of Christ be seen more clearly in our troubled world.

Help us here at St Alban's to love God,

to love our neighbour,

and to love learning,

so that our school becomes a place where Christ's hope and kindness always shine through.

We ask this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Wednesday 13th May

There was a special Mass held in the chapel for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima, as it was the 109th anniversary of the apparitions of Fatima.

During the Mass, Fr Jude spoke to students about why Fatima is important in the life of the Catholic Church and how the three young children who witnessed the apparitions became some of the youngest recognised saints within the church.



He explained the significance of the messages delivered by Our Lady, encouraging prayer, penance, and devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

Throughout May



As GCSE and A Level students approach their exams, the school chaplain has been a steadfast source of comfort and encouragement. Just before each exam begins, the chaplain gathers students together for a moment of calm and leads them in a prayer, asking that they may do well and find confidence as they sit their papers. This ritual has become a reassuring tradition, reminding students that they are supported and valued throughout this challenging time.

Many students have spoken of the reassurance they feel, knowing the chaplain is present and caring for their wellbeing, not only in moments of prayer but through ongoing support. After the exams have finished, the chaplain takes time to informally

check in with several students, asking how they feel the exam has gone and offering a listening ear. These conversations provide an opportunity for students to reflect, share their experiences, and receive gentle encouragement, reinforcing the message that exam results do not define their worth.

Lourdes 2027

The school chaplain led assemblies for current Year 8 and 9 students regarding pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine of Lourdes in 2027.

During his address, he spoke about why pilgrimage is important in the Catholic Church, emphasising its role as a journey of faith, spiritual growth, and an opportunity for reflection and prayer.

He also explained some of the highlights that people would be able to see, such as the Grotto of Massabielle, the site of the Marian apparitions, the candlelit processions that take place each evening, and the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The chaplain encouraged students to consider the deeper significance of the pilgrimage and how it can strengthen their relationship with God and the wider faith community.

