

## April 2026

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

The school chaplain lead staff in a Liturgy of the Word Service in relation to Catholic Social Teaching and the focus was caring for others and imitating the Good Samaritan. This coincided with the theme of the day where staff were learning Catholic Social Teaching and implementing it across the curriculum. The school chaplain also lead staff in an update on the house system that will use from September 2026

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April**



It was a great pleasure to welcome Year 5 pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School for a DT taster session. Firstly, they came to the chapel where they were introduced to the school chaplain and Mrs Williams the Head of Technology and began the day with a prayer.

The group was then split into two groups, one remained in the chapel with Paul and did a session about stained glass windows and why churches have them, and in the other session, pupils had to design their own prayer card using



religious icons and printing presses.



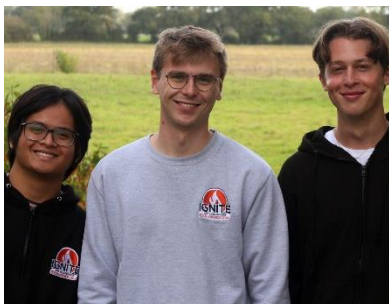
After break, the groups swapped over, and then they were able to question the Headteacher about his role within the school, and aspects of school life.

During the visit, pupils were also able learn about the recent visit to Rome and were amazed that the school has a papal zucchetto in the school reception. Many pupils were very pleased to come, and some had the opportunity to meet with some Year 10 prefects.



### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

Year 10 students took part in their reflection day, which was once again lead by the Ignite team for the Diocese of East Anglia.



The Day began with a prayer with a focus on stopping to reflect on what is important in life. The day began with a group activity where students had to write down their priorities and then list them from 1-10 with 1 being the most important aspect of their life.

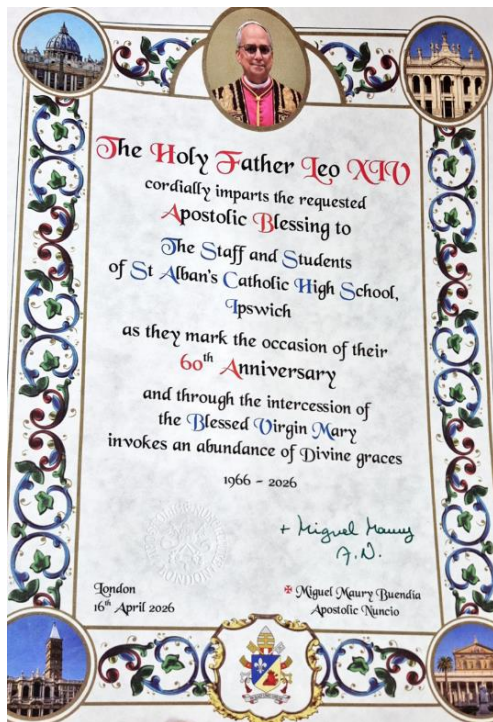
They then listened to faith testimonies from members of the Ignite Team and how their faith is important to them in overcoming difficulties. Furthermore, two students from the same year group had the courage to speak to the group about how one came to faith after coming to St Alban's after a difficult period and the other testimony was about how faith has helped during bereavement.

In the afternoon, all students on reflection days took part in Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel, where some may not have experienced that before. There was a great sense of peace, serenity and stillness during the Adoration. It was a time of personal reflection for the students.



The Reflection Days were a great way of bringing a close year group even closer and all were very respectful to the students who spoke in front of them.

### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**



Today, marked the first anniversary of the death of Pope Francis. The school chaplain lead staff in a prayer commemorating the life and service of Pope Francis during the staff briefing regarding Catholic Social Teaching and how small acts can make the difference.

Following the prayer, it was announced that Pope Leo XIV has sent staff, students and parents a message on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the school has received a papal blessing parchment to commemorate this important milestone for the school community.

The message has come via the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Papal representative to the United Kingdom.

The school received this in a follow up from the pilgrimage to Rome that had taken place in November in 2025 at the start of the celebration.

### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

The retirement of Phil Dance as Chair of Governors was marked on Tuesday 28th April with a special Mass held in the school chapel and celebrated by Fr Michael Smith from Felixstowe. The occasion brought together many of Phil's family members, along with representatives from the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Body, to honour his years of dedicated service.

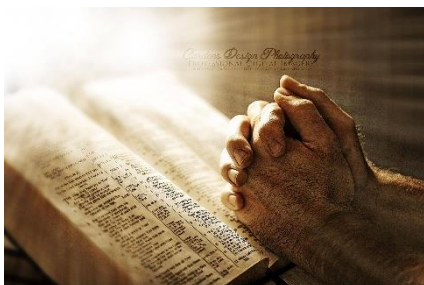
During the Mass, Fr Michael offered a warm tribute to Phil, recognising his commitment, steady leadership, and the positive impact he has had on the school community. The Headteacher also expressed heartfelt thanks, highlighting Phil's unwavering support and guidance throughout his tenure.



A particularly memorable moment came when Phil's grandchildren took part in the liturgy by reading the bidding prayers. Their involvement added a deeply personal and touching element to the celebration, making the occasion even more meaningful for Phil and all those present.

The event served as a fitting farewell to a much-respected Chair of Governors whose contribution will be long remembered.

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**



On Wednesday 29th April, Year 11 gathered in the school chapel for their final Mass together before beginning their GCSE examinations. This special moment of reflection allowed students to pause, unite as a year group, and prepare spiritually and emotionally for the important weeks ahead.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Jude Belnas, who offered thoughtful encouragement to the students. In his homily, he spoke about St Catherine of Siena, drawing on her strength, courage, and unwavering faith. He reminded students of the importance of supporting one another, especially during challenging times, and encouraged them to approach their exams with confidence and mutual care.



The celebration provided a calm and meaningful space for students to reflect, pray, and feel the support of their school community. It was a fitting way to mark this milestone as they move forward into their examinations.