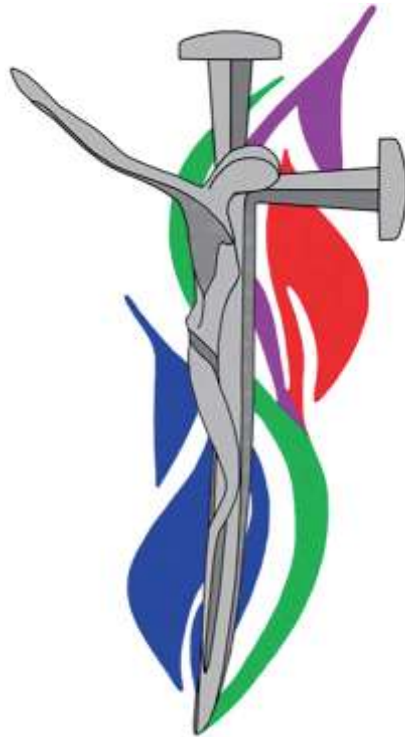


# Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

## Easter Newsletter 2022



*Achieving together in faith*



**To all Pupils, Parents, Carers,  
Staff, Governors and Directors  
at Holy Cross Catholic Multi  
Academy Company Schools**

Once again it has been a busy term at the Holy Cross MAC and there has been plenty going on in all our schools even with the pandemic all around us, some of which you can read about in this newsletter. We have been deeply saddened by the events in Ukraine and hope and pray that peace returns swiftly. A very big thank you all for the donations and generous response to our appeal and fundraising over the last few weeks.

Following the Section 48 Inspections at St Augustine's and Cardinal Newman Catholic Schools we have just received the two fantastic Section 48 inspection reports. Many congratulations to all the staff and pupils in obtaining such wonderful reports.

A big welcome to Ms McDonald who will start after Easter as Headteacher for St Augustine's Catholic Primary School and thank you to Mrs Carey and Mrs Carlin for stepping up in the interim period as Acting Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.



Thank you to all the staff who work at the Holy Cross Catholic MAC Governors, directors and volunteers for all for all your hard work, dedication and commitment for our young people.

As we prepare for Holy Week we look forward to the opportunity for time for reflection in a busy world. I hope that all of you have a very Happy and Holy Easter, take time to rest, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer Term.

John Teahan

Chair of Board of Directors

Holy Cross Catholic MAC



**To all Pupils, Parents, Carers,  
Staff, Governors and Directors  
at Holy Cross Catholic Multi  
Academy Company Schools**

As we come to the end of the Spring Term 2022 we give thanks for the return to more normal activities in all our schools. This term it has been wonderful to read about the extra-curricular activities that pupils are enjoying once again and many of our pupils have been very busy in preparation for the start of the external exam season after the Easter holidays.

However this half term we have been deeply saddened by the tragedy and devastation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and as a community we have been praying for a swift end to this terrible conflict. However, this half term we have been deeply saddened by the tragedy and devastation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and as a community we have been praying for a swift end to this terrible conflict. But we have also been called to action and once again we have been overwhelmed by the tremendous generosity and kindness of all our school communities. All our schools have been fundraising to raise money for Cafod and the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) and as a group of schools we have raised over £3500 to donate to the relief effort. In addition, last week we had the chance to bring in much needed medical and baby supplies to send on a lorry destined for Poland and the Ukraine border and we were astounded by the generosity of our community. Thank you.

During the season of Lent it has been wonderful to witness the response of our school communities to pray for others as well as donate to those in desperate need. Through no fault of their own the Ukrainian people find themselves in desperate need of our support and every item donated and every penny given will be deeply appreciated.

As we prepare for Holy Week we reflect on Jesus' suffering and the pain of his crucifixion followed by the joy of the Resurrection and the hope of new life that it brings. This Easter we pray for everyone who face challenges and hardship that they may have some joy in their lives over Easter – particularly those in war torn parts of the world. We pray for peace and reconciliation across our troubled world

Once again I would like to thank all the pupils, staff, governors, directors and parents and carers for their shared effort and support in helping to keep our school communities as safe as possible by ensuring they follow all the relevant advice and guidance. And finally we wish all our exam years good luck with their revision over the Easter holidays as they begin final preparations for their important end of key stage tests starting on 9<sup>th</sup> May and GCSE and A level exams that start on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks to all the staff who are giving up some of their own time and Easter holiday to provide additional lessons and support.

And I wish everyone a very holy, happy and peaceful Easter.

Mrs Marina Kelly

Catholic Senior Executive Leader

Holy Cross Catholic MAC



## Support for Ukraine Appeal

Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those  
suffering or afraid, that you will be close to  
them and protect them.  
We pray for world leaders, for compassion,  
strength and wisdom to guide their choices.  
We pray for the world that in this moment of  
crisis, we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.  
May we walk in your ways so that peace and  
justice become a reality for the people of  
Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.



## Non-Uniform Day for Ukraine



All of our schools took part in a Day for Ukraine where the children wore blue and yellow to fundraise for the people of Ukraine.

As a MAC we raised £3,464.07

All Money was donated to CAFOD's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Our school communities worked with Coventry Supporting Ukraine to gather donations to be delivered directly to the Refugee Camps.

We were overwhelmed by the support and generosity we received from our children, staff and families and local communities.



The two charities that our items were sent to are:

- Coventry supporting Ukraine and Ukrainians in Coventry and Warwickshire
- Humanitarian Aid and Medical Collection.

Both of these charities are working in partnership with Franklin and Hawkins Family Funeral Directors.

You can follow the journey of our lorries on the Charity Facebook Pages. Please see the links below.

[Coventry Supporting Ukraine | Facebook](#)

[Franklin and Hawkins Family Funeral Directors | Facebook](#)

We would like to give special thanks to Maureen Bell, Nicola Berry and the St John Vianney Youth Group who arranged collection from St John Vianney to the charities for us.





## Welcome to Ms McDonald

### New Headteacher at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

After Easter we look forward to welcoming Ms McDonald as the new Headteacher at St Augustine's Catholic Primary School. Ms McDonald is currently Headteacher at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School Solihull, which is part of Our Lady & All Saints Catholic MAC.

Ms McDonald will be a familiar face to some members of St Augustine's Community as she started her teaching career at St Augustine's in 2004. We wish Ms McDonald every success and happiness in her new role.



We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Carey and Mrs Carlin who have been Acting Headteacher and Acting Deputy Headteacher over the last 12 months.

We are very grateful to Mrs Carey and Mrs Carlin who both agreed to take on temporary roles and agreed to lead the school until we could recruit a new Headteacher. Despite the additional very challenging circumstances of managing the impact of Covid they have ensured that the school continued successfully until Ms McDonald starts.



## New Headteacher appointed for Christ the King Catholic Primary School



We are delighted to announce that Miss Jennifer Riach has been appointed as Headteacher at Christ the King Catholic Primary School from September 2022.

Ms Riach has taught at Christ the King for 17 years and was appointed as Deputy Headteacher in September 2019.

We wish Ms Riach every success and happiness in her new role.

# MAC Chaplaincy Day

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February all our Holy Cross chaplaincy teams gathered together at Bishop Ullathorne. This was the first time the chaplaincy teams met in person and it did not disappoint.

It really was wonderful to be actually together and share ideas and plans. There was the most encouraging atmosphere as the teams shared what they would be doing in their schools during Lent.

We look forward to welcoming all of the teams back to Bishop Ullathorne for our next meeting on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June.



## IMAGINEER

## IMAGINE. MAKE. INSPIRE.

A reminder that during the Easter Holiday Bishop Ullathorne are hosting 'Turning the Tide' an Oceans Fair event. **Turning the Tide** is a **FREE** family-friendly event and it will include VR, sound, film, exhibition, performance and hands-on experiences.

*Turning the Tide* is part of FLOW – Future Life of our Ocean's Wealth – aimed at engaging children, communities and artists with ocean recovery and which some of our children had the opportunity to participate in during the Autumn Term.

The event runs from:

11.00– 1.30pm & 2.30 – 5.00pm  
**MON 18 APR 2022 TO FRI 22 APRIL 2022**





# Holy Cross - Cross of Nails

Thank you to Barrie Morris at Bishop Ullathorne for all his hard work and care put into making a Holy Cross for all our Schools at the Holy Cross Catholic MAC. The cross is based on the Coventry Cross of Nails which is the basis for our Holy Cross logo design and all schools now have their own cross of nails, dressed in the colours of our schools. The logo reflects our commitment to being people of peace, justice and reconciliation.





## A Foundation Stage for Future Success

New St John Vianney Nursery set for September opening soon



The new £1/2million Nursery Building at St John Vianney is set to open in September.

The brand new purpose built unit will comprise a wonderful new space for 26 pupils with associated facilities including purpose built hard and soft play areas.

Places will be limited and expressions of interest for places are welcome by emailing: [admin@sjv.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sjv.coventry.sch.uk)



## Landing a Long-Term Goal!

Bishop Ullathorne Sports Hall to open later this year



Bishop Ullathorne's brand new Sports Hall is set to start construction before the summer and be ready in time for Christmas!

The new facility is funded as part of the pupil place expansion programme and will be the first time that this very popular and heavily oversubscribed school will have its own dedicated Sports Facility. Boasting a 600m<sup>2</sup> 'four court' sports area it also features generous storage and changing facilities as well as sufficient height for trampoline use! The students can't wait to start using the new facility!

## Archdiocese Section 48 Inspections Success

This term we welcomed Diocesan inspectors to both St Augustine's and Cardinal Newman Catholic Schools to complete Section 48 Inspections. In addition to Ofsted Inspections all Catholic schools are subject to Section 48 Inspections that judge the standard of Catholic Life, RE and Collective Worship in schools. The Diocese appointed two inspectors for both schools to complete the inspections over two days.

As part of the process two inspectors interviewed pupils, staff and parents, visited lessons and assemblies, reviewed the standards of work in exercise books.

We are delighted that the inspectors were impressed with the high standards observed in both schools across all areas of school life.

St Augustine's was judged to be Good in all areas and Cardinal Newman Outstanding in all areas. A huge well done to both school communities on their wonderful Section 48 Reports.

The reports are available on school websites for you to read.

## Archdiocesan Vision for Education and Academy Strategy

On Thursday 17 March the Diocese wrote to all schools and Multi Academy Companies across the Diocese to inform them about the future vision for catholic education in the Archdiocese of Birmingham and their proposed families of schools.

The documents are available on the BDES website and can be accessed using the following links:

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/vision-and-multi-academy-strategy.html>

The proposed future plan for our schools is to merge Holy Cross Catholic MAC with Romero and Holy Spirit MACs and form a new MAC with all the schools. In addition the remaining voluntary aided schools in Coventry would also join this new MAC.

The new academy would comprise of 4 Catholic secondary schools and 22 Catholic primary schools.

A working party will be formed to further investigate the proposal but there are no further details to share with you at this stage. We will keep parents updated when new information becomes available.





# Management Information System Update – Arbor



We are excited to announce that over the last three weeks, our staff have been working hard on a new project to move away from our old Student Management Information System (SIMS) and onto a new platform called Arbor MIS.

Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with parents more efficiently and bring all the core school data and workflows into one system. This will mean you'll have one parent app for all the core functions such as making payments for dinner money and school trips, seeing your child's attendance and behaviour/achievements, responding to consent slips, assessments, reports and much more.

Our primary schools will all be going live with Arbor on Monday 25 April 2022 and as this project is so complex, we will be phasing out the functionality above to parents over the next half term. More information on how to register will come directly from your school after the Easter break so please look out for this information.

Our secondary schools will be starting their journey after Easter with the intentions of going live on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Again, we'll be phasing out the parent functions across the autumn term. This project is at the early stages and more information will be available in the summer term.

# News from our Schools



*Achieving together in faith*



# Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

## Netball Winners

Our Year 8 Netball team are Coventry Schools A League Champions - they were undefeated in the league and 2x Finham Derby winners!

Congratulations Girls!



## Athletics

Year 8 took part in the Sports hall Athletics @ Xcel Centre today – the Girls team gained 1st place and through to the County Finals, boys team 6th place. Both Teams dominated both in track and field events, meaning both the girls and boys teams won... taking them through to the finals! Well done to all athletes who took part! We are proud of you all!



## Geographers

Last week Year 12 Geographers visited Plas Dol y Moch to complete work as part of the A level studies. Students worked really hard despite the cold weather and constant showers! Thank you to Mr Chalis and Miss Eke for taking the students.



## World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

CNCS celebrated World Book Day through themed lessons, staff costumes, dress the door competition and book cover competitions!





# Christ the King Catholic Primary School



## Music Ensemble

Our Year 4 and 1 student participated in a Music Ensemble with Thomas More and St John Fisher. It was great fun!



## Alton Castle

Year 5 went on their residential trip to Alton Castle and had an amazing time.



## Lenten Charities

During lent, the children have hosted their Lenten Charities events. We have four houses, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Walsingham. Each week, one of the houses organised and led Lenten Charities and the other three houses brought their money to spend.



# St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

## Year 6

Year 6 had an amazing time in Dol y Moch, learning so many new skills. They were together brilliantly as a team and represented our school so well.



## Morning of Music

Year 1 and Year 3 both enjoyed taking part in the Morning of Music with other Catholic schools across the city.



# St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

## Spectacular Playground Mural

February saw the creation of a fantastic new mural on our school playground, inspired by our involvement with the Imagineer UK Future Life of our Oceans Wealth (FLOW) Project.

The outstanding piece of art by Katie O'Sullivan was designed by our Year 4 children, linking their new learning and understanding of the FLOW project



and the relevance of the theme of 'journeys' and that for so many of our families have journeyed across oceans and rivers to their new Coventry home.



Our children are delighted with the finished piece which will continue to remind them each day of our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation, protect the wealth of our oceans and rivers and value the many different peoples who journey

to our great city and make Coventry their new home.

## British Science Week

British Science Week in March this year had a wonderful and lasting impact upon our children's interest and love of science.

It was wonderful to have visits from Falconry UK, Arctic Explorer Al Sylvester MBE and a STEM Ambassador, Gary the Beekeeper, to add to the vast amount of science activities planned for the week. Vicky from The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, a regular friend to St Elizabeth's, also visited on International Women's Day to talk about her science career pathway and role in the trust as well as teaching us how to look after hedgehogs and other animals in parks and gardens.

Watching our children's reactions and listening to their probing questions we certainly believe we have many budding scientists and our future science is in very good hands!





# St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

## Pray, Fast and Share

Pray, Fast and Share are the key words we have been using during Lent.

We have prayed for those less fortunate than ourselves and in particular the people of Ukraine. We have raised money and bought supplies for the refugees who have fled from Ukraine to Poland. Shoe boxes were filled with a variety of toys and gifts for young boys and girls and sent via the Parish youth group and one of our parents.

The children have bought tins to support the local Food Bank and raised money for both Ukraine and The Good Shepherd appeal. The children have led assemblies in the school hall to share their understanding of our Lenten journey with others. Together we will re-enact the passion of our lord Jesus Christ to share our faith in school this week.



# St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

## St Chad's Cathedral

In February, Year 6 visited St Chad's Cathedral where they had a 'behind the scenes' tour during which they enjoyed seeing lots of different chapels and the relics of Saint John Henry Newman. Year 6 then worshipped at Mass, celebrated by Monsignor Tim, formerly of Saint Thomas More parish, who sent his best wishes to all at St Thomas More. Year 6 were so reverent and such excellent STM ambassadors that several members of the public went out of their way to commend the children.



## Young Writer of the Year

St Thomas More writers did brilliantly in the Coventry Young Writer of the Year competition. We had 5 finalists from St Thomas More: two children in Y3, one from Y4 and two from Y5. They were invited by Coventry Building Society to attend the award ceremony at Coventry Building Society Arena where they enjoyed a tour of the stadium and then attended the ceremony itself.

Our finalists won the following awards from over a thousand entries:

- Luna - Y3 runner up
- Maya - Y3 winner **and overall winner!**
- Anisha - Y4 runner up
- Rebeka - highly commended in Y5
- Alice - Y5 winner

The theme for the competition was *My World, Only Better* with children invited to write about how they would make the world we live in a better place. A wonderful opportunity to combine our Catholic ethos with our writing skills! We were able to send some wonderful entries, full of love and care for our fellow brothers and our common home, with Maya's piece finishing with a quote from Albert Einstein: 'Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better. Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.'

# Coventry's Young Writer of the Year 2022

Year 3 winner: Maya (St Thomas More)

Title: My World, Only Better - Kindness and Care, Help for the World

Do you think our world needs changing?

Or do our manners to the world need changing?

I don't want a perfect world, I want a world that tries their best. If there was a parallel universe that is perfect, I don't want to see it. All I really want is people trying their best. Even one person can make a difference! The world doesn't need to be perfect.

You are much more than you can see. Nobody can show the best of you. Only you can. If I could change the world to be a better place, I would:

- 1) Convince people to be kind to each other
- 2) Ask people to care for the environment around them
- 3) Grow more plants and trees
- 4) Buy less products, use less plastic
- 5) Look after wildlife
- 6) Ask for more action from government

I love seeing people being kind to each other, this puts a smile on their face. Suddenly everyone who was sad or cried is happy again. Help and care opens hearts, the world seems brighter and more beautiful.

Being environmentally friendly makes us feel good. We can choose products for our homes which don't destroy our planet.

Nature and wildlife need to be cared for, nature is beautiful. When I look at it, I smile. I want to see more of it, but most wildlife is losing their habitats because of deforestation and intensive farming. If I lost nature and wildlife, I would be sad.

Reusing paper is important and every month, for half a day, kids could help with planting trees, flowers and other plants. I would love to have more lessons about living eco-friendly, gardening and forest school.

I agree with big scientist, Albert Einstein, who said 'Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better. Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.'



Coventry Building Society.  
Principal Office: Economic House, PO Box 9, High Street, Coventry CV1 5QN.

**COVENTRY** |   
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# **Walk with Me Prayer**

## **Easter 2022**

The following prayer is taken from the Easter 2022 edition of Walk with Me.

We wish all our young people and staff and all their families a very holy, happy, peaceful and relaxing Easter.

***Lord God, our light and our salvation,  
We praise you for your gifts of life and faith.***

***We thank you for the desire  
That you have planted in our hearts,  
Our yearning to see your face.***

***Help us to meet you in prayer,  
To walk in your ways,  
And to speak to others of our joy  
And consolation in your presence.***

***Give us faithfulness in this present life  
So that we may come to know  
And praise your beauty,  
With all our brothers and sisters,  
In the life to come.***

***We make this prayer through Christ our Lord  
Amen***