

Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

2024



**HAND IN HAND WE LISTEN TO GOD'S CALL
WE LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD AND WE
SHARE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE**



**KNOWLEDGE
THROUGH THE
LIGHT OF FAITH**

**LEARNING & GROWING
AS GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**



ACHIEVING TOGETHER IN FAITH



**LEARNING, GROWING
& PRAYING TOGETHER
WITH CHRIST OUR KING**



**LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**



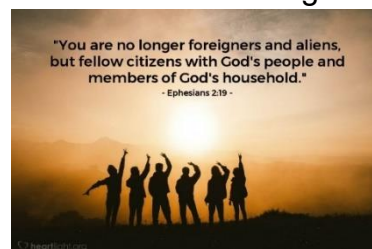
**ACHIEVING OUR BEST UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL
REVEALING WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE**



Message from our Chair of the Board of Directors

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term you will be able to read in our newsletter about some of the activities that have taken place throughout the term. I particularly want to highlight our recent staff mission day which had the theme of “Welcoming the Stranger”. We had the privilege to hear directly from asylum seekers and refugees and other guest speakers during the day which was very powerful and will help us on our journey to become schools of sanctuary.



It was also the opportunity to present long service awards to all staff who had worked continuously for twenty-five years or more in education in the City of Coventry. These individuals have provided fantastic service to our children over the 25 years, and once again, I would like to thank them. And we said thank you and good luck to Sarah Collins as she leaves St Thomas More Catholic School after nearly six years of wonderful service as Headteacher.

Thank you to all the pupils, staff, volunteers, governors, parents, clergy and directors within the Holy Cross Catholic MAC for all your hard work.



We look forward to the Jubilee Year 2025 and Pope Francis has chosen the theme for the Jubilee Year to be ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. The Jubilee Year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, on **Tuesday 24 December 2024** to the **Feast of Epiphany 2026** with the launch day for schools being **Friday 25th January 2025**. [The Year of Prayer 2024 and The Jubilee Year 2025](#)

At this time of year we think particularly of our loved ones and remember all those who are sick or have died and pray for them and their families.

Thank you for supporting those less fortunate than ourselves through fundraising and charitable works that have taken place throughout the year.



May you all find hope in this Christmas season through rejoicing in the birth of the Saviour. I wish each and every one of you a safe, happy and holy Christmas and a New Year full of hope.

Holy Cross of Jesus, be our hope.

John Teahan



Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter and as we come to the end of the long and very busy Autumn Term we hope you will enjoy reading about some of the amazing activities there has been across our MAC and schools. Once again it has been another successful term for all our schools, there is much to celebrate and we give thanks for the many successes and achievements from across all our school communities and MAC Central Team.

We continue to be incredibly proud of all our children and young people and all they do on daily basis to live out their school mission and the mission of Holy Cross Catholic MAC. However we are particularly proud of the kindness and care they show for others through their prayers and fantastic fundraising activities.

During Advent we have been supporting the Diocesan Reverse Advent Calendar and staff and pupils have donated a phenomenal 12,000 items to Fr Hudsons Caritas and Carriers of Hope in Coventry to support those in need.

We are very grateful to all our staff, parents, Governors and Directors who work tirelessly to ensure that our children and school communities are places of love, hope and joy who live out our Mission by demonstrating their faith through actions.

This term Christ the King had their Catholic Schools Inspection and we are delighted, but not surprised, that they were judged outstanding by the inspection done. A huge well done to Ms Riach and her whole school community on this fantastic achievement.

The joy and hopefulness of the Christmas season and birth of Baby Jesus and the gifts of peace, love and goodwill to all people that it brings are so important and we look forward with hope to the New Year.

As always, we particularly pray for all those for whom Christmas will be a sad and lonely time, particularly those caught up in conflict around the world and hope and pray that peace can be found to bring all wars to a swift end.

On behalf of everyone at Holy Cross Catholic MAC, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful, holy, and relaxing Christmas and we hope that the New Year brings you all good health and happiness.

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly



Thank you and Farewell to Mrs Collins Headteacher - St Thomas More

Holy Cross Catholic MAC community are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Collins as she leaves as Headteacher of St Thomas More Catholic School after nearly six years of outstanding service.

Mrs Collins has worked tirelessly to ensure that all pupils receive an outstanding catholic education and she knows every child individually, always seeking to ensure that they achieve their full potential and develop the skills they need to have a successful future.



Mrs Collins successfully led the school through its last Ofsted Inspection in January 2024 when the school was judged to be Good with outstanding Personal Development and the inspection team were very impressed with the outstanding behaviour of pupils and strong catholic ethos throughout the school. We are very grateful to Mrs Collins for her tremendous hardwork and dedicated service and we wish her well in her new role as Primary Inclusion Lead for Holy Cross Catholic MAC.

After Christmas Mrs Staines will become Acting Headteacher until Mrs Ewa Parker starts as the new Headteacher in April 2024.

Christ the King is judged an Outstanding Catholic School!

From September 2022, all denominational inspections within the Archdiocese of Birmingham will be undertaken by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. In addition to Ofsted Inspections, all Catholic schools are subject to Catholic Schools Inspections which judge the standard of Catholic life and mission of the school, religious education and collective worship in schools. This term we welcomed three inspectors to Christ the King Catholic School to complete their Catholic Schools Inspection over two days. The inspection team were led by Ann Fowler and she was joined by Shenade Moorhouse and Helen Rigby. As part of the process the inspectors interviewed pupils, staff and parents, visited lessons and assemblies and reviewed the standards of work in exercise books.

We are delighted that the inspectors were impressed with the very high standards observed across all areas of school life and judged the school to be outstanding across all areas.

The report is available on school websites to read: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4es7w6>



Celebrating Holy Cross Catholic MAC Feast Day at Coventry Cathedral and St Thomas More Church 13 September 2024

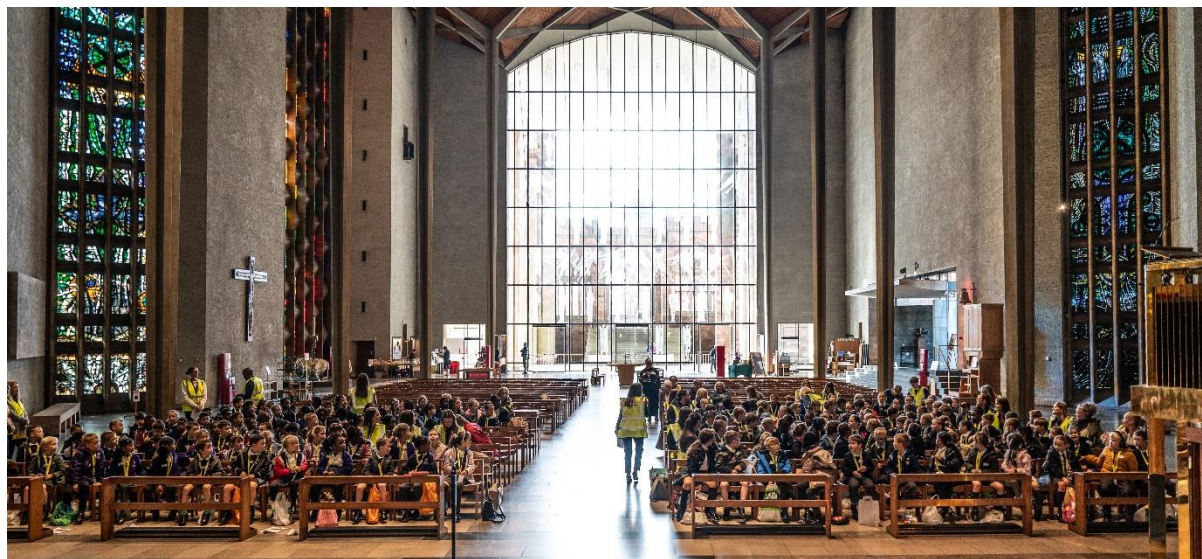
On Friday 13 September 2024 we celebrated the Feast Day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross as a MAC community at St Thomas More Catholic Church and Coventry Cathedral in preparation for the Feastday of the Exaltation of the Cross on Saturday 14 September. .



This event was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils in Year 6 to come together at St Thomas More to celebrate mass and then work with secondary lay chaplains and RE teachers to begin preparations for the sacrament of Confirmation later this year.

The children from Year 3 had a prayer service at Coventry Cathedral and then completed the Coventry Peace Trail followed by activities at the Transport Museum and Herbert Art Gallery.

We were delighted that Fr Jonathan Veasey joined us to lead the celebration of our Feast Day Mass at St Thomas More Church and thank you to Fr Jonathan and everyone who worked so hard to make it a very special day!



Christmas is here!

The Christmas nativity plays are an essential part of the Christmas season, and schools have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks to ensure everything is perfect. For many, the nativity play is an opportunity to showcase our pupils' talents and creativity, with costumes, music and sets all carefully crafted to create a magical and immersive experience for the audience. The plays provide a chance for children to learn about the Christmas story and the religious significance behind the birth of baby Jesus, as well as to develop important skills such as public speaking and teamwork.



The hard work and dedication of schools and students ensure that the message of hope and love is shared widely.



MAC MISSION DAY

15 November 2024

On Friday 15 November all our staff gathered for our annual Mission Inset Day at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School. The theme of the day was 'Welcomg the Stranger' and as we prepare to become Schools of Sanctuary we were privileged to hear from inspiring guest speakers and asylum seekers and refugees about the challenges faced by people who are new to Coventry or our country. The day offered the opportunity to see life from a completely different perspective.



We are very grateful to James Trewby, Justice, Peace and Ecology Coordinator from the Columbans, for leading our day and to our workshop leads: Emma Birks, from Asylum Matters, Stephanie Neville, from Stories of Hope and Home and Matthew Tehan, Headteacher at St Dunstons Catholic Primary School in Birmingham.

Throughout the day we asked our staff to dig deep and donate generously to our fundraising to support Carriers of Hope, a Coventry-based charity.



Staff responded incredibly generously to the request for donations of toiletries .

Throughout the sessions, staff were given insight into real-life stories from successful asylum seekers and those still in the system awaiting asylum claims.



MAC MISSION DAY

Staff Fundraising Activities

Holy Cross Catholic MAC Bake-Off

On our Mission Day we had our first ever Holy Cross MAC Bake Off Competition and the standard of the entries was incredibly high – some were so professional that they could have been entered for the TV version of Bake Off! A particular thank you to the staff who entered the Bake Off competition and took the time to bake a cake! Every piece of cake was eaten and enjoyed. A fantastic **£308.55** was raised from cake donations.

And a huge well done to our first Bake Off champion, Nina Gibbins from St Augustine's School.



A special mention to Mr Bullock from Cardinal Newman who came a close second entering a very tasty HCCMAC Cake with school fairy cakes.

Staff Raffle

We also had a raffle throughout the day and thank you to all staff who bought raffle tickets and/or donated prizes - an amazing **£615.20** was raised from raffle ticket sales.



Exit Collection

And finally, thank you to everyone who dug deep before leaving the hall on Friday – the exit collection raised **£250.21**.

Overall, we raised a fantastic **£1200** for Carriers of Hope, a local charity that works with asylum seekers, refugees and migrant families to provide a much-needed warm welcome, practical support and care.

Thank you to Tracy Pratt and the entire OCS Catering team for supporting our Mission Day and judging our Charity Bake-Off Competition.



LONG SERVICE AWARDS

15 November 2024

At the end of our INSET day, we recognised and thanked the hard work of six members of staff for their long service, commitment and dedication to young people. It was a special moment for us to come together and celebrate those who have tirelessly served young people in Coventry for an incredible 25 years or more.

A huge thank you to the staff for their unwavering support and hard work, which have helped shape the lives of countless pupils.

Nicola Hayes – Bishop Ullathorne

Elizabeth Scott – Christ the King

Susan Hazle – Bishop Ullathorne

Helen Malik – St Thomas More

Angela McGee – St John Vianney



Father Hudson's Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar

The Collections

Over the last few weeks of the Autumn term we have turned our attention to Fr Hudson's Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar appeal for toiletries. Pupils and staff from across the MAC donated thousands of toiletry items!



On Tuesday 17 December, the Head Boy and Girl from both Bishop Ullathorne and Cardinal Newman collected donations from all seven schools.



Father Hudson's Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar

Drop off to Fr Hudson's Caritas, Coleshill



Our Holy Cross Catholic MAC Community
donated approx. **11,800** individual items.

Thank you to our Sixth Form Helps from Bshop Ullathorne and Cardinal Newman who helped all day with the school collections and delivery to Fr Hudson's Caritas in Coleshill – Sofia, Oscar, Erin and Sonny who worked very hard throughout the day!

WELL DONE!



Pilgrims of Hope Holy Year of Jubilee

Every 25 years, the Catholic Church celebrates a Holy Year of Jubilee and Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be the next Jubilee Year. The Jubilee Year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24 December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

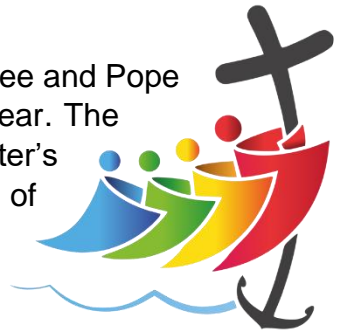
Archbishop Bernard will celebrate Mass for the Solemn Opening of the Year, at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 29 December 2024.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", and this is an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic.

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.

The Catholic Church celebrates this tradition once every 25 years as a year of grace, offering the faithful the opportunity to renew faith through prayer, pilgrimage, acts of charity, and by asking for a plenary indulgence – a special grace that strengthens our wounded souls in the fight against sin.

The Diocesan Education Service will be launching the Jubilee Year with all pupils on 24 January and there will be lots of events happening throughout the year.



JUBILEE 2025
**PILGRIMS
OF HOPE**



Department for Education National School Rebuilding Programme

Holy Cross Catholic MAC School Rebuilds

We are incredibly lucky that both of our secondary schools are included in the National School Rebuilding Programme.

As shown by this still from footage, the Cardinal Newman build is well under way with a projected opening date in 2027.



£100,000 has already been spent improving the drainage of the sports pitches that will be retained, and the new school footings are now complete with steels due in the new year.



Bishop Ullathorne is also moving at a pace with the initial feasibility stage now complete and ready to move into procurement.

The construction timetable is yet to be determined but we are hoping for a 2028 opening of the completed school



NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

We will **NOT** tolerate behaviour that is:

-  threatening
-  abusive
-  violent

Our school environment must be a safe and secure place for everybody.
We WILL take action when necessary.

Please see here for a reminder of our Parent code of conduct

<https://tinyurl.com/vd4j3b7s>





Holy Cross Catholic
Multi Academy Company
Achieving together in faith

TRAIN TO TEACH AT HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC MAC



In collaboration with
Teaching
Search: Get Into Teaching

Teaching offers you...

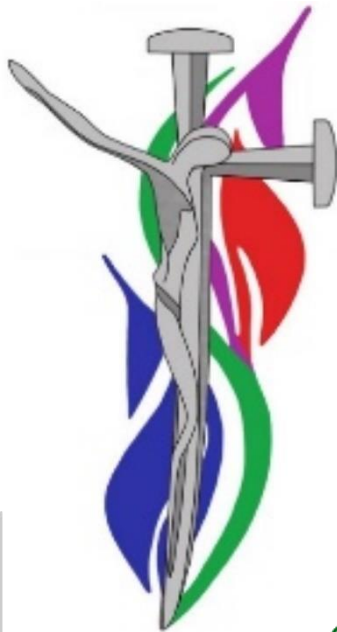
- ✓ Great benefits
- ✓ Excellent job satisfaction and career progression
- ✓ Opportunities for you to use a wide range of skills
- ✓ The chance to inspire pupils in the subject you love
- ✓ A way to make a difference and inspire the next generation

Contact HCCMAC

☎ 02475 186555
 ✉ info@hccmac.co.uk
 🌐 www.hccmac.co.uk



School News



CARDINAL
NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Achieving together in faith



Christ the King Catholic Primary School

Reception Family Faith Day

Family Faith Days at Christ the King have been led and prepared by Mrs Ball this year. Each year group has invited their family members to join them in a special session of prayer, reflection and a creative activity. This term the Reception children enjoyed their session, alongside a member of their family. Together they made crowns and sang a beautiful song called King of the Jews. It has been lovely to hear such positive feedback from these sessions.



Chaplaincy team – 'I am Church' event

The Chaplaincy team prepared and delivered a speech at the 'I am Church' event during October. They represented the school fantastically, and we are all very proud of them.



Remembrance Day

Children, staff and families joined together with Fr Tom in prayer at Scots Lane. Fr Tom and the children led a moving Remembrance Day service for all.



Christ the King Feast Day

On November 25th, the whole school joined together to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. As it is a very special feast day for Christ the King, all of the children wore special, golden crowns.



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School



Coventry Cathedral

On Tuesday, twelve members from St Augustine's took part in a community carol service organised by King Henry VIII School at Coventry Cathedral. Young people from six primary schools took part by singing their own musical pieces, giving seasonal readings and leading the communal singing; the Reverend Canon Slavic presided. Our

children did very well - although small in number, they were great in quality performing Away in a Manger beautifully with Iris reading so clearly and calmly.



84 years to the day, after the Blitz devastated Coventry, our Year 6 children visited Coventry Cathedral. They learnt about the impact the war had on the people of Coventry and showed empathy and compassion in their questions and responses.

Junior PCSO

Children took part in the Junior PCSO scheme to help develop their understanding of rights and responsibilities and the Rule of Law. They were given their uniforms, lanyards and packs; learnt their phonetic alphabet; investigated a crime scene and took part in a mock trial. It was a very exciting day for everyone!



St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

St Elizabeth's Parish Hall

November saw the arrival of the long-awaited St Elizabeth's Parish Hall. Replacing the first parish hall constructed in the 1970's, the new five-piece modular hall was craned into place and is on track for its handover from the construction team at the end of December. The hall will provide a much needed space for additional parish and school activities long into the future!



Fr Moses 25 Years Ordination Anniversary!

Following a special thanksgiving mass for Fr Moses, St Elizabeth's presented him with a 'Coventry City FC 25' shirt in thanks and recognition for his 25 years service as a priest and in thanks for his dedicated service to St Elizabeth's Parish as Parish Priest since 2003.



It was also lovely to welcome to the celebratory mass the Chair of Governors, Ann Harkin, and former St Elizabeth's Parish Priest, Fr Aloysius, who joined for the morning.

Young Ambassadors and Remembrance Peace Poets

This term, a group of Year 5 & Year 6 children successfully attended and passed their training to become Coventry Young Ambassadors. The ambassadors will attend various Coventry events to represent St Elizabeth's and the City of Coventry. Their first engagement was at this year's Coventry Remembrance Service at War Memorial Park where a group of St Elizabeth's Year 6 children read peace poems during the service.



St Elizabeth's looks forward to more of their children becoming ambassadors in the future and providing a positive young voice and representation of St Elizabeth's and Coventry in the near future!



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



Dol-Y-Moch

Year 6 recently went on their residential trip to Doy-Y-Moch in Wales. Pupils climbed mountains, played in the snow, went down mines, learnt to kayak and went Rock climbing and abseiling. During their time at Dol-Y-Moch they learnt how to show resilience, respect and responsibility and fostered a love of learning outdoors as well as making new friends with pupils from All Soul's school.

Superheroes

Reception and Nursery have been learning about Superheroes including firemen and police officers. They visited the main school and talked about Vocations and what they might like to be when they grow up.



Advent

As we draw closer to Christmas pupils have been preparing for the coming of the Baby Jesus. Pupils have been raising funds for Mary's Meals which will be doubled this year by the government as well as collecting collected toiletries in school for the Diocesan charity Fr. Hudson's Caritas.



Children from Year 1 led an assembly to teach the whole school all about Advent and the Advent wreath. The candles on the wreath represent Peace, Love, Hope, Joy and Jesus. The staff and pupils of St John Vianney wish you all a very Happy and peaceful Christmas.



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



School Artist

One of St Thomas More's talented year 6 children has put his skills to great use to help enhance the school environment and demonstrate the Catholic ethos. He spent many weeks working away at home to produce this fantastic depiction of the school's patron saint, St Thomas More. The art will hang in pride of place in the school hall to remind all pupils of the qualities St Thomas More demonstrated and that they try to embody in school.

Thanksgiving Mass for Bishop Timothy

The school was delighted to be invited to join in the celebrations for Bishop Timothy's ordination as Bishop. Bishop Timothy has previously been a parish priest at St Thomas More and he used his homily to share some of his memories of this time with the pupils who attended the Mass to represent St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.



Prayer Partners

Year 6 met with their new Reception prayer partners, early in the Autumn term to introduce themselves and to enjoy their first moment of faith together. The Y6 children chose a piece of scripture that they felt their prayer partner would best respond to and then planned a collective worship to share with their Reception friend. The school truly was a place of unity, compassion and faith with such thoughtful prayer taking place.

STM Pupils Go Out and About!

There have been lots of educational visits happening this term, with Year 1 going to the Herbert Art Gallery, Y5 visiting the Blitz Experience, Nursery and Reception enjoying Warwickshire Play Village, Year 3 exploring the Peace Trail during the Holy Cross Catholic MAC Feast Day and also lots of sporting events too. Years 4 to 6 will also be going to the theatre as a Christmas treat, and the younger children will enjoy a visit from the panto before the end of term.



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

Live Simply Award

Bishop Ullathorne are proud to announce that they have achieved the CAFOD Live Simply Award for their efforts to live simply, live sustainably and live in solidarity with the world's poorest countries. A group of students from Year 8 to Year 13 eloquently spoke in the assessment interview and truly demonstrated the Ullathorne Value of being grateful. The assessor was impressed with the work that the school are doing with the food banks, eco team, fundraising, Pilgrimage to Lourdes and clothes swaps, plus how they are embedding these messages through curriculum teaching.



Art textiles

This term, Year 10 students have truly outdone themselves with their exceptional work as part of the Let's Create project. Their artistic pieces, initially displayed in the Delia Derbyshire Building for a week in November, are now proudly showcased in the LBT showrooms in the city centre.



The exhibition features outstanding work from other students in our school community. Agata and Mary in Year 12 contributed to a thought-provoking project titled Plastic Fantastic, which explores innovative uses of plastic waste.



Advent Celebrations

The school Advent service was written and led by their Chaplaincy team. This was a beautiful service which has helped the school community prepare for the coming of Baby Jesus.

Everyone had a wonderful afternoon at the Community Christmas party. Sixth Form students led the afternoon with quiz's, bingo, dancing and lots of singing. It was a fun filled afternoon which was made special by all of the visitors.



Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Year 7 Carol Service

On Wednesday 11th December Year 7 performed in a Christmas spectacle that shall be remembered for some time. Cardinal Newman's Christmas Carol Service returned, based on the story of 'The Promise', and students did themselves proud.

Parents and guests were welcomed into the 'Christmas Courtyard' adorned with twinkly lights; an array of festive refreshments; brass band music and even snow! Nearly 600 visitors settled into their seats for a beautiful interpretation



filled with drama, readings, singing and prayer. The year 7s, supported by the school choir, sang all songs angelically filling the Sports Hall with the most beautiful acoustic treat.

A huge thank you to the amazing staff who organised the event. Thank you also to the parents and wider family members for their support, attendance and charitable contributions made on the night. However, most of all thank you to the amazing students for their superb performance.



Mountain Bike Raffle

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our Mountain Bike Raffle! These students were entered into the prize draw after achieving an impressive 100% attendance throughout the term. Their commitment and dedication to being present every day are truly outstanding.



Cardinal Newman is excited to announce that Britney and Euan were the lucky winners and will each be taking home a brand-new mountain bike! A huge well done to all those who worked so hard to maintain perfect attendance – your efforts have certainly paid off. Keep up the great work in the next term!



Holy Cross Catholic MAC Prayer

Dear Lord

Let us be guided by your wisdom to
be united as the family of God.
Help us to use our gifts and talents
to spread friendship, peace and
justice across our Holy Cross
schools and communities.
Give us the strength and courage
to always do our best and be the
best person we can be.

Amen

**Holy Cross of Jesus
be our hope**

