



ROOTED IN FAITH

catholic salesian life and mission bulletin

SPRING 2026 - 1

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Lent 2026: A Journey of Hope and Renewal

The Lenten Season invites the Thornleigh Salesian College community to pause, reflect and renew our relationship with God and one another. Lent is not only a personal spiritual journey but a shared experience of prayer, conversion and hope that we walk together as a faith community inspired by the spirit of Don Bosco.

Lent reminds us that faith is lived in community. Through prayer, fasting and acts of charity, we are called to look beyond ourselves and become more attentive to the needs of others, especially the young and the vulnerable. In the Salesian tradition, Lent is a time to grow in kindness, service and joyful trust in God.

Our journey begins on Ash Wednesday with the powerful reminder: **“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”** These words call us to humility and remind us that we are not permanent on this earth. They challenge us to live each day well - to love more deeply, forgive more readily and act with compassion and integrity.

Living the best we can each day is not always easy, but Lent encourages us to make small, meaningful choices that reflect our faith. Pope Leo continues to invite **the Church to walk together in hope through deeper prayer, self-discipline and care for those in need.**

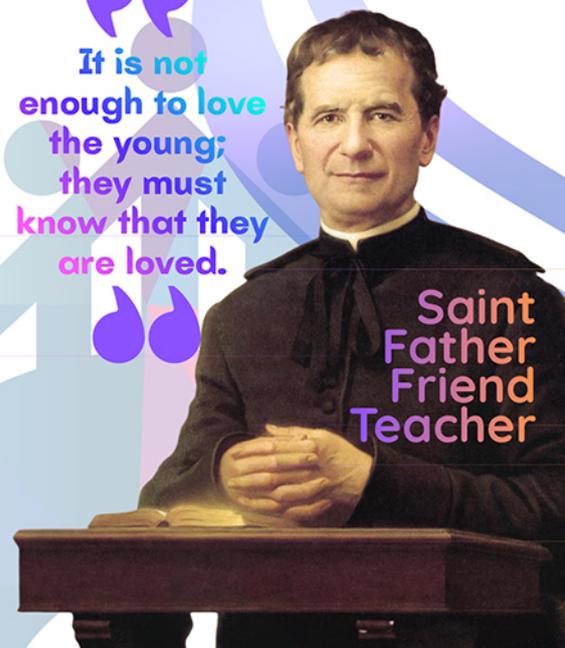
This Lenten season also coincides with the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, offering a valuable opportunity to grow in respect and understanding with people of other faith traditions who are also committed to prayer, fasting and generosity.

As we journey toward Easter, may this Lent renew our hearts and strengthen our commitment to be a community of hope, faith and loving service.

Don Bosco Week: Celebrating Our Salesian Heritage (26 - 31 January)

From 26th to 31st January, Thornleigh Salesian College joyfully celebrated Don Bosco Week, a special time dedicated to our patron saint, St John Bosco. Throughout the week, assemblies were held for each year group, focusing on the life of Don Bosco and his enduring impact on young people. Students reflected on his commitment to education, faith and loving kindness, and how his vision continues to shape the ethos of our school today.

**It is not
enough to love
the young;
they must
know that they
are loved.**



**Saint
Father
Friend
Teacher**



COMMUNITY LINKS

LOCAL PARISHES WEEKLY MASS TIMINGS

Feast Day Masses: Prayer at the Heart of Our Community

As part of Don Bosco Week, the Thornleigh school community gathered for school Masses on Thursday 29th January, bringing together all year groups to pray, celebrate, and reflect on the life of St John Bosco. The Masses were celebrated by Fr Saju and Fr Steven and were prayerful and uplifting occasions.

The school choir enhanced the liturgy with beautiful music, while Year Group Leaders led the readings and prayers of intercession. The presence of our newly commissioned Eucharistic Ministers, both staff and students, was a significant and meaningful highlight of the celebrations.

Don Bosco Day: A Joyful Celebration Across the School

Don Bosco Day was a vibrant and festive occasion for the entire school community. Students and staff took part in a variety of activities, including trips to the Trafford Centre, the Determination Festival, Blackpool Zoo, as well as on-site school activities.

The day was filled with enthusiasm, joy, and a strong sense of togetherness. It was inspiring to see students fully embrace the spirit of the feast day, echoing Don Bosco's own words: "Serve the Lord in cheerfulness." The celebrations truly reflected the joy and vitality of Salesian life.



Parish of Corpus Christi
(St John the Evangelist, St Columba's, & St Brendan's)
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 5pm Vigil Mass (SB)
Sundays - 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11am Mass (SB)

Parish of Blessed Dominic Barberi
(St Teresa's, St Osmund's)
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 5pm Vigil Mass (SO)
Sundays - 9.30am Mass (St) 11am Mass (SO)

St Cuthbert
(St Joseph's and St Thomas of Canterbury)
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm Vigil Mass (ST)
Sundays - 9.30am Mass (SJ) 11.15am Mass (ST)

St. Edmund & St. Patrick Catholic Parish
Mass Timing: Sundays - 10am Mass (SP) 11.30am Mass (SP)

The Holy Infant & St Anthony Parish
Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Sundays - 10am Mass

Don Bosco Day Mass and Centenary Celebrations

The highlight of Don Bosco Week was the Don Bosco Day Mass, celebrated by Fr Gerry Briody, Provincial of Great Britain. Many past students and former staff joined the celebration, returning to Thornleigh after many years to be part of this special occasion.

This Mass formed part of the wider celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of Thornleigh Salesian College. In the afternoon, ex-pupils enjoyed guided tours of the school, followed by the Feast Day Mass at 6pm. The celebrations concluded with the popular "Bosco Disco", an adult social evening that brought the day to a joyful close. The sharing of memories and experiences highlighted the lasting influence of Don Bosco in the lives of so many.



Year of St Francis: A Call to Peace and Renewal

Pope Leo XIV has declared a **Franciscan Jubilee Year**, running from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027, marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. This special year invites the Church to be renewed in peace, simplicity, and care for creation.

The Jubilee offers opportunities for pilgrimage, prayer, and participation in the sacraments, encouraging all believers to become "unarmed and disarming witnesses" of peace in a divided world.

Salesian Family Spirituality Days

The 44th Salesian Family Spirituality Days took place from 15 January 2026 in Valdocco, Turin. Representatives from across the Salesian Family gathered with Fr Fabio Attard, Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

Reflecting on the Strenna theme "**Do whatever he tells you. Believers, free to serve**", Fr Attard encouraged the Salesian Family to live authentic discipleship through believing, touching lives, reintegrating those on the margins, and giving glory to God - so that every young person may know they are a beloved child of the Church.



SALESIAN NEWS

Eucharistic Ministers: Training and Commissioning

During January, another group of staff and students were trained and commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. The training was led by Fr Steven, and the commissioning took place during Wednesday school Masses with Fr Saju.

These ministers will continue to serve the school community during Masses and other liturgical celebrations, supporting the prayer life of Thornleigh and encouraging active participation in worship, especially in the Eucharist.



Confirmation Programme 2026 Begins

The Confirmation Programme for 2026 began on Thursday 8th January. Over 60 candidates from St Joseph's Deanery have registered and will be confirmed on Wednesday 17th June 2026 by Bishop John Arnold.

The programme opened with sessions for both candidates and parents. Parents were invited to journey alongside their children in faith, reinforcing the importance of family and community in the sacramental life of the Church.



CAFOD Young Leaders Training Day

Our CAFOD Young Leaders took part in an online training day this half term, joining students from other sixth-form schools and colleges. Each group presented their activity diaries, sharing experiences and learning from one another.

The day was an enriching experience, helping our young leaders grow in confidence, leadership, and commitment to social justice in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 18th February 2026

Savio Retreat

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th March 2026



RE Curriculum Updates

In Year 7, students have been learning about Jesus' life and mission, focusing on his journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. They explored how Jesus taught people through parables, performed miracles, and challenged societal norms, showing what the Kingdom of God is like. Students also studied the importance of Jesus' actions and his sacrifice for Christians, helping them understand the core message of Christianity.

Year 8 students explored how Jesus' teachings and actions shape the way Christians live today. They learned about the Kingdom of God, works of mercy, and the roles of women in Jesus' ministry. They also focused on modern Christian figures like Oscar Romero and explored how faith influences actions, especially in terms of social justice and serving others. Students reflected on how they can apply Jesus' example in their own lives.

In Year 9, students deepened their understanding of discipleship and vocation. They studied Mark's Gospel, focusing on Jesus' call to follow him, the cost of discipleship, and vocations like Holy Orders. The class also debated topics such as the ordination of women and explored the role of women in the church. Additionally, they looked at how Christians are called to live out Jesus' teachings through acts of service, especially in addressing issues like poverty and wealth.

Year 10 and 11 have had a focused, in-depth term on the beliefs and practices of Judaism. They have explored the significance of religious identity and how this can be expressed in a meaningful way. Year 10 will show this knowledge in their upcoming PPE and are now moving on to look at Catholic Beliefs and Teachings as a part of the EDEXCEL GCSE specification. Year 11 are moving into their last unit of the GCSE, debating philosophical arguments for proof of the existence of God. They will also consider the problems of evil and suffering in our world and how this impacts religious belief. Year 11 also have their second PPE coming up where they will have the opportunity to experience two full GCSE papers in preparation for their final exams in May.

KS3 UPDATES

KS4 UPDATES



Thornleigh Personal and Spiritual Development

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



The new week begins with Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel, offering a serene moment to pray and reflect in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord. This sacred time allows staff to pause and center themselves before the busyness of the week takes hold. It's an opportunity to seek spiritual nourishment, express gratitude, and find peace amidst the chaos of daily life.

EVERY MONDAY
8.15 AM
CHAPEL

STAFF MORNING REFLECTION



Growing together rooted in faith is more than just a shared experience; it's a profound journey that binds individuals through a common spiritual foundation. The staff morning reflection serves as an essential space where team members can come together, listen to inspired stories, share personal reflections, and engage in prayer. It's a beautiful way to ensure that work is not just about productivity, but also about nurturing the soul and supporting one another through life's challenges.

EVERY MONDAY
8.30 AM
CHAPEL

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



Every week, students gather for the afternoon Celebration of the Word, an event that brings the entire school community together. These assemblies are meticulously planned and prepared in advance by various departments and form groups, with the support of the staff and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Each SLT member plays a crucial role in leading the assembly, bringing the programme to life with engaging animations and thoughtful presentations.

MON, TUE, WED
1.05 PM - 2.15 PM
CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY MASS



At Thornleigh, the Eucharist stands as the heart and pinnacle of our community's spiritual life. Every week, we hold a special midweek Mass that invites both staff and students to gather in unity, reflecting on their faith and offering personal intentions and prayers.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
8.00 AM
CHAPEL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



From Monday to Friday each morning, the entire school will take a moment to pause for silence, reflection, and prayer. This dedicated time not only cultivates calmness and mindfulness among students and staff but also presents a valuable opportunity for both personal and collective growth. During this period, a prepared reflection will be provided to guide thoughts and meditations, ensuring a unified experience throughout the school.

EVERY DAY
MORNING
REGISTRATION
FORM ROOMS

CHAPLAINCY CLUB



On Mondays, students have a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate and grow in a supportive and engaging environment. Hosted by the Chaplain and Salesian Volunteers, this weekly gathering is open to all students and offers a mix of little tasks, fun games, and interactive activities designed to foster camaraderie and personal development.

EVERY MONDAY
3.15 PM
CHAPLAINCY

CAFOD LEADERS



The Young Leadership Programme, exclusively available to Year 12 students, offers a unique opportunity to be specially trained by CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development). Through this programme, participants will develop essential leadership skills, empowering them to become the Charity Leaders within their school. These young leaders will play a pivotal role in promoting and supporting various charitable causes, fostering a spirit of compassion and social responsibility among their peers.

EVERY TUESDAY
1.05 PM - 1.30 PM
CHAPLAINCY

GIFT LEADERSHIP TEAM



Gift Leaders serve a pivotal role in fostering the Catholic ethos within the school community. They actively engage in leading liturgies, ensuring that religious services are meaningful and inclusive for all students. Additionally, they take the helm in organising and conducting assemblies, creating opportunities for reflection, celebration and community bonding. Their efforts extend to charity drives, where they inspire and mobilise the school to participate in acts of kindness and generosity, embodying the principles of Catholic social teaching.

FRIDAY
1.30 PM - 1.50 PM
CHAPLAINCY

YOUTH SVP



The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) has set a commendable vision to inspire young people through the transformational experience of volunteering and leadership. By engaging in meaningful service, young individuals are provided with opportunities to develop their skills, build confidence, and make a positive impact on their communities. SVP creates a life-changing, safe, and supportive environment where these emerging leaders can flourish.

EVERY WEDNESDAY
1.05 PM
Sixth Form

It is not enough to love the young; they must know that they are loved.

Hope is source of joy no matter our age.

