

# ROOTED IN FAITH

catholic salesian life and mission bulletin  
SUMMER 2025



@thornleigh

[www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk](http://www.thornleigh.bolton.sch.uk)

@tsc\_re



## Pope Francis: A Gift to the Church and to the young

On March 13, 2013, history was made when Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was elected as the 266th pope of the Catholic Church. Taking the name Francis (after Saint Francis of Assisi) he became the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas and the first non-European pope in over 1,200 years. From the beginning, Pope Francis has presented himself as a shepherd who leads with humility, compassion, and a deep concern for the marginalized, the poor and the young.

**A Shepherd With the Smell of the Sheep:** Pope Francis has repeatedly called for a Church that goes out to the peripheries, “a field hospital after battle,” offering healing and hope. He famously asked priests to be “shepherds living with the smell of the sheep” - deeply connected to the realities of those they serve. His personal simplicity, seen in his choice to live in a modest Vatican guesthouse instead of the papal apartments and his emphasis on mercy over judgment, have made him a deeply relatable and admired figure across the globe.

**A Mission Rooted in Mercy, Hope and Encounter:** Central to Pope Francis’ mission is the call to mercy and encounter. From the Year of Mercy in 2016 to the current Jubilee Year 2025 themed Pilgrims of Hope, he invites all people to open their hearts to God and one another. His teachings consistently emphasize care for creation (Laudato Si’), social justice (Fratelli Tutti), and walking together as a synodal Church (Synod on Synodality).

For Pope Francis, hope is not abstract - it is lived out in how we care for others, welcome the excluded, and build peace and fraternity. His papacy is marked by deep pastoral concern and a relentless push for the Church to remain relevant and rooted in the Gospel.

**A Message to us:** The mission of Pope Francis resonates powerfully with the identity and spirit of Thornleigh Salesian College. As a Salesian community walking in the footsteps of Don Bosco, we find a natural harmony between the Pope’s pastoral priorities and our educational mission.

His call for young people to be “pilgrims of hope” is an echo of Don Bosco’s lifelong work of empowering the youth to discover their purpose, grow in virtue, and live with joy. Pope Francis challenges young people not to be passive observers of history, but protagonists in shaping a better future. His words during World Youth Day and in his apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit* affirm that young people are not just the future of the Church - they are its vibrant present.

**What does it mean to us:** Being a community of hope, where every young person feels valued and encouraged. Cultivating a culture of encounter, where diversity is respected, dialogue is cherished and no one walks alone. Living with a Salesian heart, always ready to accompany, to educate by example and to bring joy to those around us.

In this Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis had invited the entire Church to renew itself as a community of pilgrims -journeying with hope, especially in times of uncertainty and challenge. At Thornleigh Salesian College, we respond to this call not only with words, but with lives of joyful service, spiritual depth and deep care for every young person.

As we look to Pope Francis’ example and mission, may we continue to be a Salesian family that brings the light of Christ to our school, our community and the world.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace. Amen.





**Pope Leo XIV:**

### A New Chapter for the Church in the Modern World

The Catholic Church has entered a new era with the election of Pope Leo XIV, chosen by the College of Cardinals to lead the Church at a time of global transformation and spiritual renewal. As the successor of Pope Francis, Pope Leo XIV steps into a world marked by rapid technological change, social complexity, and deep human longing for peace, justice and meaning. His election comes as a moment of hope - not just for Catholics, but for people of goodwill across the globe.

Though newly elected, Pope Leo XIV is already known for his deep spirituality, pastoral sensitivity, and commitment to dialogue. He brings a clear voice rooted in tradition yet courageously open to the challenges of the present. His first words as pope were simple but powerful: "Let us walk together - God's people, in faith, hope, and love."

From his early ministry as a bishop to his service within the Roman Curia, he has shown a consistent desire to build bridges - between faith and science, rich and poor, young and old, tradition and innovation.

In his inaugural homily, Pope Leo XIV highlighted key priorities for his pontificate:

**Unity in Diversity:** Emphasizing that the Church must be a home for all people, especially those on the margins.

**Faithful to the Gospel, Open to the World:** Calling for a renewed evangelization that speaks to modern hearts and minds without compromising the truth of Christ.

**Care for Creation and the Human Person:** Reaffirming the Church's commitment to ecological justice and the dignity of every human being.

**Youth and Hope:** Placing young people at the center of the Church's mission and urging them to be co-creators of a more just and compassionate world.

For us at Thornleigh Salesian College, the election of Pope Leo XIV is an invitation to renew our own sense of mission. Inspired by the spirit of Don Bosco and the leadership of this new pope, we are called to deepen our commitment to faith, hope, and joyful service.

Just as Pope Leo XIV invites the world to "walk together," so too are we called to walk alongside our young people -especially those who struggle - and accompany them on their journey toward fullness of life.

This means:

- Continuing to be "signs and bearers of God's love", as Don Bosco envisioned.
- Creating a school where each student feels seen, heard, and valued.
- Encouraging every young person to be a leader of hope and change in their own lives and communities.

As Pope Leo XIV begins his journey as shepherd of the Church, we pray for him with hearts full of trust. May he be guided by the Holy Spirit as he brings the light of Christ to the modern world.

And may we at Thornleigh Salesian College respond to his call by being faithful disciples, joyful educators and pilgrims of hope, walking onward with the global Church into this new chapter of grace and promise.

## COMMUNITY LINKS

### LOCAL PARISHES MASS TIMING

#### 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 and St. Patrick Catholic Parish

Mass Timing: Sundays - 10am Mass (SP) 11.30am Mass (SP)

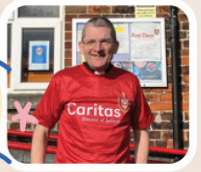
#### The Holy Infant and St Anthony Parish

Mass Timing: Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sundays - 10am Mass



# THANK YOU



As the end of May approaches, we prepare to say a heartfelt farewell to Fr Chris Gorton, who will be moving to a new parish after more than five years of dedicated service at our school.

Fr Chris has been a constant and compassionate presence among us - always available, always willing, and deeply committed to the lives and faith of our young people. His impact has been felt widely across the school, and especially in the Chaplaincy and Religious Education Department, where his wisdom, energy, and care have made a lasting difference.

We are ever grateful for his ministry and for the Salesian spirit he has shared with us so generously. As he begins this next chapter, we hold him in prayer and ask for God's continued blessing on his new mission.

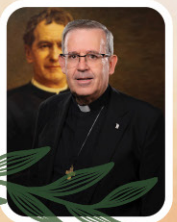
Thank you, Fr Chris - go with our love and prayers.



## SALESIAN NEWS



**Fr Fabio Attard Elected  
as 11th Successor of  
Don Bosco**



In a historic moment for the Salesian family, Fr Fabio Attard was elected Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco during the 29th General Chapter held in March 2025. He now becomes the 11th successor of Don Bosco, entrusted with leading the Congregation into a new chapter of mission and service.

The election took place at the Mother House in Valdocco, Turin, where 220 provincials and delegates from around the world gathered to discern the future leadership of the Salesian Order.

Fr Attard brings with him a wealth of experience and deep pastoral insight, well known for his previous work in Youth Ministry at the Generalate. His election is a moment of joy, hope, and renewed commitment for all in the Salesian world as we continue to walk forward as "Pilgrims of Hope" in this Jubilee Year.

We pray for Fr Fabio as he begins this important ministry, asking Don Bosco and Mary Help of Christians to guide and inspire him in his leadership.



**BEST OF LUCK**

As final exams begin, we send our prayers, good wishes and support to all our students facing this important time in their academic journey. May you approach each exam with confidence, calm and clarity, knowing that your hard work and preparation will carry you through. Remember that your worth is not measured by grades, but by the effort, courage and determination you show along the way. We are proud of you and walk with you in spirit. May God bless you with strength, peace and success.



**EXAM SEASON**



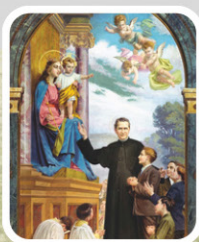
Students from Years 8, 9, and 10 at Thornleigh Salesian College recently had the opportunity to take part in a residential retreat at Savio House, a treasured place of reflection, community, and spiritual growth.

Each year group engaged with a unique theme to guide their experience. Year 8 focused on the theme of "Choices," helping them reflect on the decisions they make and the values that guide them. Years 9 and 10 explored the theme of "Water," a powerful symbol for their journey of personal discovery and inner depth. The weather was kind, allowing for refreshing long walks, team-building games, and plenty of fun and laughter. The retreat provided students with space to connect more deeply with themselves, with one another, and with God in the Salesian spirit of joy and friendship.

A big thank you to the staff at Savio House and all who supported the retreat, helping to create such a memorable and meaningful experience for our young people.



**Savio Retreats: A Time for Reflection, Discovery, and Fun**



**"Have devotion to Mary Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are." - Don Bosco**  
**Feast of Mary Help of Christians on is May 24<sup>th</sup>.**  
**May Mary intercede for us.**



**Pilgrim Cross Walk: A Journey of Faith and Discovery**

During Holy Week, three students from our school, accompanied by the School Chaplain, took part in a remarkable spiritual journey - a Pilgrim Cross Walk from Ely Cathedral to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Over the course of three days, the group walked more than 65 miles, joining nearly 400 pilgrims from across the UK in preparation for the Good Friday and Easter services at the Shrine.

This pilgrimage was not a fundraiser or charity walk, but a deeply personal journey of faith, reflection, and spiritual enrichment. For our students and the wider group they walked with, it was an unforgettable experience - physically challenging, spiritually uplifting, and filled with a strong sense of community and purpose.

We give thanks for the courage and commitment of our young pilgrims and for the powerful witness to Christ during the Lent and Easter.



**Pilgrim Cross**



**For more Details:**  
<https://pilgrimcross.org.uk/>







# 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

## PASTORAL SHARING



Every week, students from each year group have the opportunity to participate in pastoral sharing or personal development assemblies at the start of each weekday, from Monday through Friday. These assemblies are thoughtfully organized by the Personal Development team, which is dedicated to fostering a supportive and growth-oriented environment.



WEEKLY  
8.40 AM



CHAPEL

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



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 program to life with engaging animations and thoughtful presentations.



MON, TUE, WED  
12.35 PM - 1.35 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

## THURSDAY MASS



At Thornleigh, the practice of praying together and deepening one's faith is seamlessly woven into daily life. The Eucharist, a central part of this spiritual journey, is celebrated with active participation from all members. Each form, or group, takes turns engaging in various roles such as reading scriptures, offering bidding prayers, and presenting the offertory.



EVERY THURSDAY  
12.35 PM OR 1.05 PM



CHAPEL

## FRIDAY SACRED TIME



"Sacred Time" on Fridays is a wonderful initiative that allows the entire school to pause and engage in moments of silence, reflection, and prayer. This dedicated period not only fosters a sense of calm and mindfulness among students and staff but also provides a unique opportunity for personal and collective growth. During this time, a prepared reflection is offered to guide thoughts and meditations, ensuring a shared experience across the school.



EVERY FRIDAY  
FORM TIME



FORM ROOMS

## 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 organizing and conducting assemblies, creating opportunities for reflection, celebration, and community bonding. Their efforts extend to charity drives, where they inspire and mobilize the school to participate in acts of kindness and generosity, embodying the principles of Catholic social teaching.



FRIDAY  
2.35 PM - 3.05 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 program, 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 THURSDAY  
1.05 PM



CHAPLAINCY

## CHAPLAINCY CLUB



On Mondays, students have a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate, and grow in a supportive and engaging environment. Hosted by the 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

## FAITH IN ACTION



The Faith in Action Award is a commendable initiative designed to recognize and celebrate young individuals who demonstrate a profound commitment to serving others within their local and broader communities. This award not only acknowledges their selfless contributions but also encourages them to grow spiritually through their acts of service and sharing. By participating in various projects and outreach programmes, these young people embody the true essence of faith in action, fostering a sense of compassion, empathy, and social responsibility.



ONCE A WEEK  
DURING RE LESSON



RE DEPARTMENT

## ST FRANCIS ASSISI CLUB



Caring for every creature on Earth is a noble pursuit, and students have a unique opportunity to experience this through looking after guinea pigs. This activity not only teaches responsibility and empathy but also serves as a calming and therapeutic experience. The hands-on experience of feeding and nurturing guinea pigs can foster a deeper appreciation for all living beings and highlight the importance of compassion and stewardship in our daily lives.



EVERYDAY  
MORNING BREAK &  
LUNCH BREAK



ST FRANCIS GARDEN

## 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 THURSDAY  
1.05 PM



RE DEPARTMENT

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