



>>> THORNLEIGH <<< ROOTED IN FAITH

catholic salesian life and mission bulletin

AUTUMN 2025 - 1

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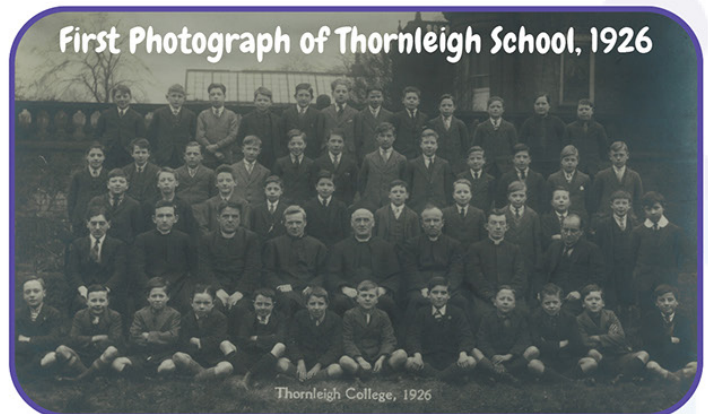


A CENTURY OF SALESIAN MISSION IN THORNLEIGH: OPENING MASS MARKS 100 YEARS OF HOPE AND SERVICE

Thornleigh Salesian College's journey began in 1925, when the Salesians of Don Bosco - who arrived in Bolton in 1923 - founded the school with a vision rooted in Don Bosco's educational philosophy. Opening with just 44 boys and 13 Salesian priests and brothers, Thornleigh embraced the call to educate the young, especially the disadvantaged, through reason, religion, and loving kindness. Today, it has grown into a thriving co-educational Catholic secondary school and sixth form, serving around 1,600 students and 200 staff, while remaining faithful to its Salesian spirit and mission.

On Friday 26th September 2025, the community gathered for the Centenary Opening Mass, a joyful celebration of 100 years of Salesian presence in Bolton. The Mass, held in the school's Sports Hall, was presided over by Bishop John Arnold, with Fr Gerry Briody SDB, Provincial of GBR, and many Salesian priests concelebrating, including Fr Bob Coupe SDB (96), a past pupil of the school. We are fortunate even to have 5 of past headteachers at the mass.

First Photograph of Thornleigh School, 1926



The Chair of the Centenary Committee, Mrs Parkinson welcomed guests, reflecting on how the Salesian mission has transformed countless lives over the past century. A special mention was made of Mr Frank Carter (98), a former pupil who attended with his family - a living link to Thornleigh's beginnings.

Beautiful music from the Thornleigh Choir and vibrant student performances after Mass captured the Salesian spirit of joy. With support from Carrs Pasties and Eventura, the evening marked a fitting start to a year of thanksgiving and renewal - a century of forming "good Christians and honest citizens."





Welcome and Commissioning Mass

On Tuesday 14th October, Thornleigh Chapel welcomed new students, staff, and their families for the Welcome and Commissioning Mass. The celebration also marked the commissioning of our student leaders for the academic year 2025–2026.

Fr Gerry Briody, Salesian Provincial, encouraged the leaders to take every opportunity to grow as faith-filled and compassionate leaders. Led by Mr Fitzsimons, Mr Harwood and Mr Whitehead, the students made their promise to uphold the school's RUAH values - (Respect, Understanding, Affection, Humour). Each received a leadership badge and a reflection on the life of St Carlo Acutis as inspiration.

The Mass concluded with a joyful community celebration in the main hall, reflecting Thornleigh's commitment to faith, service and leadership.



CAFOD Young Leaders Training Day

Seven students from Thornleigh Sixth Form took part in the CAFOD Young Leaders Training Day at Loreto Sixth Form College, Manchester, on Thursday 16th October 2025. Led by Kirstie Hutchinson, the coordinator of the CAFOD Young Leaders Programme, the event gathered students from six colleges for a day of reflection, leadership training and action planning.

The day encouraged young people to be leaders of hope and compassion, learning how to "look out for the other" and respond to global and local needs. It was an inspiring and faith-filled experience that strengthened their commitment to living out the values of justice, service and solidarity.



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 & 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

Another Salesian Saint

St Maria Troncatti: 'Madrecita of the Amazon' Canonised by Pope Leo XIV

Sr Maria Troncatti, a Salesian Sister remembered for her decades of missionary work in the Ecuadorian Amazon, is canonised by Pope Leo XIV on 19 October 2025, in Rome.

Born in 1883 in Corteno Golgi, Italy, Maria grew up in a large, faith-filled farming family. Inspired by missionary stories in the Salesian Bulletin, she joined the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and made her vows in 1908.

After serving as a Red Cross nurse during World War I, she was sent to Ecuador in 1922, where she dedicated 44 years to the Shuar indigenous people. Known lovingly as "Madrecita", she was a nurse, teacher, catechist, and defender of human dignity, especially for women and families.

Sr Maria died in 1969 in a plane crash near Sucúa while travelling to a retreat. She was beatified in 2012, and a second miracle approved in 2024 cleared the way for her canonisation.

Her legacy as a missionary of hope and service continues to inspire the Salesian family and the Church worldwide.



SALESIAN NEWS





Growing in a Multi-Religious Context RE Curriculum Updates

Visit to Thornleigh House - 100 Years of Tradition

In the past two weeks, Year 7 students visited Thornleigh House to explore its rich history, reinforcing their connection to Salesian roots. Celebrating 100 years since the Salesians arrived in 1923 with 44 students, the legacy of Don Bosco continues to thrive with over 1,600 students growing in faith, hope, and learning.

Month of the Rosary

Throughout October, Thornleigh Salesian College has been honouring the **Month of the Rosary** with prayer and reflection. Students and staff have been encouraged to discover the Rosary as a prayer for peace and stillness in their daily lives. During this month all were invited to take time to pray the Rosary, reminding the community of Mary's guiding presence and the power of prayer in nurturing hope and faith.



It has been a vibrant and thought-provoking first half term in Religious Education. Across all key stages, students have been encouraged to think deeply, ask questions and make meaningful connections between faith, life and the world around them.

In **Key Stage 3**, our Year 7 students began their journey with the Book of Genesis, discovering new ways of interpreting the creation story through the lenses of science, art and creationism. Year 8 students explored the purpose of baptism for Christians, reflecting on how this sacrament shapes one's identity and belonging in the Church. Meanwhile, Year 9 students have delved into ethical and moral debates such as abortion and assisted dying, learning to discuss complex topics like pro-life and pro-choice with maturity and respect for differing viewpoints.

In **Key Stage 4**, students have begun an exciting exploration of Judaism, studying the key beliefs and teachings of the Jewish faith. They have also examined the divergent views within Judaism itself, developing an appreciation for the diversity that exists within one of the world's oldest living religions.

At **Key Stage 5**, students have broadened their horizons through the study of Philosophy, Ethics & Religion, engaging with thinkers such as René Descartes who famously reflected, "I think, therefore I am." In Core RE, all sixth form students have been reflecting on the purpose of creation and the covenant between God and humanity, asking whether that covenant still speaks to our world today.

Religious Education at Thornleigh continues to inspire curiosity, dialogue and faith in action - helping our students grow not only in knowledge but in wisdom and compassion.

EVENTS

Mission Week

Mon 20th - Fri 24th October 2025

Remembrance Sunday Mass

Sunday 9th December 2025

Christmas Party 2025

Thursday 11th December 2025

Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December 2025

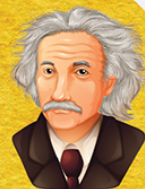
Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday 24th December 2025



"Education is not the learning of facts
but the training of the mind to think."

- Albert Einstein





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 FRIDAY
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 THURSDAY
1.05 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

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

Hope is source of joy
no matter our age.

