



>>> THORNLEIGH <<< ROOTED IN FAITH

catholic salesian life and mission bulletin

AUTUMN 2025 - 2

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THE CHILD OF HOPE

Each Christmas, we return to the humble stable in Bethlehem where Jesus, the Son of God, entered our world as a tiny, vulnerable child. His birth was not announced in palaces or celebrated by the powerful, but welcomed by shepherds, travellers, and ordinary families. In this simple scene, God reveals a profound truth: hope often begins in quiet, unexpected places.

For us as a Salesian community - parents, students, and families - the birth of Jesus speaks directly to our daily lives. Don Bosco reminded us that every young person is a "seed of goodness," carrying within them the same promise of hope that shone from the manger. The Christ Child shows us that God chooses to work through simplicity, kindness, and trust.

Our Carol Service theme, "The Child of Hope," invites us to rediscover this message. Jesus comes not to overwhelm us, but to walk beside us. He brings light where there is worry, peace where there is anxiety, and love where there is division. Like Mary and Joseph, we are called to welcome Him with open hearts and to share His hope with those around us.

May the Child of Hope bless our families, strengthen our community and guide our young people with courage and joy this Christmas.



The Savio Retreat for Year 7 students, commencing on November 10th, was an extraordinary journey of reflective learning and personal development. Over the course of this transformative week, divided into two groups, the young participants delved into the profound concept of "building bridges." This powerful metaphor resonated deeply, guiding them to explore ways of forging meaningful connections and nurturing constructive relationships, both personally and collectively.

Throughout the retreat, students engaged in a diverse array of themes and activities designed to foster self-discovery and mutual understanding. These immersive experiences encouraged them to gain deeper insights into their own identities and appreciate the uniqueness of those around them. The retreat not only fortified the bonds among students but also equipped them with essential skills for navigating future interactions with empathy and confidence. This remarkable event left a lasting impact, inspiring students to carry forward the lessons of connection and collaboration into their everyday lives.

*Warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas
and a hopeful New Year.*



On Saturday, 6th December, the festive spirit filled Thornleigh Salesian College for this year's Christmas Fair. Among the contributors were our CAFOD Young Leaders, who showed remarkable enthusiasm and generosity.

The group hosted a stall with a delightful selection of home-baked treats - cakes, cookies, cupcakes, and more - prepared to support their fundraising efforts. They also organized two beautifully presented Christmas hampers for a raffle, attracting great interest from visitors.

In addition to fundraising, the CAFOD Young Leaders provided a welcoming colouring table for families and young children, creating a joyful space for creativity and Christmas cheer.

Through planning, teamwork, and dedication, the group raised over £200 for CAFOD, aiding the charity's mission to support communities in need worldwide.

Well done to our CAFOD Young Leaders - your commitment, energy, and spirit of service embody the Salesian family's mission of hope and outreach. You were amazing.



Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Thornleigh

On 8th December 2025, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Thornleigh Salesian College community gathered for a reverent afternoon Mass, during which three of our Sixth Form students were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

These young people have generously committed themselves to serving the school community through the Eucharistic ministry. They will assist during school Masses and other major liturgical celebrations throughout the year, helping to deepen the prayerful atmosphere and support the smooth running of our celebrations.

Their commissioning follows the deanery training held on Saturday, 20th November 2025, where they joined other new Eucharistic ministers from local parishes in formation and preparation for this important ministry.

We offer them our warm congratulations and sincere gratitude. Their willingness to share in this sacred service is a true witness to faith, maturity, and Salesian spirit.



Rector Major Releases
Strenna 2026:
**"Do Whatever
He Tells You"**



Do whatever he tells you

The Salesian Family worldwide joyfully welcomes the first Strenna of the new Rector Major, Fr Fabio Attard, marking a significant moment at the start of his term. Each year, the Strenna offers the Salesian Family a shared theme for reflection, prayer, and action - a unifying invitation to grow together in mission and spirituality.

For 2026, the theme is drawn from Mary's words at the Wedding at Cana: **"Do whatever He tells you."** Under the title "Believers, free to serve," the Strenna invites members of the Salesian Family to embrace a courageous and active faith rooted in the Gospel. Fr Attard highlights how true Christian freedom flows from listening to God and leads to generous service, especially to the young and vulnerable.

The Strenna calls for a spirituality that is practical and discerning - a spiritual intelligence that recognizes God's action in daily life and inspires us to move from words to deeds. This year's theme resonates as the Salesian Family marks significant anniversaries, including the 150th anniversary of the Salesian missions, making the call to renewal and service even more meaningful.

Grounded in faith, freedom, and service, the Strenna 2026 encourages all Salesians - religious, lay, and young people - to walk with Mary as disciples who listen, trust, and act.

COMMUNITY LINKS LOCAL PARISHES WEEKLY MASS TIMINGS

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



150 years of Salesian Mission



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On 11 November 1875, St John Bosco sent the first group of ten Salesian missionaries from Valdocco, Turin, to Argentina, inspired by his burning desire to help poor and abandoned young people and guided by his motto: "Give me souls, take away the rest."

From that small beginning, the Salesian mission has grown to 137 countries, reaching millions through schools, oratories, and social projects across South America, Africa, Asia, and beyond. This missionary spirit, deeply rooted in the Salesian "DNA," continues today through the entire Salesian Family - SDBs, FMAs, Cooperators, and lay volunteers - united in their mission of educational love and hope.

CELEBRATE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR PARISH CHURCH

Parish of Blessed Dominic Barberi
(St Teresa's, St Osmund's)

Christmas Eve - 4pm (ST), 5.30pm (SO)
Christmas Day - 9.30am (ST), 11am (SO)

Parish of Corpus Christi

(St John the Evangelist, St Columba's, & St Brendan's)

Christmas Eve - 4.30pm (SB), 6.30pm (SJ)
Christmas Day - 9.30am (SJ), 11am (SB)

St Cuthbert

(St Joseph's & St Thomas of Canterbury)

Christmas Eve - 5.30pm (STOC), 7.30pm (SJ)
Christmas Day - 10.30am (STOC)

The Holy Infant & St Anthony Parish

Christmas Eve - 7pm
Christmas Day - 10am

St. Patrick Catholic Parish

Christmas Eve - 6pm Mass
Christmas Day - 10.30am



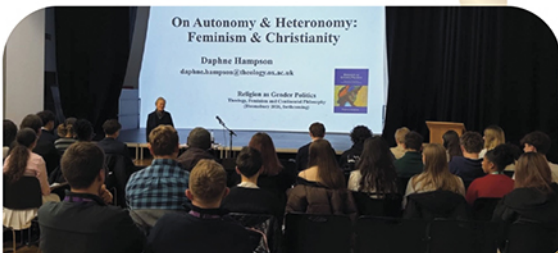
RE Curriculum Updates

Key Stage 3: This term in Key Stage 3 Religious Education, students have been exploring the Christian understanding of Creation, focusing on the belief that God brought the world into existence out of nothing. Alongside this they have been studying the prophets and the theme of promise in the Old Testament, including the promise of Christ fulfilled through the Incarnation. These topics have encouraged students to think deeply about the foundations of Christian belief and how these teachings continue to shape faith today.

Key Stage 4: Key Stage 4 students have been working hard to develop their evaluative skills in preparation for their GCSE examinations. They have also been participating in the study of Judaism as a world religion which has helped broaden their understanding of faith in a global context. This term all students have had the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Catholic practice where individuals reflect on their actions, express their repentance and receive absolution. It has been a valuable experience that encourages personal reflection as well as spiritual growth.

Key Stage 5: Our Key Stage 5 CORE RE students have been studying Catholic Social Teaching and reflecting on how these principles can be applied in their daily lives as responsible and compassionate members of society. In Philosophy and Ethics, A-level students have been analysing the work of key philosophers and ethicists and applying their ideas to contemporary issues such as abortion, assisted suicide and truthfulness. A highlight of the term was attending a joint Salesian Sixth Form conference in London. Students had the opportunity to hear Professor Daphne Hampson speak on Christianity and feminism and Reverend Dr Martin Poulson SDB present on the Ontological Argument for the existence of God. It was an inspiring day that enriched their understanding of both theology and philosophy.

The Bolton Catholic community invites everyone to celebrate Christmas in its parishes, embracing unity and joy. Join us for unique services and events that foster belonging and spiritual renewal. Whether you're a church member or newcomer, participate in heartwarming traditions and festivities. Celebrate this Christmas with joy, peace, and togetherness.



EVENTS

Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December 2025

@6.30pm

Christmas Vigil Mass

Wednesday 24th December 2025

@7.30pm





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 THURSDAY
1.05 PM



CHAPLAINCY

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

Hope is source of joy
no matter our age.

