Religious Life

2022 / 2023
The Chapel

The Chapel is open every day and you’re welcome to use it at break and lunchtime in order to spend some quiet time in prayer.

The John Southworth Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy is in the ambulacrum, it is open at break and lunch for you to drop in.

If you need to see Fr Peter or Mrs Peirce at another time, try the Chaplaincy or ask at reception. Fr Peter’s office can be found upstairs, near the King Room.

Chaplaincy Committee

There is a chaplaincy committee made up of students from different year groups, it meets regularly and supports the religious life of the College.

You don’t have to be Catholic to be a member of the chaplaincy committee.

It also runs the Fairtrade stall which is in the Ambulacrum at break time on Wednesdays.
**Morning Prayers**

As a Catholic College, we believe that starting the day with prayer is vital. This is done either in tutor groups, House assemblies, Headmaster’s Assembly or in Chapel. Each tutor group has a prayer book and list of resources to use in their prayer time. As a student, you will be encouraged to help lead the prayer, spend time in quiet reflection and pray for things that are of particular concern to you. In your House assemblies you may be asked to read a prayer from the House prayer book which is made up of prayers written by the students in your House. Each tutor group takes a turn at delivering Chapel prayers. This could involve preparing the prayers, reading, putting together a PowerPoint presentation or a drama and choosing the hymn.

**Mass**

Mass is central to our community worship. It is celebrated every Sunday in the College Chapel and you, as well as your friends and family, are welcome to join the boarding community. Mass is celebrated during the week and the times are announced at the beginning of each week.

If you’re in Elements, Rudiments and Grammar, you also have a year Mass every fortnight. Each tutor group takes a turn at preparing the Mass. When it’s the turn of your tutor
group, you will be involved in choosing the readers, servers and those doing the offertory and bidding prayers. Any staff or parents who are free at this time are welcome to attend.

All the College have Mass on Feast days and at other key times. If you would like to be involved in reading, serving etc. please see Mrs Peirce or Fr Peter a week before the Mass.

**Voluntary Mass**

There is a Mass every Friday during period 7. You can choose Mass as an activity and go once a week or you can get permission to go to Mass instead of your usual activity. To get permission to attend Mass instead of your chosen activity you need to get your diary signed by Mrs Peirce in the Chaplaincy during morning break. At the start of period 7 you will meet with Fr Peter in the Chapel and can volunteer to help if you wish.

**Ministers of Holy Communion**

Some Rhetoric students and staff are trained as Special Ministers and assist the priest in giving out Communion.

**Retreats**

Each year retreats are held. These are designed to enable you to step back from your everyday life and take time out to reflect and pray. They are often thought provoking and challenging.
Confession

Confession, often known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation, is offered each Monday during morning break. This takes place in the chapel. If you’re a Boarder, you also have the opportunity to go to Confession on a Tuesday after night prayers. If you wish to have confession at any other time, please speak to Fr Peter.

In Advent and Lent there is often the opportunity for you to attend Confessions during your RE lessons.

Before Christ (BC)

BC is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Each Friday lunchtime, between 12.45pm—1.05pm and 1.45pm—2.05pm you can come and light a candle and spend a few moments in prayer.

Rosary

Every May and October you’re invited on Friday lunchtimes at 1.20pm or 2.20pm in the Ambulacrum to join together with staff and pupils to say a decade of the Rosary. You’re very welcome to lead the prayers.

The Stations of the Cross

During Lent you’re invited to meet in the Chapel at 1.20pm or 2.20pm on a Friday to reflect on Jesus’ final journey and death. Again you’re very welcome to lead the prayers.
Charity Work

The College believes in the “Common Good” and there are lots of opportunities to help others. It is important that we understand why we are fundraising therefore there are assemblies, PSHE sessions and activities to increase understanding.

Our main fundraising week takes place during Lent when all students focus on learning about a particular charity and raising money for them. This year we raised money for Keech Hospice.

Each October we keep the Cafod Harvest fast day by students opting to have an economy lunch of bread and soup. This not only allows us in some small way to feel hunger but also the money saved from the normal meal goes to Cafod.

Each year we hold a sleep out to raise money to buy thermal blankets for the homeless, or we donate to a charity for the homeless.

There are other fund raising initiatives throughout the year e.g. for Lourdes and India. If you have a charity you would like to support see Mrs Peirce.

The religious life of the College is central to everything we do, and we are always looking for ways to develop new and better opportunities for you to be involved. If you have suggestions on ways to improve the religious life of the College see Mrs Peirce.