

*We are a Catholic School...
Welcome to our Community*



*Your very important guide about our
Catholic School and Your Important Role*



Oaklands Chaplaincy

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“It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who inspired you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.”

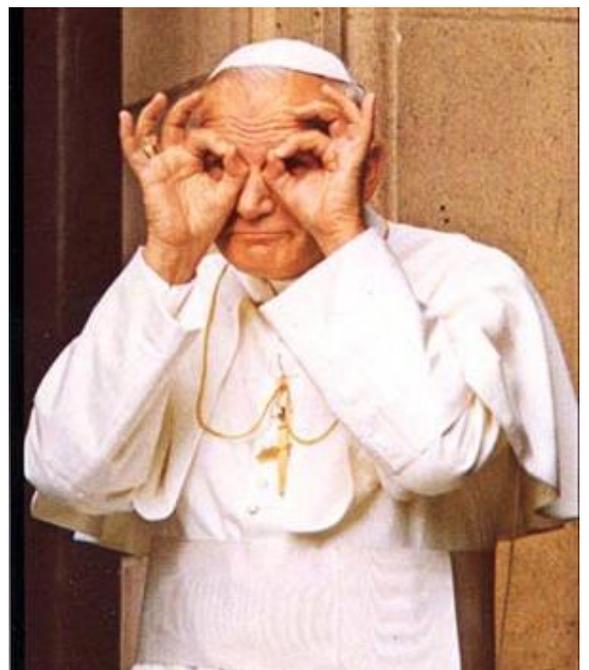
SAINT JOHN-PAUL THE GREAT

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# Welcome from the Chaplain



Hello! My name is Mrs Farrell and I am the School Chaplain. My job is to teach you more about how awesome Jesus is, while supporting and journeying with you through your time at school. I'm here to help you pray and have lots of fun!

You'll see me all around school, getting involved with many different things, but I can (nearly) always be found in my office near the Chapel. (You'll learn more about the Chapel later). You can come and see me any time, for a chat, to get some space, and maybe even a choccy biccie!

I hope you feel extremely welcome and find your unique place within our wonderful and vibrant community. Joining a Catholic School is like joining a huge family! God has called you here to Oaklands, to find out more about who He's

calling you to be, to inspire others, make new friends and lasting memories, and to share your gifts with us. You have SO much to offer, and I pray that you will become all you have been created to be!

I can't wait to meet you and journey with you during your years here with us!



## Our Chapel

Our beautiful Chapel is the beating heart of our school. It is a very special building used for prayer and worship; it's a small church. We keep the Blessed Sacrament (the Eucharist) in the tabernacle so Jesus is really present with us at all times.

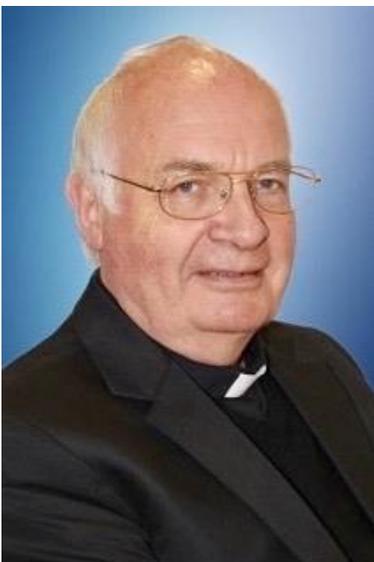
The Chapel is open all the time and is a lovely place to come for some peace and quiet. It is used throughout the day for various activities, from Morning Worship with tutor groups during registration, to lunchtime Masses, RE lessons, and extra-curricular activities.

You will come and visit the Chapel a lot in Year 7, for RE lessons and to learn more about Mass and the Catholic faith, as well as to pray with your tutor and tutor group during registration and to celebrate your class liturgy.

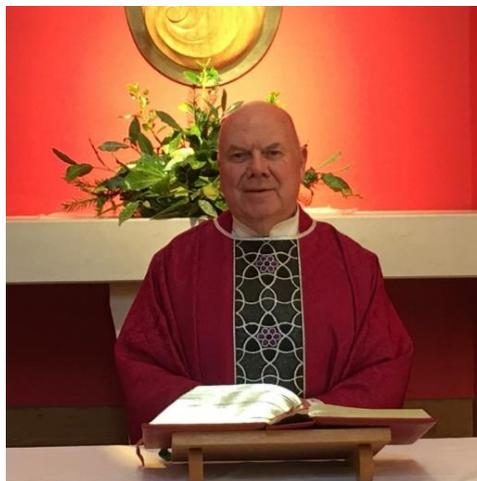
You are always welcome in the Chapel. It is an oasis of peace and calm (most of the time) and a good place to get away from the business of the main school.



## Our Priests (Very Important People)



Fr Jeremy



Fr Gerard



Fr Mark

# The Catholic Church



The Catholic Church is the oldest institution in the western world. It can trace its history back almost 2000 years. Today there are more than a billion Catholics in the world, spread across all five continents. What binds this diverse group of people together is their faith in Jesus Christ and their obedience to the Papacy.

Catholics believe that the Pope, based in Rome, is the successor to Saint Peter whom Christ appointed as the first head of His church. He therefore stands in what Catholicism calls the apostolic succession, an unbroken line back to Peter and has supreme authority. Popes can speak infallibly on matters of faith and morals but in practice rarely do so.

Catholics share with other Christians a belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ, the son of God made man who came to earth to redeem humanity's sins through His death and resurrection. They follow His teachings as set out in the New Testament and place their trust in God's promise of eternal life with Him. Catholicism, however, is distinct from other Christian churches in both its organisation and its teaching.

Catholic doctrine is based upon Scriptures and on the Church's own traditions. It believes that its doctrines were revealed to the Apostles and have been preserved in the continuous tradition ever since. There are several doctrinal issues where the Catholic Church has a distinct position:

- Its devotion to Christ's Mother, the Virgin Mary, who Catholics believe gave birth to Jesus, and who was raised body and soul into heaven where she occupies a special place interceding between God and His people.
- Its belief in transubstantiation, (that's a big word!) that during the celebration of the Mass, when the priest repeats Christ's words from the Last Supper, the bread and wine become Christ's Body and Blood, though no change takes place in their outward appearance.
- Its celebration and respect for life from conception to natural death (therefore, its opposition to abortion, euthanasia, and the use of artificial contraception).



# Catholic Celebrations and Practices

As a Catholic community, we celebrate the liturgical seasons, marking Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, as well as feast days and other celebrations. I am big fan of finding any excuse for a celebration and some cake!

Advent and Lent are particularly important seasons for us during school term time. In Advent, (the four weeks leading up to Christmas) as well as lots of other end of term happenings, we have our religious carol service and a celebratory Mass. Lent is period of six week preparing for Easter; this is a time of fasting (going without things and making sacrifices), as well as focussing more on our prayer life. During Lent we have our Days of Reconciliation, when both staff and students are invited to seek God's love and limitless mercy. Our daily prayer will always reflect the particular season we are in.

As a Catholic Community, the Saints are also very important to us, this is where our house names come from (see section on our Patron Saints), as well as the names for all the buildings around school. Scan the QR code to learn a bit more about Saints in the Catholic Church.



Our **School Feast Day is celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> September**, which is the Triumph of the Holy Cross; as we don't take our school name from a Saint, our feast day is from our founders, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who established Oaklands as a Catholic School. This is why our motto is 'United by the Cross'.

## Celebration of the Mass

For Catholics, the celebration of Mass is the 'Source and Summit of the Christian life'; it is the greatest celebration on earth, and prepares us for the big party we are going to have in Heaven. For non-Catholics, however, it can seem quite a daunting and alien prospect. The most important thing to know is that **you are welcome!** Gathering together, as a community, to celebrate Mass is the most important thing we do at Oaklands, and whatever your faith or beliefs, you are welcome.

Mass is wonderful celebration, with music, readings from the Bible and the celebration of the Eucharist. The priest uses the words of Jesus from the Last Supper and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. It is often described as a mystery, as the bread and wine do not change to our eye, but are irreversibly changed and Christ is truly present with us. (Amazing, right? Non-Catholics cannot receive Holy Communion during the Mass, but **everyone** is welcome to come and receive a blessing and share in our communion.



## Meet our Patron Saints

Our Patron Saints are like our Heavenly cheerleaders. They are an absolute powerhouse of prayer and holiness; they are amazing examples of faith and great role models for all of us.



*St Catherine of Siena* Feast Day – 29<sup>th</sup> April.

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

*St Clare of Assisi* Feast Day – 11<sup>th</sup> August.

“We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others.”



*St Dominic* Feast Day – 8<sup>th</sup> August.

“I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.”

*St Margaret Clitherow* Feast Day – 26<sup>th</sup> March.

“I ground my faith upon Jesus Christ, and by Him I steadfastly believe to be saved.”

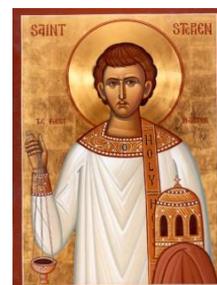


*St Martin de Porres* Feast Day – 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

“Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God.”

*St Stephen* Feast Day – 26<sup>th</sup> December.

A man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. (Acts 6:8)



*St Teresa of Avila* Feast Day – 15<sup>th</sup> October.

“Let nothing worry you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass away but God does not change. Patience achieves everything.”

*St Vincent de Paul* Feast Day – 27<sup>th</sup> September.

“If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.”



# Getting Involved and Sharing Your Gifts AND Talents

Every single person, both staff and students, are completely unique and wonderful! We know that everyone has many different gifts and talents, and as a community we love to celebrate these! You might be good at sport, art, music, maths, maybe all of these! But the most important thing, is that you don't keep these to yourself, that you share them with the school. These talents are gifts from God, and we hope that you find lots of ways to explore and develop the gifts you have been given.



## Christian Union - Wednesday Lunchtime

Every Wednesday lunchtime, students from all year groups (Year 7 right through to Sixth Form) come together in the Chapel. We eat our lunch together, there are always yummy snacks to share, and we have a time of friendship and fun. This is a great opportunity to learn more about faith, about Jesus and developing your relationship with God, as well as make great new friends. Sometimes we watch a video, sometimes we do creative activities, but most importantly we always pray. We really blessed to have some great visitors from Harbour Church in Portsmouth, to teach us more and guide us in our faith. We also have our super famous 'Pizza and Praise' Parties. **EVERYONE** is welcome!



## Year 7 GJFT Team

The Year 7 GIFT Team, which stands for 'Growing in Faith Together', is a small team of volunteers who help me with lots of things throughout the year, including lots of fundraising for charity and putting faith into action by making visits to people and collecting for the food bank etc. There are representatives from every tutor group in Year 7 and we meet every Friday break time (we often have toast as a treat!) You'd be very welcome to join my team!

## Masses and Celebrations

Throughout the year we have lots of Masses and celebrations, both the whole school and in your year group. I am always looking for volunteers to read, to serve, to help with music, as well as lots of other jobs! Please get involved, it's so much fun!

## In Your Tutor Group

You'll pray in your tutor group every morning; this is an amazing way for you all to get to know one another better as you journey in faith. Prayer is about communicating with God, it's really not complicated and the most important thing is to get involved! Don't worry about what other people think; prayer is powerful and will change your life!

# Traditional Catholic Prayers

*The Sign of the Cross* is really important, and how we begin (and end) all of our prayers. We place ourselves in the presence of Christ by marking ourselves with the Cross as we say...



In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



## *Our Father*

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## *Hail Mary*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



*Glory Be* (a great one if you're in a rush and need a quick prayer!)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

## *Our School Prayer*

Father, we pray as a Christian Community, to be open to the gospel message of Jesus. We value the uniqueness of each other and, in respecting and supporting one another, celebrate the gifts we bring. In unity and love we will reach out to those in need. Guide us as we work to make prayer, love, healing, peace and justice a reality within our school. Amen.

## *A Prayer for Your Learning*

Heavenly Father, Thank You for the amazing world you have made. Help us to care for every aspect of your creation. Thank You for the wonders of science. Help us to engage with each facet of the universe. Thank You for the power of the creative arts. Help us to pioneer new vision and sounds in our generation. Thank You for our incredible minds and bodies. Help us to become all we can be as individuals. Thank you for our family, friendships, community and relationships. Help us to accept, nurture and forgive one another. Thank you for all these great things in our lives. May we play our part in bringing peace, joy and love to all. Amen.

# Your Prayer Space

'Let hope keep you joyful.' Romans 12:12



Thank You for...

Please bless...

Please help me with...



# Your Prayer Space

'He hears us whenever we ask him; and since we know this is true, we know also that he gives us what we ask from him.'

1 John 5:15

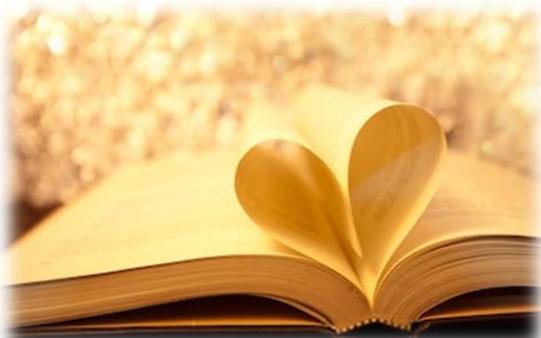


Ways I will pray for my family  
and friends...

Ways I will pray for myself...

Ways I will pray for the world...

Ways I will pray for my school  
and my community...



Ways God has answered my prayers...

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| M | A | R | Y | H | E | S | R | E | G | E | S | H | H |
| B | E | A | G | A | E | C | M | I | Y | L | T | T | R |
| C | E | Y | M | P | H | O | O | Y | U | E | S | A | I |
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- CELEBRATE
- FRIENDSHIP
- CATHOLIC
- ROME
- OAKLANDS
- CHAPLAIN
- CHAPEL
- CHRISTIAN
- PRIESTS
- MARY
- MASS
- LITURGY
- CHURCH
- FUN
- EUCCHARIST
- TUTOR
- BIBLE
- PRAYER
- LOVE
- JOURNEY

*Fun Space*

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR YEAR 7?

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