



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Thursday, 21 December 2017

Our Prayer theme next week is **Epiphany**

Christ in the centre. Maybe you could begin Christmas in the proper way by going to Mass at your local parish? You may have a Nativity scene that you want to pray in front of. There may be a time when you switch off all the games and T.V.'s and just stop and think of Christ. The guarantee is this: if you do spend some time putting Christ at the centre, your Christmas will be more fulfilled, more hopeful, more joyful, more peaceful and more loving than ever.



**Lord, your light shone for the shepherds, the wise and for all those who chose to search for you. May we keep our eyes open to the light that you bring at Christmas and pray that we can follow you. Amen.**

## MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON



My message to all of our families this Christmas is based on the writing of Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). In this booklet he considers the importance of love within families and how generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience are of such great value to us all.

In paragraph 102 he refers to St Thomas Aquinas who explains that "it is more proper to charity to desire to love than to desire to be loved", indeed, "mothers, who are those who love the most, seek to love more than to be loved". Consequently, love can transcend and overflow the demands of justice, "expecting nothing in return" (Lk 6:35), and the greatest of loves can lead to "laying down one's life" for another (cf. Jn 15:13). Can such generosity, which enables us to give freely and fully, really be possible? Yes, because it is demanded by the Gospel: "You received without pay, give without pay" (Mt 10:8).

Love is always generous and Christmas time is very much associated with being generous. However, it is very easy to have great expectations of what others should both do for us and give to us. This Christmas, let us pray that we may look first to the needs of others before we look to our own personal wants. As Pope Francis says, 'The Bible makes it clear that generously serving others is far more noble than loving ourselves'. Have a blessed and peaceful family Christmas and a

wonderful New Year of 2018.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Saint Anthony's, Fulwood:** Christmas Eve, 6.00pm. Christmas Day, 9.30am

**Holy Family, Ingol:** Christmas Eve, 8.00pm. Christmas Day, 11.00am

**Saint Mary & Saint Michael's, Garstang:** Christmas Eve, 6.30pm. Christmas Day, 10.30am

**Sacred Heart, Preston:** Christmas Eve/Day, Midnight Mass. Christmas Day, 9.00am

**Saint Walburge's, Preston:** Christmas Eve, 6.00pm. Christmas Day, 10.30am (Latin Mass)

**Saint Peter & Saint Paul's, Preston:** Christmas Day, 11.00am

**Saint Andrew's, Cottam:** Christmas Eve, 5.30pm (Children's Mass), 8.30pm. Christmas Day, 10.30am

**Saint Mary's, Lea Town:** Christmas Day, 9.00am

**Our Lady & Saint Edward's, Fulwood:** Christmas Eve, 5.30pm, Midnight 11.30 pm. Christmas Day, 10.00am

**Saint Francis, Goosnargh:** Christmas Eve, 9.00pm. Christmas Day, 10.30am

**Saint Mary's, Claughton:** Christmas Eve, 6.00pm. Christmas Day, 9.00am

**Saint Mary's, Fernyhalgh:** Christmas Eve, 6.30pm. Christmas Day, 10.00am

**Saint Mary's, Newhouse:** Christmas Eve, 6.00pm. Christmas Day, 10.00am

## **YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING**

Year 10 Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday, 11 January from 4.00 pm until 6.30 pm. During the first days back in school in the New Year, pupils should begin to make appointments with their teachers.

## **LOST PROPERTY**

We have a large quantity of lost property at the moment, including PE kits, winter coats and shoes. These items have been left unclaimed in the lost property room for a number of weeks. On Friday, 26 January from 1.00 pm onwards, lost property will be on display in the Arts Theatre for pupils to look through. Parents may wish to come and look for missing items also. We ask that they come to school between 2.30 pm and 3.30 pm. Any items not claimed after this day will be disposed of by Friday, 2 February.

### **Dates to remember**

Monday, 8 January – School opens

Thursday, 11 January – Year 10 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Thursday, 25 January - Year 8 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Friday, 9 February – School closes for half-term

Monday, 19 February – INSET day

Tuesday, 20 February – School opens

Thursday, 1 March - Year 9 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Thursday, 15 March - Year 7 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Thursday, 29 March – School closes for Easter holidays – 12.45 pm

Monday, 16 April – School opens