

In our own words....

For many young people the experience of church is only experienced through our College, and for this reason we are grateful to Fr Martin and Fr Peter for coming into College to support our prayer life and help us to experience the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

This morning we would like to take the opportunity to share with you just some of the ways we are involved in church and mission in our College. For those who are not involved in our College daily life we want to share just how alive the Faith Life of our College is.

In College we are offered a wide variety of experiences to support our spiritual and faith development including our daily morning and afternoon prayers, daily Liturgical Prayer or Assemblies, a variety of Prayer Liturgies, Prayer Stations, Meditations, Day and Residential Retreats and Pilgrimages to Rome and Lourdes. These experiences give us the opportunity to find both community and very personal ways of talking and listening to God.

As young people we love the fact that in his meeting with the youth and his follow up encyclical 'Christus Vivit' Pope Francis both recognised that the institution of the Church needs to make more of an effort to engage in a dialogue with the youth and He gave us, the young people permission to make a Ruckus'!!! For us at All Hallows College we interpret this to mean we should make our voice heard, we should stand up against injustice, involve ourselves in Catholic Social Teaching, and we should take every opportunity to demonstrate that Christ is Alive and the foundation of our College.

Through our actions we challenge social and economic injustice and in doing so put Jesus call to 'Love our Neighbour' into practice. In the last 12 months alone (and this is TYPICAL) we have raised over £9,000 to support various charitable projects and in doing so put the Gospel into practice.....

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

Each Advent we donate money to buy Christmas gifts, which are in turn donated to families who are struggling financially through our Partnership with CARITAS

Earlier this year as Students we donated 12 carloads of emergency supplies: clothes, toiletries, and children's items to help those displaced by the war in the Ukraine.

We feel honoured to be able to welcome the Ukrainian students who have joined All Hallows College over the past year.

As we approach Christmas Our Sixth Form Students organise the Amnesty Christmas Card writing campaign.

“I was hungry and you fed me”

Through organising CAFOD Hunger Lunches and donating almost 100 Food Hampers through SVP and Churches Together/Silk Life Food Bank to families struggling with food poverty, we recognise Jesus' call to help those in need.

“I was sick and you took care of me”

Each year we raise awareness of and donate to Mental Health and AIDS charities and Raised almost £1000 for East Cheshire Hospice to support the sick and those at end-of-life care.

Some of you will be aware and others not so, that our biggest achievement is the difference we have made to thousands of villagers in India through raising Money to build and continue to financially support the All Hallows Health Clinic in Varasanadu, India.

10 years ago we gave a commitment to raise £10,000 to build a clinic for pregnant women with HIV, to allow safe delivery of their children.

Some 10 years and over £60,000 later our Health Centre provides health care, education, and medication for 8,000 villagers living in remote areas. This includes treatment for Alcoholics, Natural Fertility Treatment, and day to day medical care. As a College our students and staff have made a long term commitment to support the Presentation Sisters in the essential work they do in and around Varasanadu.

Pope Francis encyclical 'Laudato Si' calls us to recognise our Duty to care for our Common Home. One of our College values is Stewardship – this starts with how we treat our College environment/our animals/our local community and our Global community. We have a strong Eco Council in College (Our Eco Warriors) lead by the students. We plan campaigns including writing to our MP's, taking part in peaceful demonstrations run by CAFOD to raise awareness of the impact of Climate change, cleaning our local environment through community 'Litter picks' and changing our practices in College such as working with our caterers to have 'Meat Free Fridays', reduce the use of 1 use plastic and we have shop for pre loved uniform donations.

For us all of our Catholic Social Enterprise projects are a reminder of our Mission 'To Aspire Not to Have More but to Be More'

As you leave this evening, please take a copy of our Aspire Magazine or view this online on our College Website.

Thank You.