

Celebrating the Catholic Faith in Burnley and Pendle

On the 19th of October 2017 the 14 Catholic schools of Burnley and Pendle gathered together at Ss John Fisher and Thomas More High school in Colne to celebrate the gift of Chaplaincy in their schools.

Each school sent their special team of pupils who help to support the faith life of their school. These came under the titles of: GIFT Teams, (Growing in Faith Together), Faith Ambassadors, Minnie Vinnies, Pupil Chaplains, Catholic Ambassadors and Junior Mission Leaders.



The day began in prayer focussing on the theme. We can make a difference. Following on from this two of the Mission possible team Mrs Kathleen McKeating and Mrs Annemarie Nield gave a special thank you to the children for their help with their visit to Kenya in May 2017. The Catholic schools from Burnley and Pendle raised £6582 for the team to purchase resources for the two schools they visited in Dagoretti, Kenya. This gave the pupils an opportunity to see the impact of their much valued fundraising.



Each school took it in turn to do a small presentation to reflect on the impact of Chaplaincy in their school and share their plans for the year ahead.



Activity 1: Make a beaded angel and sell it to a friend, giving the money to a charity of their choice.



Activity 2: Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend as a symbol of your friendship commitment.



Activity 3: Make and decorate a bookmark with starfish story to act as a reminder that 'We can make a difference'.



Activity 4: Rescue a starfish and develop team cooperation skills.



Activity 5: Decorate a cross and keep as a reminder that we all have our crosses to bear.



The day then ended with the celebration of Holy Mass. A variety of Altar Servers from their respective Parishes supported Bishop Arnold throughout Mass.





At the end of the Mass each school received a gift of a handmade nativity set from the Mamma Margaret Project in Dagoretti. The children also received an angel made from banana leaves and the Headteachers were invited to take a key ring from the tree of kindness to remind them of the kindness they have shown to the Mamas in Kenya and encourage them to foster kindness in their own schools.



All new Pupil Chaplains were commissioned by Bishop John Arnold during the service.

