



CHAPLAINCY @ ST JOSEPH'S



ST JOSEPH'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
LIVING • LOVING • LEARNING

Chaplaincy

“Dear young people, let us not be satisfied with a mediocre life. Be amazed by what is true and beautiful, what is of God!”

Pope Francis



Chaplaincy is supported by a number of staff and pupils from across the school.

What is Chaplaincy?

Perhaps Chaplaincy can best be explained through our mission statement – Living, Loving and Learning through Jesus Christ. We believe that school is a holy place because Christ is at the heart of all we do and are and strive for at St Joseph's.

We aim to serve all the members of our school community by offering encouragement, support and friendship. We help to create and nurture the Christian Ethos of the school through the Celebration of the Eucharist, Liturgy and Prayer, the school retreat programme, parish links, spiritual direction, justice and peace issues and the Student Leaders group. It is also to be found in the very ordinary, day to day running of the school by our witness and awareness of the Christian values of truth, compassion and love. Ethos is not an easy thing to describe but it can be felt and seen throughout the school.

Meet Our Team



Fr Philip:

Chaplain, Parish Priest Good Shepherd and foundation governor SJCHS

"My name is Fr Philip Conner; I am the parish priest of Christ the Good Shepherd parish of Workington and a foundation governor of St Joseph's. Prior to my time in West Cumbria, I was parish priest in Lancaster and chaplain to the University of Lancaster for six years, and the diocesan youth chaplain for eight years, working with primary and secondary schools across the North-West. Alongside my other duties, I am currently the Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy, responsible for clergy welfare and ongoing formation."



Mr Robert Hannaford:

Member of the education and formation board and foundation governor SJCHS

"I recently retired after a long career as an Anglican priest and academic. I was received into the Catholic Church in 2021 here in Workington. My last job before retirement was as Director of Ministerial Formation for the Anglican Diocese of Carlisle. My first job, many years ago now, was as an RE teacher at a Comprehensive School in Cornwall. I have taught Theology and Philosophy in several Universities, including many years as Professor of Theology and Executive Dean of Faculty at the University of Cumbria. This included a spell as the Dean responsible for the University's work in Education and Teacher Education. My wife and I originally came to Workington after I retired from University work to become Priest in Charge of the Anglican parish of St John's in Workington. We both now worship in the parish of Christ the Good Shepherd, and I look forward to becoming part of the wider community of the School."

Meet Our Team



Mrs A Hill:

Finance Manager SJCHS

"My name is Ann Hill and I am the Finance Manager for our school. I am delighted to be working in the school I attended for my education and proud to be invited to join our Chaplaincy team. Enjoying a good Catholic family life my Faith is important to me.

I attend Mass on a regular basis and enjoy singing in the choir at OLSM. Over the years I have been involved with Children's Liturgy, preparation for Baptism and first Holy Communion. Out of school I enjoy singing with the Oswald singers and being involved with local amateur musical societies."



Mr P Hornak:

Senior Leader, SJCHS

Ever since I can remember, I have always had an interest in Philosophy, Theology and Mathematics. At 14, I wanted to become a Maths teacher. However, over the next few years this interest shifted towards Philosophy and Theology, resulting in me starting a BA degree in Poland, continuing it in Slovakia and completing it in Ireland (All Hallows College, Dublin). Later on, I gained an MA in the teaching and learning of Mathematics from Liverpool Hope University. My studies were always accompanied with pastoral work in different countries. Theoretical Philosophy and Theology had to be always connected to Christ and practical service to people. I helped in establishments dedicated to physically handicapped children, minority and marginalised groups, prisons, houses for the elderly, houses for the homeless and Catholic parishes in Ukraine, Slovakia, Poland and England. At present, I am actively registered as a teacher in Slovakia, Scotland and England where I have been teaching over 20 years. Most of my teaching years have been dedicated to the pupils of St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Workington. I have enjoyed every day at the school and am privileged to have taught by now around 2500 excellent students.

Meet Our Team



Mr B Jackson:

Chaplaincy Co-ordinator SJCHS

Born in Newcastle, a practising Catholic, I have had a circuitous route to where I am today. I started working at St Joseph's in 2015 having returned to the UK after living and working in Poland where, among other things, I taught at the Catholic University in Lublin. I have been a member of a small but amazingly dedicated team of RE teachers at St Joseph's since 2018. Religious Education at St Joseph's underpins the promotion and practice of a Catholic ethos within our school and serves to demonstrate to our students faith in Christ's love for us and the hope it offers. It is my privilege to be the Chaplaincy coordinator and I hope to serve our school community further.



Mr I Nevitt:

Headteacher, SJCHS

"First and foremost, I am a practicing Catholic that is committed to helping and supporting the Governing Body in their role to make Christ known to all people and to assist the role of the Bishop and our Parents in equipping our students to be fully ready for the intellect, moral, spiritual and cultural challenges that they will face in life. I have worked at St Joseph's Catholic High School since 2018 when I was appointed as an Assistant Headteacher with training to Headship. I was elected as the staff representative on the Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic High School in 2019 and I continued this role until I was appointed Headteacher. I serve on several committees including Leadership, Catholic Ethos and the Curriculum. It is an honour and privilege to work with such a dedicated and committed governing Body in their strive for excellence for the children we have been entrusted with"

Support & Spiritual Direction

Pastoral and spiritual care in the school is highly valued and pupils have access to many different services. There is always someone to help and support, especially at times of crisis. Besides the care they receive from teachers and learning managers, the Chaplain's office is always open to all pupils for an informal chat or a quiet word whenever it is needed.

Celebration of the Eucharist

We celebrate Mass together regularly. It is always a voluntary celebration either as a whole school or before school on a Friday at 8am. We start year 7 with a Mass for our pupils and we end year 11 for our pupils with a Mass.

Throughout the year there are various masses liturgies, services of Reconciliation and Weekly Worship (assemblies). Our chapel is open daily for pupils and staff, which contains a prayer board where intentions can be left to be prayed for by the whole school community. We provide 'Breakfast with God' every day at 8.30am onwards for pupils and staff.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Many Catholics treasure the sacrament of Reconciliation and at SJCHS we believe that the sacrament of reconciliation is extremely important to the moral and spiritual health of our community.

The peace of mind and soul which this sacrament imparts to us is one for which there is no substitute. It is a peace that flows from a certainty, rather than from an unsure hope, that our sins have been forgiven and that we are right with God.

Although many converts to the Catholic Church initially fear it, they quickly come to love the sacrament of Reconciliation once they get over their nameless fears—fears which come from a misconception of what the sacrament really is.

If you would like to receive the sacrament outside of Lent and Advent if you contact a member of the team and we will arrange for a priest to hear your confession or you can attend Mass on Friday and speak to chaplain Fr Philip.

Liturgical Ministry

We encourage all to take a full and active role in the preparation of the prayer life of the school, particularly with animating the Liturgy as musicians, readers, and Eucharistic Ministers. A well-prepared liturgy helps others to pray and come closer to God. Those who help prepare the liturgy offer a unique service to the rest of the school community and can develop a deeper awareness of what it means to pray as the Church.

Parish Links

We value our parish links and very much appreciate the support and encouragement of the clergy. Fr. Philip Conner, Canon John Watson and Fr Paul Dadson are our local Parish Priests and are regular visitors to the school. Our desire is to continue and develop these links through our services of Reconciliation and various Masses and celebrations.

The parish websites can be found here: <https://www.christ-the-good-shepherd.co.uk/>

Justice and Peace /CAFOD

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Praxis – Let's put our faith into

action!



“The Church needs you, your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you.

‘Do not be afraid!’ When we go to proclaim Christ, it is he himself who goes before us and guides us. When he sent his disciples on mission, he promised: ‘I am with you always’ (Mt 28:20). And this is also true for us! Jesus does not leave us alone, he never leaves you alone! He always accompanies you.”

Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2013