



**St. Thomas More**

CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

St. Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Palace Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AF Headteacher: Mr D Redfern

15<sup>th</sup> December 25

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – Year 9 Feast Day Celebrations**

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching programme, each year group has adopted a Saint as a role model, and as someone whom we can follow in their footsteps. For Year 9, we have chosen Saint Maximilian Kolbe. St Maximilian Kolbe worked tirelessly during the Second World War to shelter Jews from persecution from the Nazis. Eventually he was imprisoned in Auschwitz concentration camp, where he volunteered to die in place of another man.

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, we invite Year 9 to celebrate the Feast Day of St Maximilian Kolbe. On this day, the Year 9 pupils will be taking part in a range of activities: walking to St Anne's Church on Terrace Road for a Service of the Word, raising money for our chosen charity, and enjoying an end of day treat. We have also arranged for a speaker from the Northern Holocaust Education Group, to present the story of a Holocaust survivor to the year group on the day. No homework will be set, and pupils are permitted to attend school in non-uniform for a £1 donation.

The day will run as follows:

8:50 – 10:00 – registration in forms, then walk to St Anne's Church for the Service of the Word

10:00 – 11:25 – lessons as normal

11:25 – 11:40 – breaktime

11:40 – 12:35 – Northern Holocaust Education Group presentation

12:35 – 13:20 – lunch

13:20 – 14:50 – lessons as normal

14:50 – end-of-day treat and celebration in the hall.

### **Fundraising activity – Charity: UNICEF**

Each year group is encouraged to raise money for charity as part of their feast day celebrations. Year 9 have been encouraged to consider the sacrifice Maximilian Kolbe made, and to decide on something they could sacrifice as a group. They have chosen to sacrifice the use of a bag. They will still need to bring all the equipment they need for the day but will not be bringing it in a bag. So far, they have come up with some very interesting suggestions including a bucket or a pillow case.

To encourage the students in this challenge, we have set up a just giving page on this link:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-scampion-2?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/helen-scampion-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

We know this will be a fantastic day, and we look forward to celebrating it within school.

Ms H Scampion

Head of Learning for Year 9 and 10



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NOTTINGHAM

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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust