



# THE CARDINAL'S VIRTUES

## THE OFFICIAL ETHOS NEWSLETTER OF CARDINAL HUME



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## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ETHOS

Dear All,

We are delighted to present to you the ninth volume of our school newsletter the 'Cardinal's Virtues.'

We do hope that you enjoy it as much as previous editions and that the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes, by people too numerous to mention, has produced a newsletter equal to past endeavours. It is also our dearest hope that this Christmas time finds you all truly blessed in the spiritual awakening revealed to us all through the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy has now come to an end but our calling to act mercifully towards others is something that never ends. We are called to live this way on a daily basis. The challenge of this brings great positive change within ourselves and to all we encounter. This Christmas gives us the perfect time to continue this journey.

The aim of our newsletter, as always, is to highlight to you the parents, guardians and parishioners, all the great work that is being undertaken at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. Student success can never be limited to the academic, though we are fully aware of its

importance, but at Cardinal Hume Catholic School we believe the development of the whole person and their unique talents is of equal importance. An outstanding school community allows students to flourish and develop in a number of ways and it is this approach to education we seek to nurture at Cardinal Hume Catholic School. Indeed it is this approach we hope is reflected in every page of the 'Cardinal's Virtues.'

We hope you enjoy reading this ninth volume of our newsletter and would like to thank you all for your support and prayers, which play such a great role in our success spreading the gospel message to our young people.

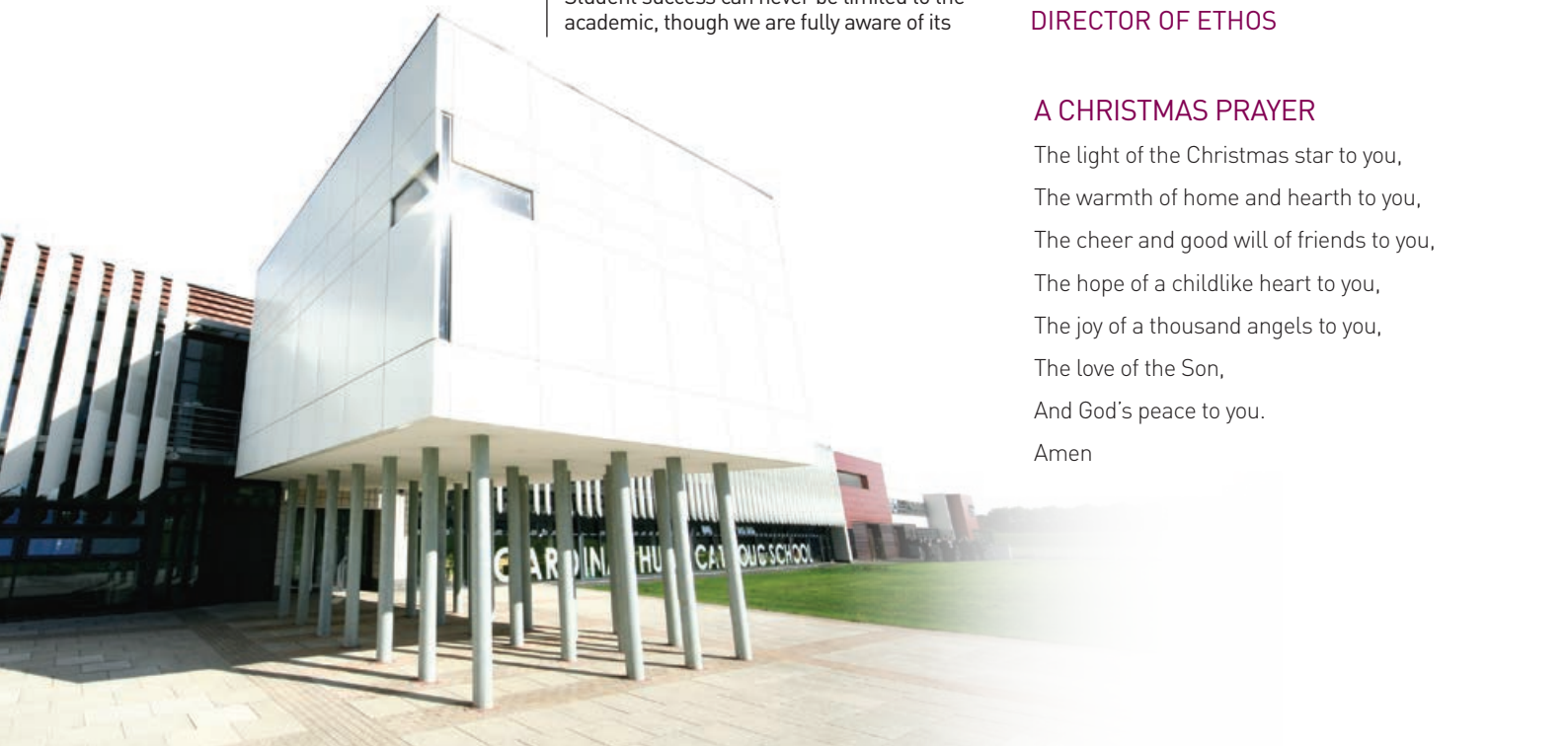
If you feel you would like to contribute to the 'Cardinal's Virtues' in any way, please do not hesitate to contact, Director of Ethos Damian McCann at [dmm@cardinalhume.com](mailto:dmm@cardinalhume.com) or the Chaplain Mrs Proctor by phoning the school.

*D. McCann*

MR DAMIAN McCANN  
DIRECTOR OF ETHOS

### A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of home and hearth to you,  
The cheer and good will of friends to you,  
The hope of a childlike heart to you,  
The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son,  
And God's peace to you.  
Amen



# YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU

WE LIVE IN CHANGING TIMES, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS PART OF A BROADER COMMUNITY. ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN HOW THE CENTRAL PLACE THAT RELIGION HELD IN PEOPLE'S LIVES HAS SLOWLY DIMINISHED. THIS IS THE PRODUCT OF AN EVOLUTION OF THOUGHT THAT BEGAN WITH THE 18TH CENTURY ENLIGHTENMENT, CULMINATING POLITICALLY IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

Gradually, in the Western World, we have seen an attempt to replace God with a number of alternatives. From man to reason to art to politics, all have been put forward as an alternative to God, all have failed. Nothing provides us with a greater understanding of the world around us than God and nothing comes close to inspiring us in how we live our lives. The greatest change in Church has been in its previously central place in people's lives; this is no longer the case and has been on a particular downward trajectory since the 1960's. However, this does not mean we, as Church, cannot seek to breathe life back into our local parishes and diocese. It will require a unified approach from both clergy and laity. It will be a new era of Church in many ways, but nothing is beyond repair. It is this thinking that lies at the heart of the hugely important diocesan directive 'Moving Forward Together in Hope' led by Bishop Seamus that points to unified clergy and laity as the best future for our diocese.

Perhaps what reflects the changing face of Church in the Western World is best summed, up in great detail, the 'Diocesan Facts and Figures' document recently published. It gives an overall view of changes within our diocese over the last 25 years and brought to your attention in this article.

The word diocese comes from a Greek term meaning 'administration' It is an area under the supervision of the Bishop; our Bishop Seamus leads our diocese. There are 22 dioceses in England and Wales. Our diocese was founded as the Diocese of Hexham in 1850; the name changed to Hexham and Newcastle in 1861. On 1st April 2012 the assets and operations of the Diocese transferred to a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, called Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

Our Diocese, of Hexham and Newcastle, is divided into 18 Deaneries and there are currently 163 Parishes and 177 Diocesan churches in active use. The resident population of the Diocese is 2.25 million people of whom 36,661 were recorded

as mass-goers. There are currently over 8,000 volunteers in the Diocese who undertake ministries that are subject to DBS checks. At 31st December 2014 there were 106 active Diocesan priests and 53 retired priests as well as 26 Permanent Deacons. The Diocese has 129 primary schools, 6 first schools, 4 middle schools and 20 secondary schools. There are over 53,000 pupils in our Diocesan schools of which 65.9% are Catholic and 3,284 teachers of which



57% are Catholic. After the summarised background produced here, there are some startling figures released in how Church attendance and participation in the Sacraments has greatly reduced. Figures that really make you think. The dates used to generate these figures fall between the years 1981 - 2013. Average Mass attendance during this period has fallen from 100,000 to 37,000 - a reduction of over 63%. The number of people baptised annually in the Diocese has seen an overall reduction (from over 4,425 in 1981 to 3,267 in 2013) - a fall of around 26% - although there has been something of an upturn since 2001. Confirmations have seen a huge fall. Between 1981 and

2013, the average number of confirmations reported annually has reduced by around 80% - from 2,861 to 571. (Though it must be mentioned that the school has supported the deanery greatly in our recent joint confirmation programme. With approximately 70 students making their confirmation last year). Marriages have also seen a great decline: the number of marriages each year in the Diocese has also shown a sharp decline - a reduction of over 70% (from 1,939 to 568). From 2001 to 2013 the level has remained fairly static.

Most significant, is the sharp decline in clergy in our diocese, which is similarly reflected throughout the Western World. These figures for our diocese are taken from 1951-2015. In 1951 there were 368 priests serving the diocese. We now have 106 active priests in the Diocese - decrease of 67%. Of our active priests 50 are over the age of 66 and only 24 below the age of 50. The question put forward by Bishops is where will we be in 2030? A time which is only 14 years away. We may find ourselves in a landscape similar to that in Graham Greene's great novel 'The Power and the Glory', though for different reasons. A time when finding or having a priest in the parish is not something we easily encounter.

There has been something of a religious vacuum created in our modern society and this has led many to undervalue the great reward of engaging in their own faith journey and the hugely positive impact this can have on their lives. In this context, the words of the Catholic writer G.K. Chesterton spring to mind, when he said, "When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything." Perhaps then the starting point as we live our lives is to ask the question: who am I and what do I actually believe in? Or want to believe in? The answer may be challenging but then sure so is everything worthwhile. Time for us all to move forward together in hope.

# JUSTICE THAT PROMOTES PEACE

MOVING FROM THE INSPIRATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE AWARENESS DAY LEAD BY THE YCW IN JUNE, OUR JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP WASTED NO TIME IN PROMOTING KEY UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE AMONG THEIR PEERS.

The group, who meet weekly to develop new strategies to promote these key ideas, began with a 'Family Fast Day Collection' in aid of CAFOD. A day that raised over £200. A huge thank you to all students and staff who contributed.

This was followed by running the pop up stall in the atrium. The idea was that students should bring in tinned or dried foods and these were placed in empty boxes. The boxes were then donated to SVP and would have been a great help to people in the local community who are struggling to make ends meet. A huge thank to all staff and students at Cardinal Hume Catholic School for helping with these worthy causes.

Cardinal Hume Justice and Peace Group



Justice and Peace in action



Links with local SVP

# STUDENT REFLECTION ON JOHN PAUL II AWARD

Over the past year, four of us have demonstrated our capacity and desire to reach out into the community and offer a continuing contribution to those we come to meet and assist in a multitude of ways. In doing this, our actions have been recognised and logged for the John Paul II Award, a diocesan scheme which aims to provide the incentive for young people to begin, increase or widen their involvement in both their Church and wider community through parish involvement and social awareness. Abbie, Isobel, Zoya, and I have each shown our desire to contribute in whichever ways we felt compelled to, be it from welcoming at mass to participating in the liturgy for parish work or from charity shop volunteering to outreach projects facilitated by the parishes.

Pursuing the John Paul II award has provided an excellent platform on which to develop not only our own understanding of what it is to be an active member of the community, but also ourselves as individuals and the roles we may play in life beyond Cardinal Hume. In understanding our capacity to assist and participate in both parish and localised society, we have been given an insight into the

ways we might connect with people after the Award certainly, but also once we leave and enter into independent living and adulthood, be it first through university or otherwise.



John Paul II Award Students

Participating in our local communities has shown us the reciprocity of the people there: if we care to take the time to help those in our communities, they will take the time to help us in return, if and when we need it. It cannot be emphasised enough that the award should not end at the threshold of hours for your particular tier (bronze, silver,

gold or papal cross): after these hours have been recorded and your award received, participation will be something not just done out of habit or familiarity, but something to look forward to deeply and profoundly enjoy when undertaken. In a great many respects, provided that you select the most appropriate social awareness and parish activities, the award is something that meets all of these criteria in humble enjoyment, personal usefulness and broader understanding of the required roles that you may choose to play in the community.

We all resolutely concur that the award has been an excellent preparatory mechanism for our next steps in life, as well as a hugely fruitful and involving yet deeply enjoyable project that we have undertaken. To all those considering the award, having never heard of it or knowing the details in their entirety, we would give our highest recommendation to take the next steps into coming to know your limitless capacity to contribute to any and all aspects of the community, be they spiritual or social, personal or entirely alien to you so far.

Ethan Kelly

# INTERFAITH CONFERENCE PRESENTS THE GOD OF MERCY AND MESSAGE OF PEACE

Cardinal Hume Catholic School was privileged to host a Diocesan UK Interfaith Conference led and organised by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the diocesan departments for Interreligious Dialogue, Justice and Peace and Spirituality, approached the school regarding the possibility of it hosting the event way back in early 2016. Headteacher, Nick Hurn, was only too happy to help.



Hands of mercy



A merciful gathering

The theme behind the event was to focus on what our respective faith traditions shared in their understanding of the God of Mercy. This was following the request by Pope Francis in his document, *Misericordiae Vultus*, that encouraged people of faith to create opportunities for dialogue.

The evening itself began with a warm welcome from Headteacher, Nick Hurn, emphasising the importance of such events as ways to promote community cohesion. The compare for the evening, Mgr Andrew Farley, seamlessly moved and interwove the various aspects of the evening, keeping it all rooted in the significant message that lay at the heart of this special event – God’s Mercy.

There were a number of speakers from our Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities. Rabbi Aaron Lipsey opened events by focusing on God’s mercy as first revealed through Creation and then led us to a broader understanding of Yom Kippur. He was followed by the Hengamech Ashraf

Emami who spoke of the importance of God’s mercy to all followers of Islam. Focusing clearly on the point that if Muslims are not forgiving and merciful to others, then God cannot act in this way towards those that don’t follow this teaching. Acts of terror in the name of Islam are not what is emphasised by the will of God the All Merciful. The speakers were then concluded by Father Colin Carr, who spoke of the link between mercy and justice. Explaining how to act mercifully as how God wants us to act, creates a justice that is based on mercy which is the justice of God.

‘More than Dance’ led some wonderful performances throughout the evening that was concluded by Cardinal Hume School Choir performing a rousing rendition of the Beatles classic: ‘All You Need Is Love’ – God’s love. A wonderful evening with a deeply poignant message for us all as people of faith. As one Police Chief Superintendent pointed out, these events are what help build bridges and bring peace to our local communities.

When we all focus on the God of Mercy in our respective faith traditions, that is exactly what we are all doing.

A huge thank you to those who made the evening such a special event: Bishop Seamus Cunningham, Kathryn Turner, Karen Brown, Mgr Andrew Farley, Rabbi Aaron Lipsey, Hengameh Ashraf Emami, Father Colin Carr, Graham Wilkins, Cardinal Hume School Choir, More than Dance, James Potter (Head of Music) and Headteacher, Nick Hurn, for enabling it all to happen. Finally, a very special thank you to all who helped in any way to make this event happen and are too numerous to mention. You are the glue that ensure such events are the success they become.



Students present globes of mercy



Brilliant school choir



Bishop Seamus leads the conference

# YEAR 8 RETREAT A GREAT SUCCESS

As part of our overall commitment to developing all aspects of young people at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, we sent our Year 8 students to the Youth Village to enjoy a thought provoking and inspiring time with the Youth Ministry Team (YMT).

This annual pilgrimage always has a hugely positive impact on our young people. This can be seen in many Year 11 students when they write about great school memories in their year book. It is something they will often refer to as being one of the highlights of their time at school.

The YMT are an outstanding organisation who are highly praised by staff and students for the work that they do with our young people. Their theme of ‘Voices’ - encouraging young people to be confident in their gifts’ as God’s creations and to stay focused on the positive aspects of our lives, are hugely important messages. Of course, a huge thank you must go to all staff at Cardinal Hume Catholic School who attend the retreat and enable our young people to take part. Without their care and commitment, such events would never take place.

Cardinal Hume Media Group



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES CONFERENCE INSPIRES ALL

There are huge changes now in place for Religious Studies in Catholic schools throughout the country. Change always brings a certain fear due to the unpredictability it can create and the many questions it raises. This is the new horizon on which all associated with Religious Studies now gaze.

It is therefore quite refreshing to see the importance of Religious Studies brought to such vivid and fantastic relevance to the students. This occurred at Cardinal Hume Catholic School on Tuesday 4th October, when the esteemed philosopher Dr Peter Vardy (nothing to do with cars) delivered an outstanding day on Religious Studies for students taking GCSE and A Level. His vibrant approach and brilliant knowledge had students and staff fully engaged throughout the day.

The themes developed and discussed throughout the day included: war, artificial intelligence, genetics, abortion, euthanasia, sex and relationships and the environment. Dr Vardy brought students on a journey of



enlightenment as he linked teachings from natural law, utilitarianism, Kant and situation ethics to identified areas and brought them right to the forefront of students’ minds in relevance to their own lives in the 21st century. All skilfully and brilliantly delivered. Some of the highlights included the two debates on whether we should alter genes to make the perfect human and the use of drones in warfare. The idea of altering genes to create the perfect human was roundly defeated by no one voting in favour of the motion, while the use of drones in warfare won by a 55% to 45% majority.

The face of Religious Studies may be changing but as Dr Vardy illustrated so well, and

students responded to so enthusiastically, the relevance of the subject has never been more important in such changing times. A huge thank you to all the schools who participated: Bede Academy, Central High School for Girls Newcastle, Carmel College, St Mary’s Catholic Academy, St Thomas More North Shields, St Robert’s of Newminster and Cardinal Hume Catholic School. All students were a huge credit to the schools and communities they came from. A big thank you to all the staff for organising their students to support the conference and to the Headteacher of Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Nick Hurn, for hosting the event.

# YCW VISIT CARDINAL HUME

At Cardinal Hume Catholic School we are committed to encouraging our young people to get involved in activities that deepen their own understanding of Justice and Peace. This enables them to promote the key concepts of Justice and Peace among their peers. To add to our ever expanding group, 22 Year 9 students volunteered with the school Justice and Peace group. They will be supported by Year 11 and 6th Form students who previously volunteered in Year 9.



Students discuss and judge

The group itself runs at Friday lunchtimes and enables our young people to get involved in a number of activities that seek to promote key values of Justice and Peace. Everything, from fundraising, to assemblies, to discussions on key topics. This year we were delighted to have the Young Catholic Workers (YCW) visit our school and work with our Year 9 students. They run an 'Impact' programme based on the three elements of See; Judge and Act. The idea being that groups would see and share issues that concern them, Judge these issues through reflection on Scripture and Church teaching and commit to Act so that they can make a difference in their local communities. Our students spent a morning with the YCW group. Both our young people and the YCW were inspired by others in their honest input and recognisable commitment of the need to promote social justice in our school and local communities.

The next step in the evolution of our Justice and Peace group is to establish it as something that can involve our local parishes and community. To bring a recognisable link between our young people and the great work being done beyond the school that supports the most vulnerable and promotes the common good. How and when this will be done is still in development but watch this space... our young people are coming to help you!



YCW encourage students to see



How can we act?

# IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE REMINDER

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME.

Parents and carers are reminded below about the current rules regarding taking children out of school during term time.

Government regulations state that "head teachers may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances." While leave of absence may be granted during term time it is entirely at the discretion of the head teacher and is not a parental right.

If a parent wishes to take their child out of school during term time they must apply in writing to the school using the following procedure.

- Fill in an application form requesting leave of absence during term time. These are available from school or can be downloaded from the school website.
- The school will consider this request.
- The parent will be informed in writing whether or not the leave of absence has been granted.
- Reasons will be given if leave of absence is not granted.
- If the request is granted the absence from school will be authorised. (This will only be in exceptional circumstances.)
- If the leave of absence is not granted and the parent still takes their child out of school, the absence will not be authorised and the school may refer the matter to the local authority. In such cases a penalty notice may be issued by the local authority. This could result in a fine being issued.
- The penalty notice is £60 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days and £120 per parent, per child if paid after this date, but within 28 days.
- Failure to pay any such fine could lead to prosecution in a Magistrates Court.
- If a parent removes their child without requesting leave of absence from school, it is likely the school will apply to the local authority for a penalty notice to be issued.

Holidays taken in term time are not generally considered to be exceptional circumstances and will not usually be authorised.

Each request for leave of absence will be considered on its merits. The following factors may be taken into consideration;

- The child's stage of education and progress to date.
- The overall attendance pattern of the child.
- The nature of the planned absence.
- Rare and exceptional circumstances.

# INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

On October 14th Mr Potter and Mr Hurn were invited to the Tyneside Cinema in Newcastle to receive an International School Award. This prestigious award is given to schools who can demonstrate a high level of interaction with schools and other agencies from across the world. The event saw schools from across the North of England join together in Celebration before hearing an inspirational talk from Tori James, the youngest, and only Welsh Woman to scale Everest.

At Cardinal Hume we have established some fantastic links in recent years including work with schools in India and Uganda and through our involvement in two Comenius projects, which are funded and operated by the British Council and the European Union.

In September we received notification that we had successfully applied for a third European project with five other European Schools. Our partners are from Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia and Poland and we are looking forward to working with them over the next two years and visiting their countries before we invite them back to Gateshead in May 2018.



Mr Potter with Tori James

# UPDATE ON OUR TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE



We have successfully recruited for our School Direct teacher training places for 2016 and our trainees have all started their placements in our various alliance schools. We will have over 20 secondary trainees working across Cardinal Hume Catholic School, St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, St Wilfrid's RC College and St Robert of Newminster Catholic School & Sixth Form College this academic year.

For the next academic year, we will have over 40 trainees and this means we will expand our alliance to include Cramlington Learning Village and St Benet Biscop Academy. In order to market these places we will be attending recruitment events across the region to make possible candidates aware of

our teaching school alliance. We have also decided to advertise our places at Metro stations in the region. Look out for the adverts if you are out and about! We are now recruiting for placements throughout our alliance starting September 2017. If you are interested in training to be a teacher, please contact Carolyn Adams at [cas@cardinalhume.com](mailto:cas@cardinalhume.com) (Teaching School Alliance Manager).

Trinity Teaching School is also hosting three primary trainee teachers this year. The trainees have been placed in three of our feeder primary schools: St Peter's, St Wilfrid's and St Augustine's.

We wish all our trainees a successful year in our family of schools.

# CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2016



Earlier this year, a parishioner from one of the parishes in the school catchment area walked 1100 miles from Vezelay in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain - it is known as the Camino walk.

He did it alone - and no, it wasn't for charity. Recently retired, after having dedicated the whole of his working life to Catholic education, his desire was to make a spiritual journey to reflect on the past in the light of the future, in the context of one of the greatest traditions of our Catholic faith - pilgrimage - journeying through this life towards its fulfilment in the kingdom of God.

On his return, there were some people who asked him why he hadn't sought sponsorship and raised money for a charity. They had missed the whole point.

Missing the point can so easily happen to us all, especially at Christmas time, if we allow ourselves to be swept along by the advertising campaigns telling us we must spend large amounts of money on the latest gadgets or fashions so that we don't get left behind. How gullible we can be at times.

You see, Christmas is actually about the coming of God to life among us as a man so that we might have the greatest possible opportunity to discover him for ourselves in the hope that we may desire to become like him so that the world, in any particular period of history, may be a safe, secure and tolerant community of people.

Look around us today - "the Jungle" in Calais and the bombings in Aleppo to name just two. Has God's plan, revealed on that first Christmas Day, failed you may wonder?

I would suggest God's plan hasn't failed, but our reluctance to follow his example and journey with him through life continues and we find ourselves surrounded by selfishness, greed and hostility.

So where is your journey taking you in these days before Christmas? Are you following the shepherds or the path of the wise men; or are you following the same path as the majority of the residents of Bethlehem who were totally oblivious to what was happening in their town on that first Christmas day?

On behalf of the priests and deacons in the parishes of our deanery, might I wish you and your family a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

**Father Ian Patterson**



## Christmas Services in the Deanery

	CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
Corpus Christi	7:30pm	8pm	
St. Alban's	6.30pm A shared celebration of the First Mass of Christmas, incorporating Lessons and Carols, will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Church.		9am
St. Anne's		5.30pm	10am
St. Augustine's	6.30pm	7pm	10am
St. Joseph's	4:30pm and 11.30pm	5pm and Midnight Mass (Latin Form)	
St. Oswald's	5pm	5:35pm	8:30am and 11am
Parish of the Holy Rosary		5pm	
St. Peter's			10am
St Wilfrid's	4:30pm	5pm	
St. Patrick's	6:30pm A shared celebration of the First Mass of Christmas, incorporating Lessons and Carols		9am

## Important upcoming dates at Cardinal Hume Catholic School

SPRING TERM (JAN - APRIL 2017)			
Date	Time	Event	Ethos and Assemblies
Friday 20th January		Modular Reports Year 11	
Thursday 26th January	4-6.00pm	Year 13 Parents Evening	
Friday 27th Jan		Modular Reports Year 10	
Monday 6th February			Internet Safety Week
Thursday 9th February	2.30-6.00pm	Year 9 Parents Evening	CAFOD young leaders
Wednesday 1st March			Ash Wednesday
Thursday 2nd March		Sixth Form Information Evening	
Thursday 9th March		Year 11 Parents Evening 4-6pm	
Friday 10th March		Modular Reports Years 7, 8, 9 and 13	
Monday 13th March	2.30-6.00pm	Year 7 Parents Evening	
Wednesday 15th March			Ten Ten Theatre
Friday 17th March		Written Reports Year 12	
Wednesday 29th March	2.30-6.00pm	Year 8 Parents Evening	
Thursday 6th April			Easter Services
Friday 7th April		Written Reports Year 11	Easter Services