

Mrs Mulcrow: Head of Divinity

My faith is my beating heart, it is everything to me, who I am and what I am called to do. Prayer, Mass and Eucharist all through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching provide me with sacred moments and sacred encounters- from the earliest memories of my mum buying me books on Saints as a 4 year old from St Paul's bookshop in Birmingham next door to St Martin's Church the old Bullring; to reading in Church, being a Eucharistic minister to helping with Childrens liturgy as a NQT teacher in St Hubert's Parish to going on pilgrimage to Lourdes many times first with HCPT and then with with the Archdiocese of Birmingham; part of the Toby group the older Birmingham Youth Group.

In our school community over the last 2 years many of our staff have lost their parents post covid so the little acts of putting white roses on their desk having placed them in the Chapel for the day in front of our Lady, checking in that they are ok, lighting candles at Mass for our school family and loved ones and sending to staff , sending a petition to Lourdes and Knock as well as saying novenas also for students who have lost their parents/grandparents, getting in touch with families to ask what we can do. When the desperate situation in Maripol last year where children, men and women needed to be rescued from the steelworks we created 260 white roses with prayers and placed in our Chapel in front of our Lady with the words Hope and Love. When we had 3 students join us from the Ukraine when their mums joined them we ensured they had flowers.

Veritas truth our School motto is at the heart of what we are. Each day I say to the students when you put your blazer on you are clothed in truth. We walk and talk as best as we can the truth each day and when we get it wrong we have the humility to put it right. St Thomas Aquinas reminds us that humility is the mark of discipleship. Jesus reminds us that truth sets us free . That truth coupled with a desire for dignity and integrity of all people, a desire for a common good for all people wherever they are in our world, social justice based on our virtues of prudence- where we think carefully about what we say, justice fighting and standing in solidarity with those who are our brothers and sisters is part of our spiritual DNA. For me the joy of my vocation as a teacher and a parent is that you get a privileged glimpse into the lives of others and you are part of this.

Pope Francis calls our young people to be the saints of the 21st Century. In my life I have been inspired by different Saints at different times in my life and on a daily basis I try to share a glimpse of their lives with our students so that they can walk alongside and talk with the saint and for them to use as a role model or guidance in their vocation on a daily basis.

So we spread love to the people we meet on a daily basis it may be a hello, a Good Morning, Have a lovely day, A thank you , I'm sorry. Words which are part of our faith journey each day. With the people we meet we walk the same path but our faith guides us to see the light and in the light of the day these sacred encounters are often not random but are God's work at hand. We become the guardian angel for members of our community be it staff or a student who is upset, we show our compassion and care to help. In these moments we become part of their lives and we become the Veronicas and Simon of Cyrenes of this world.