

7 June 2024

Message from the Headteacher

In our assemblies this week I have focused on the school value of ‘fairness’ and the Judaeo-Christian understanding of a just and merciful creator God. We looked at passages in the Old and New Testaments focusing on the importance of treating others with justice, kindness and respect, conscious of the fact that we are all made in the image of God. Sometimes we take these values, if not the theology behind them, as a given. In the assemblies, however, I highlighted the fact that at many times in human history, leaders and whole societies did not take such a view: the ‘survival of the fittest’ adage goes back at least to the ancient Spartans, who had no qualms about exposing a disabled infant on a mountainside. In the twentieth century, Adolf Hitler, following in the footsteps of the philosopher, Friederich Nietzsche, regarded not only Judaism but also Christianity as ‘slavish’ religions, for the weak and feeble-minded. He regarded the Christian concern for the sick, the weak and the vulnerable as an ethical defect, flying in the face of ‘eugenics’ and a ‘natural’ philosophy of life. Hitler’s own disregard for the value of human life horrifically came into the sharpest focus with the liberation of Belsen and other extermination camps by the allied forces.

When the boats and planes that went over to France on D -Day, 6 June 1944, were on the water and in the air, they were taking part in their own existential struggle, a struggle between the moral bleakness and outright evil of Nazi paganism and the Judaeo-Christian heritage of the previous 2000 years. It is hard for us now to comprehend the bravery of those soldiers, sailors and airmen as they went out to face the German machine gun fire on the beaches of Normandy. We must never forget their sacrifice or the enormity of what was at stake, so it was wonderful to see our CEO of Russell Education Trust, Mr Colin Mackinlay, leading the D Day 80th anniversary ferry escort out of Portsmouth as the skipper of TS Royalist. You can read the full story below.



Philip Hills
Dr Philip Hills, Headteacher



Tea with the Headteacher



Time to Celebrate

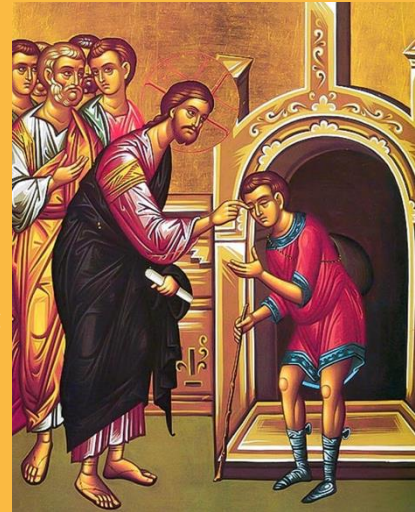
Our students enjoying tea with the headteacher in celebration of their achievements.

Faith – Sunday of the Blind man

The sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Blind Man. The day commemorates the miracle of Christ healing the blind man.

Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

The icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man depicts the biblical story of Christ healing the man who was blind since birth (John 9:1-41). Our Lord is shown placing the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples who are questioning Christ about the source of the man's affliction. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ expressing his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Our Lord has in His hand a scroll, which directs us to His statements, "I am the light of the world," (John 9:5), and "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed," (Luke 4:18). These are clear statements of the Gospel of salvation that comes through Christ. The scroll may also represent the role of Christ as Judge as depicted in Matthew and Revelation, and later in the same passage on the healing of the blind man (John 9:39), Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."



Aren from Year 8 with Mrs Ayres, Head of Art and DT, and his newly completed trinket box.

80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, 6 June 2024

This year is the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings; the largest seaborne invasion in human history; and one that led to Victory in Europe (VE day) and the defeat of Nazi Germany. We owe the men and women who took part in the invasion of occupied France, in Normandy, the very freedoms we enjoy today. This week we remember those British, American, and Canadian soldiers who gave their lives during the landings; as well as honouring the veterans who, in their nineties and hundreds, are still with us.

A series of solemn and spectacular events honoured the bravery and sacrifice of those who fought in one of the most pivotal moments of World War II. Organized by the Ministry of Defence and the Royal British Legion, the commemorations were a fitting tribute to the heroes of the past.

For the 80th Anniversary the Sea Cadets were the senior cadet force from the UK taking part in the parades and events. RET’s CEO Colin Mackinlay was awarded the extraordinary honour of being the Commanding Officer of TS Royalist, the flagship of the Sea Cadets, for these historic celebrations. Mr Mackinlay commanded the TS Royalist for the ferry escort out of Portsmouth, led the Sea Cadet involvement in both the commemorative event and the act of remembrance, and directed the TS Royalist’s contributions afloat, during the ceremonies.

This year’s ceremonies began on 4 June, with an extraordinary display of homage and respect. The TS Royalist led the procession, escorting a ferry carrying Normandy Veterans from Portsmouth across the Channel. This poignant journey not only bridged the generations but also served as a vivid reminder of the past sacrifices made for freedom and democracy. As the veterans made their way across the water, the skies came alive with the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight performing a flypast. Simultaneously, Royal Navy ships stationed in Portsmouth Harbour sailed in formation, their sirens sounding in unison, in a powerful display of military precision and respect.

The evening of 5 June saw the Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s Bayeux War Cemetery transformed with a spectacular light show. This event also featured a vigil held by Cadet Forces and members of the Armed Forces. In a touching tribute, the names of the 25,000 fallen personnel commemorated at the cemetery were read aloud.

On June 6th, the focus shifted to the British Normandy Memorial in Ver-sur-Mer, where the UK’s national commemorative event took place. This solemn ceremony included the traditional acts of remembrance such as the playing of the Last Post and observing a two-minute silence. This provided a moment of grateful reflection about the sacrifices made in June 1944.

More than 1,600 members of the Armed Forces led the commemorations in France, supported by an array of military assets including a Royal Marines landing craft, five Royal Navy patrol vessels, minesweeper HMS Cattistock and three Sea Cadet vessels, as well as a stunning display by the British Army’s Red Devils parachute display team.

“We will remember them”.



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Root word of the week

(*ven/veni/vent*: Latin = come/bring)


Inventor (one who brings something new into existence)



Venue (a place where people come for an event)



Convenient (coming together well)



Barnet Youth Summer 2024




SUMMER ACTIVITY Holiday Camp

FULL DAY



HALF DAY



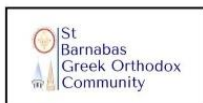


Divine Liturgies in English at St Barnabas

- Saturday 8th June 10:00-11:00am
Followed by a talk, discussion and fellowship
- Sunday 30th June 11:15-12:15am

‘The Divine Liturgy is the way we know God and the way God becomes known to us...Every Divine Liturgy is a Theophany. The Body of Christ appears...After the Divine Liturgy we must continue to iconify the Kingdom of God, keeping His commandments...’

St Sophrony



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FB: facebook.com/stbarnabaswoodgreen
Website: stbarnabsgreekorthodox.org.uk

PASTORAL INITIATIVES JUNE 2024



Understanding the services of PENTECOST

Ερμηνεία των ακολουθιών της Πεντηκοστής
Monday 17th at St Mary's Cathedral at 18:30
Δευτέρα 17 του μηνός στις 18:30 στον Ι.Καθεδρικό Ν. Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου

SUNDAY SCHOOL Κατηχητικό

Sunday 16th at St Barnabas at 11:15am
Κυριακή 16 του μηνός στις 11:15πμ στον Ι.Ν Αποστόλου Βαρνάβα



St Mary's Cathedral and Offices: 22 Trinity Road N22 8LB
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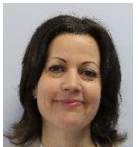
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Mr Martin



Miss Walt



Mrs Viala