



Dilip with his award

Ex-Stonyhurst head boy lands award for charity work

A former Stonyhurst pupil has won the national 'Charitable Work Champion' award in the School House Magazine Awards 2023.

Former Head Boy Dilip Gosall scooped the award thanks to his outstanding charitable efforts during his time at the school.

Editor Victoria Lambert admired how the school's "integral and holistic approach" results in pupils like Dilip achieving all that he has, during his 11 years' at the school.

This is the second time in a week that Dilip, aged 18, has clinched silverware for his charitable work. He recently received the Inspirational Young Adult award at the Best of Lancashire Awards – which celebrates the bravery and achievements of adults and young people across the county.

Over the past five years, Dilip has been a volunteer at a local charity, Maundy Relief, which offers immediate support to those in poverty, and was appointed their youngest trustee. He has been instrumental in raising funds for the charity and completed a 500-mile walk from Accrington to John O'Groats with his fellow trustees.

St Columba's help for refugees recognised with Sanctuary title

A Wallsend Catholic primary school which prides itself on its welcoming ethos has received an award in recognition of its inclusivity.

St Columba's in Wallsend has been named an official School of Sanctuary by City of Sanctuary UK, an organisation founded in 2004 to support refugees and asylum seekers in communities around the country.

St Columba's becomes the third Trust school to receive the accolade, following in the footsteps of St Michael's Catholic Primary in Elswick and Our Lady and St Anne's in Newcastle.

Led by St Columba's Year 4 teacher, Lesley Watson, who runs the school's Mini Vinnies charitable group, pupils engaged in activities that included collecting food bank donations for refugees at the Walking With Centre in Wallsend, and developing a Pupil Charter to welcome new members to the school community, while staff delivered sessions on inclusivity and refugees.

"The process took a full academic year," said Head of School Rachel Quinn. "However, we already had some work in place as a result of being involved with Walking With for the past six years, through regular food banks and visits to meet the refugees. In order to achieve the award, the whole school community had to make a commitment to audit, develop an action plan and provide evidence towards a set of standards. It had to be a key focus of our development for the academic year 2022-23."

More than 400 primary and secondary schools across the UK have attained School of Sanctuary status, with each judged to foster 'a



culture of welcome and safety for people seeking sanctuary, including asylum seeking and refugee families.'

"As a Catholic community, inclusivity is at the heart of our ethos," Ms Quinn said. "Our pupils and staff are friendly, kind and welcoming, they love it when new families join the school."

"We aim to help all families within our community, ensuring that our children are given equal opportunities and the chance to thrive. Year 5 children will be trained to become Buddies to any

refugees joining our school in future.

"Children joining the school will be given time to settle into routines with the help of their buddies, and some time to talk about their home country and share their interests. Signs and symbols throughout the school are in several languages. The school has made a commitment to give refugee families information to support them in the community of Wallsend."

A special assembly was held to celebrate the School of Sanctuary Award, which is on proud display at

the school.

"Our pupils were thrilled to receive the award," Ms Quinn added. "The pupils directly involved were so proud of their achievements and wanted to tell everyone about it. They announced it in assembly and everyone agreed that we wanted to be a 'safe place' for refugees to come to. It is a recognition of our welcoming and inclusive ethos, and we are proud to be recognised as a place to offer sanctuary to any families who may need it when fleeing violence or persecution."

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Excellent response as church hosts a Quarant'ore

From Thursday, 5th October to Sunday, 8th October 2023 St Thomas More church in Coventry hosted a Quarant'ore, an ancient Church practice, consisting of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for 40 hours.

The Quarant'ore started with Mass and finished with Benediction on Sunday.

Quarant'ore is believed to have begun in Italy during the 16th century in honour of the 40 hours during which the Body of Our Lord rested in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion invites us to watch before the Lord, and in this extended period of adoration to offer in his presence our prayer for the Church and its mission.

The Quarant'ore was interspersed with 'themed' Holy Hours, the Divine Offices and the Holy Rosary. The altar had over one hundred votive candles for intentions that were placed around the Blessed Sacrament for the Forty Hours.

Parish priest Fr Simon Baker said there had

been an excellent response to the Quarant'ore.

"I suppose the saying 'there's no time like the present' was in mind and the first Sunday in October seemed as good a time as any to hold the Quarant'ore," Fr Baker said.

"We had an excellent response of people coming to church to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Together with our own parishioners and parishioners from within the deanery parishes, it was good to welcome others from Great Barr, Sutton Coldfield, Lichfield and Stafford."

"It was interesting to watch people come and go and to see such a wide age range of people to spend time in prayer especially our younger members."

"This has been a blessed time for us as a parish and indeed for all those who came to spend time with the Lord. Our thanks to everyone who took the time to come along and we look forward to welcoming you again next year for the Quarant'ore."

