

Autumn 2019

## Royal Fun at Kingston's Rose Theatre



The stage of the Rose Theatre, Kingston received a visit from the Prince of Wales on 27th June ... but who was the real Prince of Wales?

All was resolved in Richard Challoner School's annual summer production at the theatre as they presented 'THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER', Mark Twain's classic tale of mistaken identity, set in the reign of King Henry VIII. The novel was adapted by Neil Zoladkiewicz, the school's ex- director of Drama.

The cast of students from Years 7-10 was headed by Year 7 student Samuel Wells as the real Prince and Brandon Paryag as the poor boy who changes places with him.

## Divine celebration for Richard Challoner 60th Anniversary

Members of the Richard Challoner School community enjoyed one of their most highly emotive Masses ever at St George's Cathedral in Southwark last week, to celebrate the school's very special 60th anniversary of opening.

The traditional "Challoner Day" is an intrinsic part of the school calendar and offers students and their parents, staff and friends of the school the opportunity to mark together the birthday of the school's founder, Bishop Richard Challoner with a powerful and heart-warming Mass in St George's Cathedral. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson, and concelebrated by six priests, four of whom are either former students or staff, as well as our local Parish Priest who celebrates weekly Mass in the school's Chapel. The poignant homily given by Archbishop Wilson focussed on the need for change coming from within oneself and not relying on a change in circumstances to fix challenges and alleviate difficulties.

The powerful music performed by 80 students and staff was led by the school's new Director of Music, Mr Neil Cannon. The music was extremely moving and took our Challoner Day Mass to a new level. Musical pieces included the Gloria by Schubert and a new piece 'Communion Acceptance' written especially for the 60th anniversary by Mr Cannon and Mr Neil D'Aguiar, the school's Lay Chaplain. Mr Cannon commented: "It was a huge privilege to direct the choir and brass ensemble for our 60th Anniversary. The sound from the front of the choir stalls was truly incredible and they all did a fantastic job. It was a very fitting way to give thanks for the wonderful school we have".

At the end of the Mass, Archbishop Wilson presented the school's Headteacher, Mr Sean Maher, with a framed Papal Blessing to the school from the Holy Father.

Over 1,300 Challoner members travelled to central London to participate in the celebratory Mass, and the event was organised with meticulous attention to detail at every stage. Mr D'Aguiar ensured that all students, irrespective of any additional difficulties, were adequately supported throughout the event by high levels of staff.



The school's Head of Art, Mr Tom Bailey, designed a special cross to mark the 60th anniversary which took inspiration from the stained glass window in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He master-minded the creation of a unique Community Cross highlighting the importance of the powerful family ethos within Richard Challoner School. Pupils in years 7-13 as well as all staff were invited to put their fingerprint into clay, which was then fired and glazed in a colour in relation to the different year groups and this now reflects as a radiant light behind the cross. Father Michael Lowell, the school's new Foundation Governor, blessed the Community Cross at the start of the school's celebratory lunch and this is now in focal position in the school's main hall.



Continuing the Art theme for marking the anniversary, and with inspiration from the sculptures and paintings currently around the school, Mr Bailey used acrylics with a range of expressive brush strokes to paint a portrait of Bishop Richard Challoner which conveyed his kind and calm nature. This was placed on the Altar during the Mass and will be positioned prominently in the school Chapel.

Reflecting on the special event, the school's Headteacher, Mr Maher said: "I can't think of an occasion that could have been more fitting or made our Challoner family more proud. The students responded exceptionally well, the choir were amazing and Archbishop John was truly inspirational. An occasion that I and many others will remember with great gratitude and joy for a very, very long time."

To continue the school's special 60th Anniversary celebrations, staff have planned a series of events throughout the year to include:

- a Black Tie charity ball in June,
- a whole-school charity event in the summer term to support a local hospice,
- a Time Capsule showing an overview of the school's diverse activities during this sixtieth year, and
- a Christmas Concert by candlelight for Alumni and Friends.