

# The Basics

Catholics believe that through Baptism & Confirmation we receive the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit

When Catholics behave and live by the Holy Spirit it produces benefits to the world. **These are the Fruits of the Spirit:**

**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control**

Saints and other holy Christians have received **special charisms by the Holy Spirit** – a special ability or talent designed to help them fix something in the world that is broken.

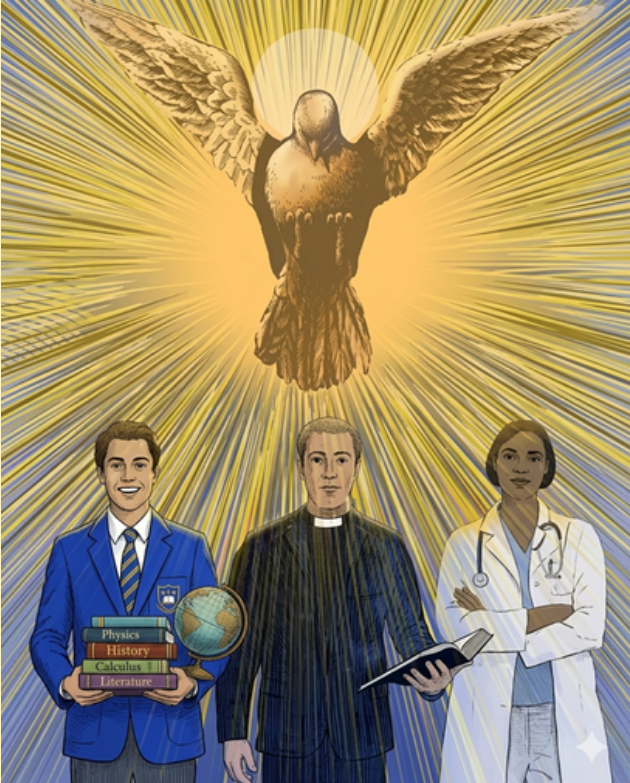
## Some famous saints, their lives and their charisms:

Saint	Their Charism	How it Looked
<b>St. Francis of Assisi</b>	<b>Poverty &amp; Creation</b>	He didn't just "like animals"; his charism allowed him to show the world that you don't need "stuff" to be radically happy.
<b>Mother Teresa (St Teresa of Kolkata)</b>	<b>Acts of Mercy &amp; Poverty</b>	She had a supernatural ability to see the dignity in people that everyone else treated like literal trash.
<b>St. Catherine of Siena</b>	<b>Prophecy/Truth</b>	She was a young woman who wasn't afraid to tell the most powerful people in the world (including the Pope) exactly where they were messing up.


# Exploring Different Charisms

<b>Acts of Mercy</b>	<b>Administration</b>	<b>Apostleship</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Craftsmanship</b>
The kindness and compassion to recognise and help those who are suffering		The calling to continue the tradition of the apostles through being monks, nuns, deacons, priests or bishops		
<b>Encouragement</b>	<b>Evangelism</b>	<b>Extraordinary Faith</b>	<b>Generosity &amp; Giving</b>	<b>Healing</b>
	Teaching others about the Christianity through their lives			

# Exploring Different Charisms

<p><b>Hospitality</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge</b></p>	<p><b>Leadership</b></p>	<p><b>Missionary</b></p>	<p><b>Pastoring</b></p>
			<p>The drive to go to other cultures to share Christianity</p>	<p>The confidence, &amp; ability to care for individuals and lead them to a deeper relationship with Jesus</p>
<p><b>Prophecy</b></p>	<p><b>Teaching</b></p>	<p><b>Voluntary Poverty</b></p>	<p><b>Wisdom</b></p>	
<p>The ability to carefully communicate messages from God</p>				

# Definitions of Charisms

<p>The <del>kindness and compassion to recognise and help those who are suffering</del></p>	<p>To share God's beauty and truth through making things</p>	<p>The energy and ability to provide for people or their community</p>	<p>The joy of learning about religion and teaching it to others</p>	<p>Going to <del>other cultures to share Christianity</del></p>
<p>The <del>confidence, &amp; ability to care for individuals and lead them to a deeper relationship with Jesus</del></p>	<p>The grace to effectively organise large tasks</p>	<p>To inspire others through words, inspiration or advice</p>	<p>The gift of helping people spiritually, emotionally, or physically</p>	<p>The ability to guide and manage other people to get the most of their potential</p>
<p>To inform and educate others to help them understand new ideas</p>	<p>Carefully <del>communicating messages from God</del></p>	<p>Continuing <del>the tradition of the apostles through being monks, nuns, deacons, priests or bishops</del></p>	<p>Teaching others about the <del>Christianity through their lives</del></p>	<p>The gift of welcoming others to Jesus and making them feel at home</p>
<p>The choice to live a simple life free from belongings to be with the poor</p>	<p>The ability to help people understand and apply the knowledge</p>		<p>The ability to use words, music or art to share explanations and understanding</p>	<p>The strength to keep faith and continue in the face of hardship</p>

# Charisms at Richard Challoner

**Patron:** Bishop Richard Challoner

**Charisms:** Apostleship  
Communication  
Extraordinary Faith  
Leadership



**What other charisms do you think Challoner showed?**

# Our House Saints

## St Augustine of Canterbury:

**The Context:** The 500s. England had become "dark"—mostly pagan, chaotic, and broken into fighting kingdoms. It was not a safe place.

**The Story:** Pope Gregory saw some English people being sold as slaves in Rome and decided their country needed to hear about Jesus. He sent a nervous Italian monk named Augustine on a massive road trip. Augustine almost quit halfway because he heard the English were "barbarians." But he pushed on. He landed in Kent, converted King Æthelberht (whose wife was already a Christian), and established the Church in England. He became the very first Archbishop of Canterbury. He basically built the infrastructure of the faith in this country from scratch.

### Clues to the Charisms:

Look at his massive journey, his ability to negotiate with a warlord king, and his skill in organizing a new Church from nothing.

### Charisms I can see in the life of St Augustine:

## St Thomas Becket:

**The Context:** The 1100s. A classic medieval power struggle. The King (Henry II) vs. the Church. King Henry wanted full control over everyone, including priests.

**The Story:** Thomas Becket was King Henry's best mate. They were wild, powerful men who basically ran the country. Henry made Thomas the Archbishop of Canterbury, thinking his friend would just help him control the Church. But when Thomas took the job, something clicked. He became a radically pious monk overnight and stopped listening to the King. A huge political war broke out. Thomas was exiled for years, but returned. The King, in a fury, supposedly said, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" Four of the king's knights took him seriously and murdered Thomas right inside Canterbury Cathedral. He died rather than give the state control over God's things.

**Clues to the Charisms:** Look at how he changed his entire personality for the job, his absolute refusal to be bullied by the most powerful man in the world, and his ultimate willingness to pay the final price.

### Charisms I can see in the life of St Thomas Becket:

# Our House Saints

## St Columba:

**The Context:** The 500s. Before Augustine arrived in England, Irish monks were the elite spiritual special forces of Northern Europe. Scotland was full of pagan Picts who were tough and warlike.

**The Story:** Columba was an Irish prince and a strong, educated man of God, but he had a temper. He got into a copyright argument over a psalm-book he had secretly copied, which escalated into an actual clan war where many men died. Devastated by the guilt, Columba went into exile, vowing to convert as many Picts to Christ as had died in the war. He sailed to Scotland and founded a monastery on the tiny island of Iona. From that tiny base, his energy, preaching, and (allegedly) many miracles (including confronting the Loch Ness Monster!) converted the northern Pictish kings and established the Christian faith in Scotland.

### Clues to the Charisms:

Look at how he channeled his intense energy into something holy, how he used his education to teach people, and how he convinced entire warlord nations to lay down their weapons for God.

### Charisms I can see in the life of St Columba:

## St Dunstan:

**The Context:** The 900s. The Vikings were constantly attacking England. The Church had become sloppy, and kings were young, weak, or corrupt.

**The Story:** Dunstan was the original "all-rounder." He was brilliant at everything: a talented artist, a great musician, a gifted silversmith, and a political genius. He became a monk and eventually ran the royal treasury for multiple kings. He used his massive political power to completely overhaul and reform the monasteries, bringing back discipline and education. He wasn't afraid to confront power, once famously physically dragging King Eadwig back from a party where the king was neglecting his coronation duties. He served as Archbishop of Canterbury and was the most powerful and effective "fixer" in the land for decades.

**Clues to the Charisms:** Look at his incredible multi-tasking skills, his political wisdom, and his intense drive to clean up corruption wherever he saw it.

### Charisms I can see in the life of St Dunstan:

# Our House Saints

## St John Fisher:

**The Context:** Tudor England (the 1500s). King Henry VIII wanted a divorce. When the Pope said "no," Henry broke away from the Church and declared himself (and not the Pope) head of the Church in England.

**The Story:** John Fisher was a brilliant intellectual, a bishop, and the Chancellor of Cambridge University. He was the saint of integrity. When Henry ordered all the leaders of England to sign an oath accepting the King as the Church's head, almost every bishop, politician, and priest cowardly signed it to save their skins. John Fisher was the only bishop who refused. He stood completely alone. Even in prison (where the Pope gave him a Cardinal's hat just to annoy Henry), he would not lie. For his quiet, scholarly refusal to call the king the Pope, Henry VIII had him beheaded on Tower Hill.

**Clues to the Charisms:** Look at his powerful mind, his absolute refusal to compromise his conscience, and his incredible courage to stand entirely alone against a tyrant.

**Charisms I can see in the life of St John Fisher:**

## St Thomas More:

**The Context:** Same as John Fisher (Tudor England). More was John Fisher's close friend and the second most powerful man in England (Lord Chancellor).

**The Story:** Thomas More was everything a Tudor man wanted to be: brilliant lawyer, famous author (he wrote Utopia), loving father, and witty friend. He was Henry VIII's right-hand man. But like Fisher, he could not sign the king's oath because he believed the authority of the Church came from God, not the government. More had everything to lose—his power, his family, his wealth. He tried to stay silent, hoping to find a legal loophole, but the state eventually trapped him. At his trial, he gave a famous speech and was executed, famously stating that he died: "The King's good servant, but God's first."

**Clues to the Charisms:** Look at his high intelligence (Counsel), his witty but unshakable integrity, and how he valued his soul more than all the power and riches in the kingdom.

**Charisms I can see in the life of St Thomas More:**

# The Challenge!

We would like to introduce some new saints to our school community – especially ones with relatable charisms.

We are asking all students, all staff, and parents to research and nominate these new saints for us. We will take all the nominations and create a shortlist which our community can decide from.

Ideally, we would like each existing house to “adopt” a saint in addition to their own, and we will work together to foster and grow these new charisms in our community!

## **Some guidelines:**

- 1) **Do some research about some saints (there are examples of names later in this presentation).**
- 2) **Try to choose someone that is relevant to students at Challoner today**
- 3) **Work out what the charisms of your chosen saint**
- 4) **Think about passages or quotes from the saint that you might like to see around our school**
- 5) **Think about how the saint links to our school charisms of “doing ordinary things extraordinarily well” and “keep faith”**

# Some famous saints with charisms

St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)

St. Angela Merici (1474–1540)

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556)

St. Don Bosco (1815–1888)

St. Charbel Makhlouf (1828–1898)

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850–1917)

St. Katharine Drexel (1858–1955)

St. Therese of Lisieux (1873–1897)

St. Don Bosco (1815–1888)

St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894–1941)

St. Carlo Acutis (1991–2006)

# Planning Page

**Name of saint:**

**When and where did they live?**

**What charisms do they show?**

**Why are they relevant to students at Challoner?**

**What passages or quotes from this saint particularly what they are like?**

**How does the saint link to school ethos of “doing ordinary things extraordinarily well” and “keep faith”?**

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**How does the saint link to school ethos of “doing ordinary things extraordinarily well” and “keep faith”?**

**Please go here to nominate**  
**your chosen saints**