



Cardinal Newman High School, Bellshill, ML4 3DW, Scotland.

Cardinal Newman high school was opened in 1977 following the amalgamation of Elmwood secondary, Bothwell, St Saviour's high school, Bellshill and St Catherine's Viewpark. The school is a Roman Catholic six-year comprehensive school catering for boys and girls and covering stages S1 to S6. The ages range from 11 – 12 years and 17- 18 years. It serves Bellshill, Mossend, Viewpark, Birkenshaw, and parts of Uddingston. The school has the population of 1,092 students. The school enjoys very strong links with the local community and has a close business engagement partnerships. Many pupils from all year groups give freely of their time to become involved in community fundraising events.



Fr. Thomas K. Wilberforce C.S.Sp. was born in 1965 in Cape Coast, Ghana and he was ordained Catholic Priest in 1998. Fr. Thomas is the first Spiritan to be appointed full-time Chaplain in Cardinal Newman High School and he is the only full-time school Chaplain in Motherwell Diocese at the moment.

Fr. Thomas' appointment to the school was effected on 1st October, 2015. He received a very warm welcome from both the staff and the students in the school. The staff and the students are absolutely respectful, calm and lovely to work with so Fr. Thomas did not have any difficulty to settle in.

The challenge Fr Thomas is battling with is the Scottish accent. Some of the Scottish speak clearly and distinctly, and it is easy to follow, whereas for some it is absolutely impossible to understand. Fr. Thomas believes that with his great passion of his working relationship with the staff, students and parents he will soon master the Scottish accent.

Fr. Thomas is set out doing the following from Monday to Friday in the School:

On Mondays, Fr. Thomas has Eucharistic Adoration, Class Visit and Spiritual Accompaniment with both the staff and students. On Tuesdays, he has Holy Mass at 8:30am, class visit and Open Forum/Discussions in the school. On Wednesdays he has Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Spiritual Accompaniment. On Thursdays, has Open Forum/Discussions, Class Visit and Holy Mass at 12:40pm. On Fridays Fr. Thomas has Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Spiritual Accompaniment in the School.

Apart from the above programmes, Fr. Thomas has Faculty Masses in the School to enable everyone in the school to attend at least three Masses during the fiscal year.

The whole school celebrates Mass at special assemblies during the year and Homeroom Class Masses are an important feature in the Pastoral Calendar.

Fr. Thomas is very happy to be in Cardinal Newman High School and what he hopes to achieve in the school is to work closely with Parents, teachers, and students to continue to raise the Catholic ethos in the School, so that by the time the students leave the School, they will be able to lead a Christ-like life, a life worthy of their God given vocation.