



RIGHT: Fr Mariadass and altar servers. ABOVE: Uplifting musical accompaniment was provided by students.



All are welcome at St Cuthbert's

ON OCTOBER 10 Fr Mariadass celebrated Holy Mass for and with St Cuthbert's Year 7 pupils and their families at the school's annual Mass of Welcome, writes David Swindells.

The year's theme of belonging was echoed as headmaster Mr Murray quoted the opening hymn All are welcome – reminding us that all are named and loved, and all we do is for the

greater glory of God and the good of others.

In the first reading we heard about the call of the prophet Samuel, and in the gospel, of Jesus' instruction to the disciples to "put out into the deep".

Fr Mariadass' homily encouraged the boys to do the same, and in doing so to add their chapter to the school's 143-year-old story.

To reflect how the landscape of the

West End of Newcastle has changed in recent years, and to demonstrate the commitment to inclusion, each bidding prayer was read in a different language.

More than 35 home languages are spoken at the school. The prayers were said in Russian, Portuguese, Polish, Arabic and Malayalam, with the response being: all are welcome at St Cuthbert's.

The boys sang our recessional hymn

– their chosen hymn for the year – Here I am Lord, with great gusto. This hymn is sung at the end of every assembly.

Following Mass the congregation was invited into the Sixth Form Common Room for refreshments.

Our thanks go to Fr Mariadass, the readers, musicians, choir, altar servers, and all who made this such a wonderful celebration.

Earlier this year, the Catholic Schools

Inspectorate deemed the Catholic life of the school 'outstanding'.

One student described the school as "a brotherhood that was underpinned by faith" and the CSI report stated: "Pastoral care and inclusion are exemplary. Staff go the extra mile for the most vulnerable and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Every decision is made in service to and in the best interests of the boys."



Brass band event raises funds to the tune of £2,000!

OUR Lady and St Wilfrid's Church in Blyth invited Ashington Colliery Brass Band to play at their fundraising event for those in need in Ukraine – and everyone who attended had a fantastic evening, writes Dot Fahey.

Tickets were sold for £5 a few weeks prior to the concert and the church was packed.

The quality and variation of the music was outstanding: our hands were clapping and feet were tapping to the beat.

The band played such a wide range of music, from Blow the wind southerly and Nessun Dorma to tunes from Cilla Black, Queen and The Beatles.

Nigel Stedman, the conductor, explained all about the music.

We sold raffle tickets before the concert started, with all the prizes having been donated.

A staggering £2,000 was raised.

This month our parish link, Mariusz, is going back out to Ukraine, and will be able to buy much-needed goods with these funds – especially for the children.



Pupils at St Alban's, Wardley, look at Bishop Stephen Wright's pectoral cross during his school visit. Read more on page 6.