

FROM THE HEADMASTER  
MR JOHN BROWNE



STONYHURST COLLEGE  
STONYHURST  
CLITHEROE  
LANCASHIRE BB7 9PZ

## STONYHURST COLLEGE

8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Stonyhurst Family,

As many of you may already know, Stonyhurst is delighted to host an annual Holy Week retreat. Each year, families and friends of the wider Stonyhurst community join our chaplaincy team, Jesuits and guest speakers at Stonyhurst to journey in faith over this sacred time. This year we will gather from the afternoon of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April until midday on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

We are delighted to be able to announce that Gemma Simmonds will be joining us for this year's retreat and giving the keynote address. Gemma is a sister of the Congregation of Jesus. She is a senior research fellow at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge, where she is director of the Religious Life Institute, teaching Christian spirituality and pastoral theology. An international speaker and lecturer, she is an honorary fellow of Durham University, past president of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain and chair of trustees of the ecumenical Community of St. Anselm. Gemma assisted Pope Francis in both sessions of the universal synod of the Catholic Church in Rome over the past two years. Her presentation will focus on the theme of reconciliation.

Retreatants will be led in contemplation and personal reflection over the Sacred Triduum, beginning with the Maundy Thursday Liturgy in St Peter's after welcome drinks in our Top Ref and culminating with Mass on Easter Sunday morning.

The retreat offers a wonderful opportunity for people to come together to explore their faith within Jesuit spirituality, which guides the teaching and learning at Stonyhurst. We will follow the Ignatian method of experience, reflection and action. The retreat supports all retreatants in their own spiritual journey, and we include a specially designed programme for primary and secondary age children and young people.

Father Tim Curtis SJ, our Jesuit Chaplain, and Damien Morley, our acting Lay Chaplain, have put together a thought-provoking and stimulating programme that offers opportunities for private and communal prayer and group discussion, exploring the themes of the Holy Week in the wonderful historic setting of Stonyhurst. Retreatants will be given the opportunity for one-to-one spiritual direction with one of the Jesuit team. An afternoon is also set aside for the viewing of our extraordinary Collections with a talk from our Curator, Dr Jan Graffius, sharing Stonyhurst's Jesuit history.



Telephone: 01254 827047 Email: [headmaster@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:headmaster@stonyhurst.ac.uk)  
[www.stonyhurst.ac.uk](http://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk)





## STONYHURST COLLEGE

Whether you join us as a family or as an individual, we look forward to welcoming you to the peaceful, tranquil surroundings of Stonyhurst, which provide an excellent backdrop to support your spiritual journey over Holy Week.

We very much hope that you will join us. Last year, we were oversubscribed, so we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

Please click [here](#) to book your residential or non-residential tickets.

Yours sincerely,

**John Browne**  
Headmaster



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