



3rd February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word – Half Term Three, Week Five

This week- we celebrated Mass with Father Samuel from St Chad's Parish in our school Chapel. This was a wonderful opportunity for our children to take time out of their busy weeks and reflect upon the Gospel message and how we can live our Jesus' message in our own lives. It was lovely to see so many of our children attend voluntarily. A huge thank you to Father Samuel and the Parish for their ongoing support of Catholic Life here at St James'.

This week, our Gospel reading for the **Celebration of the Word comes from Luke 2:22-40**. In this passage, we witness Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus in the temple, where He is recognised as the long-awaited Messiah. Their joyful proclamations remind us that Christ is the fulfilment of God's promises, bringing light and salvation to all people. As we reflect on the Jubilee Year of Hope that lies ahead of us, this passage encourages us to trust in God's plan and remain faithful in prayer. Like Simeon and Anna in this Gospel passage, we are called to be people of patience and faith, seeking Christ in our daily lives and sharing His light with the world.

This week, our focus is on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Option for the Poor**, which calls us to prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable in our society. In school, we reflect on this through prayer, discussion, and action, considering how we can stand in solidarity with those facing hardship. We are encouraged to look beyond our own circumstances and recognise the struggles of others, responding with compassion and a willingness to serve. As followers of Christ, we are called to be a voice for the voiceless, advocating for a society where no one is forgotten or left behind. Our **ongoing form charity events** provide a practical way to live out this social teaching, as we work together to support those in need through fundraising and acts of service. This week, 7M are holding a '*Guess the amount of sweets in the Jar*' competition- a lovely way for our children to put their faith into action and support those in need.

Another way that our school family are showing solidarity with others is through our **Staff Charity 10k race** which will take place in Nantwich on 16th March. We will be running in support of our colleague Mr Walker, and supporting a charity close to his heart called MENTORS. Please have a read of Mr Walker's story in the Headteacher's update this week. If you would like to show your support for this wonderful cause- please visit www.wearementors.net to donate.

As part of our commitment to deepening our school's prayer life, we are introducing a new approach to our end-of-day prayer. Instead of a single shared prayer across all year groups, each year group will now recite a prayer that is most relevant to their age and stage in their journey of faith. This change allows our children to engage more meaningfully with prayer, helping them to reflect on themes that resonate with their experiences and spiritual development. For example, Year Nine will be learning the Act of Contrition, a prayer that encourages reflection on mistakes and the desire for God's forgiveness:

*O my God, because you are so good
I am very sorry that I have sinned against you
and by the help of your grace
I will not sin again.
Amen*



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

By tailoring prayers to each year group, we hope to foster a deeper understanding of faith and a stronger personal connection to God, helping our children to develop a prayer life that they can carry with them throughout their lives.

We also continue with our **lunchtime prayer** each day

Lunchtime Prayer

*Bless us, Oh Lord,
and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty
through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.*

This week, we are inspired by the words of St Francis of Assisi, the **Form Saint** for 7E, who said, "*For it is in giving that we receive.*" St Francis dedicated his life to serving the poor, living humbly, and spreading peace, showing us the importance of selflessness and generosity. In the spirit of St Francis, let us strive to live with open hearts, recognising that true joy is found in giving rather than receiving.

As always, I welcome any feedback you may have. Please feel free to reach out to me at h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.uk.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss

Associate Assistant Headteacher

