



7th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Celebration of the Word – Week Six & Feast of St. Pope John Paul II

Last week, we joyfully celebrated the **Year 7 Welcome Mass** at Our Lady's Catholic Church in Edgeley- one of our local parishes that support our school family. It was a truly beautiful event, and we were immensely proud of our Year 7 children, who participated in the mass with great reverence and creativity. They were a credit to our school. We thank all families who attended and shared in this important moment in their spiritual journey. Videos and images of the Mass are available via our app.

This week's Gospel, **Matthew 21:33-43**, presents the **Parable of the Tenants**, where Jesus speaks of a landowner whose tenants fail to care for his vineyard and reject his messengers. The message teaches us about gratitude and responsibility, reminding us that all we have is a gift from God. For our children, this Gospel highlights the importance of respecting others, taking care of what we've been entrusted with, and responding to God's love with kindness and integrity. It encourages them to make good choices, share generously, and contribute positively to their community.

As we commemorate the **Feast of St. Pope John Paul II**, we are reminded of his deep devotion to the Church and his tireless work for peace and unity among all people. He was tireless in his dedication to welcoming the youth of today into the Catholic Church. His life serves as an inspiration to us all, and this week's focus on the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle of the **Common Good** aligns perfectly with his message of love and service.

The Common Good calls us to work together to improve the well-being of all, ensuring that each person can flourish. St. Pope John Paul II reminded us that "*nobody is so poor they have nothing to give, and nobody is so rich they have nothing to receive.*" By fostering this spirit of giving and mutual support, we strengthen our community and the world around us.

For the week ahead, we will focus on how our children can contribute to the **Common Good** through starting to organise our **charity fundraising** efforts within school. In form time this week, we encourage our children to:

- Reflect on how their efforts can support those in need, both in our local community and globally through voting for their chosen charities for the year ahead
- Participate actively as forms in organised charitable activities, showing their commitment to helping others.
- Help our children to recognise the power of small acts of generosity that, when combined, can have a large impact on the common good.

I am excited to announce our upcoming **Camps International presentations for both children and parents**, where we will introduce this unique ethical impact expedition. This initiative offers our children the opportunity to engage in life-changing experiences while supporting communities in need across the globe. The expedition closely aligns with **Catholic Social Teachings**, particularly the principles of **Solidarity** and the



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Common Good, as it encourages our children to work together, foster global understanding, and make a positive difference in the lives of others. Through this experience, our children will learn the value of service, compassion, and justice in action. The Camps International parent presentation will take place on 14th October at 6:30pm in the school hall and is open to all Year 9 and Year 10 children.

Our **Liturgy of the Hours** continues, and I have included the **October prayer** below, which you may wish to use for reflection at home:

Prayer for October

Dear God,

We ask You to stay with us throughout this month of October. Help us to pray the Rosary with devotion and be thankful for all we have, especially during harvest time. May we spread kindness, love, and peace wherever we go, just like Mary did. Bless us all in our studies, friendships, and lives.

Amen.

St. James – Pray for us.

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's reflection quote comes from **St. Pope John Paul II** himself: *"The future starts today, not tomorrow."* Let us remind our children of the importance of living in the present, taking small, meaningful actions today to build a future filled with faith, love, and service to the common good.

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

Yours faithfully,

Miss H Purkiss
Associate Assistant Headteacher