



11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Celebration of the Word Week Three**

This week we celebrated Mass as a whole school. Our theme was new beginnings and gifts and talents. Father Rafferty joined us to celebrate and all children participated in worship through hymns and listening to the Gospel. The children were outstanding throughout the celebration and we look forward to our next celebration of Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October to welcome our new Year 7 children to the St James Family.

This week's Celebration of the Word is focused on the **International Day of Peace**. As we reflect on the significance of peace in our lives and in the world, we are guided by **Matthew 5:9**: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." This scripture reminds us of the important role each of us plays in fostering peace and reconciliation. As we observe this day, let us commit ourselves to being peacemakers in our school, our homes, and our communities. We pray for God's grace to help us spread kindness, understanding, and harmony in all our interactions. May we be inspired to build a more peaceful world, starting with our own actions and relationships.

For the week ahead; we are focussing on the Catholic Social teaching of **Solidarity**. This means standing together and supporting one another, especially those who might be struggling or facing challenges. Solidarity is about recognising that we are all part of one big family, no matter where we come from. It teaches us to care for each other, show kindness, and work towards fairness for everyone. By showing solidarity, we help build a community where everyone feels valued and supported.

We encourage you to discuss, as a family, the importance of standing together and supporting others, especially those in need. A simple conversation about how we are all part of a larger community and how small acts of kindness, like helping a friend or showing empathy, can make a big difference and foster this principle. Encouraging children to think about how they can show solidarity at home or in school, whether by standing up for others or contributing to group efforts, helps them understand that we are stronger when we work together and support one another.

We will be taking children to visit the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis next week. A final reminder that if your child would like to participate and has not yet registered their interest, please let myself or their form tutor know as soon as possible. Places are limited on this occasion.

Our Liturgy of the Hours continues and I have included them below in case you would like to use these as a focus for reflection at home.

The prayer for September and our lunchtime prayer are as follows:

End of day prayer for September:

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.

Amen.



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Lunchtime prayer:

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

"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14 is a lovely quote to start the week with- may it guide your thoughts and actions over the coming days.

We are always happy to receive feedback so please do get in touch if you have any comments or queries, my email address is [h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss  
Associate Assistant Headteacher