



11th November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Celebration of the Word – Half Term Two, Week Three

Today, we will mark **Remembrance day with a whole school service** that concludes with the observance of a 2 minute silence. This will take place on our school grounds, and will be led by Year 11 children. The Last Post will be played by one of our talented prefects. It is important for us to come together as a whole school family to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms, honouring their legacy and reflecting on the values of courage, unity, and peace that guide us today. Images will be available after the event on our St James' app.

This week, our Gospel reading and school **Celebration of the Word is Mark 12:38-44**. In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples about true humility and generosity, pointing to a poor widow who gives all she has, even though it is very little. Jesus shows us that true giving comes from the heart, not from the amount we give. As we mark Remembrance Day today, this message encourages us to think about those who gave selflessly, even at great personal cost, for the freedom and dignity of others.

In connection with this week's focus on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of **Dignity of Work and Participation**, we encourage our children to recognise and respect the value of everyone's contributions within our school family. This week, we invite students to honour this principle by taking pride in their own work and supporting others in theirs. Simple acts like working hard on a group project within lessons, showing gratitude for those who help us daily, or encouraging friends in their own efforts can highlight the importance of everyone's role in our communities- both school and elsewhere. By actively participating and valuing each other's contributions, we can create a more respectful and supportive environment for all.

We are currently planning some exciting fundraising events for Caritas, a Diocesan-supported charity dedicated to putting our Catholic faith into action by loving and supporting our neighbours. Bishop Mark has encouraged all local Catholic schools to support this worthy cause, and we are thrilled to announce that our school will be hosting a **Carols for Caritas concert on 12th December**. Tickets for this festive event will be available to purchase soon so please add the date to your diary- it promises to be a festive evening. In the meantime, if you or a business owner you know would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact me directly at h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk. Any donations would be gratefully received and will help raise funds during our Caritas Christmas Initiative. We appreciate your ongoing support in making these efforts a success!

This week, Rang Bulan- a small underdeveloped village in the heart of Borneo, which so warmly welcomed our St James' children this summer, has faced the heartbreaking devastation of a whole village fire that took away their homes and lifetime possessions. During our month-long visit, we experienced the villagers' warmth, hospitality and kindness, even as they shared from their very limited resources. Now, as a Catholic community committed to living out Catholic Social Teachings, we have a duty to stand with them in **solidarity as global Catholic citizens**. The people of Rang Bulan urgently need funds for food, medical supplies, clothing and to begin rebuilding their lives and homes, as they have no government support. Let us come together to provide the emergency aid they desperately need, showing our compassion and care in action. **Every donation helps to restore hope and dignity to our friends in Rang Bulan.**



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

If you wish to donate to this emergency appeal- please do so via the link on Parent Pay. Thank you so much on behalf of the people of Rang Bulan for any support you can offer.

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the Catholic community remembers those who have died. Our school prayer for November reflects this theme- we say this each day in our lessons and we will take this time to remember all those we know who have gone ahead of us. I have included our **prayer** below for your own reflection at home:

Prayer for November

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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 quote for reflection comes from Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, whose feast day we celebrate on November 13th: *"Remember that God is a good Father and that He always pardons, always consoles, always helps."* Let this quote remind us to turn to God for strength and compassion this week if we face challenges, encouraging us to show kindness and support to one another.

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