



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

13th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

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

This week, our Gospel reading for the **Celebration of the Word is from Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**. In this passage, we hear of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. As Jesus is baptised, the heavens open, and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him like a dove, accompanied by a voice from heaven declaring Him as the beloved Son of God. This profound moment marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, inviting us to reflect on our own baptism and the call to live as children of God.

This Gospel reminds us of the significance of humility, obedience, and recognising God's presence in our lives. It encourages us to deepen our faith and to be mindful of how we, too, are called to live out our identity as God's beloved. In school, we reflect on these themes through prayer, discussion, and acts of kindness, seeking to grow closer to God and to one another.

During this second week of the new term, our focus is on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Dignity of Work and Participation**, which emphasises the value of work as a way to contribute to God's creation and uphold the common good. We encourage our children to reflect on how their talents and efforts can be used to serve others and bring about justice in the world. This principle reminds us that everyone has the right to meaningful work and the opportunity to participate fully in society. In school, we celebrate the unique gifts of each individual and explore how we can work together to build a community rooted in respect, fairness, and love.

This month, our **end-of-day prayer theme** focuses on Pope Francis' call for Catholics to pray for the right to education for all. Education is not only a fundamental human right but also a pathway to justice, dignity, and a more compassionate world. Pope Francis reminds us, "Education is an act of hope that, from the present, looks to the future." In solidarity with his message, we reflect on the importance of ensuring that every child, especially migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, has access to education. I have included the prayer below should you wish to use this in your own personal prayer this January:

*Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war,
that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a more human world,
might always be respected.
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.*





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"Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14) reminds us that love should guide our actions and decisions. This week, we can reflect on this quote by considering how we interact with others: are we acting out of kindness, patience, and understanding, or are we letting frustration or selfishness dictate our behaviour? In our daily lives, we might pause before responding in challenging moments to ensure our words and actions reflect love. We can also make small intentional choices, such as offering encouragement to someone struggling or showing appreciation to those who support us.

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

