



18th November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

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

Last week, **we marked Remembrance Day with a whole-school service** that was beautifully led by our Year 11 pupils. The observance of the 2-minute silence on our school grounds was a moving tribute, and our talented prefect's performance of The Last Post added a powerful touch. Our entire school family honoured the occasion with great respect and sincerity, with all year groups coming together to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms. It was an inspiring moment in our school day that truly reflected the values of courage, unity, and peace that guide us today. Images capturing this meaningful event are available on our St James' app.

Last week, we also welcomed **The Catholic Schools Inspectorate** into our school to observe Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship within our school community. I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and children who supported the inspection in any way.

This week, our Gospel reading and school Celebration of the Word is from **Mark 13:24-32**. In this passage, Jesus speaks of a time of great change, reminding His disciples to stay alert and faithful, as no one knows the day or hour of His coming. He says, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."* This message encourages us to live with a sense of readiness, hope, and trust in God, even in uncertain times. May this Gospel inspire our children to embrace faith, resilience, and compassion in their daily lives.

This week's focus on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle is Stewardship**. We encourage our children to recognise and appreciate the responsibility we each have to care for God's creation. This week, we invite students to honour this principle by being mindful of how they treat the world environment and the school environment. Simple actions like reducing waste, recycling, or respecting school property are ways to live out stewardship in our daily lives. By taking these small steps, we help protect and sustain our world for future generations, creating a community rooted in respect and care for all creation.

Just a reminder 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 on Parent Pay so please add the date to your diary- it promises to be a festive evening. We will notify parents via our app when tickets are released. 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!

Last week, we launched an emergency appeal for Rang Bulan, a small, underdeveloped village in the heart of Borneo that so warmly welcomed our St James' children this summer. The village has faced heartbreaking devastation due to a fire that destroyed homes and belongings. Thanks to your incredible generosity, **we have raised over £400 in just 7 days**, which is an amazing response. We are passing the funds to the village this week and will keep you updated on how your contributions are helping. Thank you for standing in **solidarity** with our friends in Rang Bulan and supporting them in their time of need.

We are also in our final week of our Foodbank Collection for Chelwood food bank in Stockport. If you have any items that you wish to donate, please send them to school with your children and we will ensure these reach



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

those most in need this Christmas time. **The final date for donations is 24th November.** This is a wonderful way for us to live out the Catholic social teaching of **Solidarity**- by standing by those who need our help most in our local community.

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.*

All of our children have started to participate in hymn practice during form time. This is a wonderful link to the **feast day of Saint Cecilia on 22nd November**, we reflect on her words: *"Music is the gift of God, and it leads us to God."* Saint Cecilia reminds us that music has the power to uplift our spirits, unite us, and bring us closer to the divine. Her legacy encourages us to appreciate music as a beautiful expression of faith and gratitude, a way to feel God's presence in our lives, and a gift to be shared with others.

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