



23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

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

Today we are taking a group of our children to visit the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis. This is a very special occasion, and we are excited to update you on the experience of the children through our St James' app. I encourage you to use the app and have a look at the updates and photographs from this rare opportunity, ahead of Blessed Carlo Acutis' canonisation on the 20<sup>th</sup> October.

This week's Celebration of the Word is centred around the Gospel reading from **Matthew 18:21-35**, which emphasises forgiveness, and ties in beautifully with the **Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity**. In this passage, Jesus teaches that we should forgive others countless times, reminding Peter that we are called to forgive "not seven times, but seventy-seven times,". This highlights the inherent worth and dignity of every one of our children, regardless of their actions. The CST principle of Dignity reminds us that every human being is made in the image of God and deserves respect, even when they have wronged us. As we reflect on both the Gospel and this principle, let us remind our children that we must strive to treat everyone with compassion and honour their God-given dignity. By forgiving others, and practising reconciliation within our St James' community, and our daily lives- we are living out this gospel message and displaying our faith.

For the week ahead; we are focussing on the Catholic Social teaching of **Subsidiarity during lesson time**. This CST principle encourages decision-making at the most local level possible, empowering individuals and communities to take responsibility for their own actions. Subsidiarity teaches us that everyone has an important role to play in our school family and that when people closest to an issue are given the opportunity to contribute, solutions and actions are always more meaningful and effective. It allows people the freedom to make their own choices.

Our teaching staff will focus on ways to incorporate this principle in lessons by:

- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their learning and decision-making within the lesson
- By involving children in discussions about problem-solving and allowing them to contribute ideas on class activities, this will show them how their voice and actions matter
- Highlighting how each individual can positively influence their immediate environment such as lesson time, the task they are doing-this empowers the children to see that they have the ability to effect positive change

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



**ST JAMES'**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

name.

Amen.

Lunchtime prayer:

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

Our quote for reflection this week is *"Joy is the serious business of heaven."* from C. S. Lewis. As we navigate the week ahead, let us remember that embracing joy not only enriches our lives but also reflects the divine spirit of heaven, reminding us to find delight in both the simple moments and our everyday connections with those around us.

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