



25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Celebration of the Word – Half Term Four, Week Five**

This week, our Gospel reading for the **Celebration of the Word** comes from **Luke 13:1-9**. In this passage, Jesus responds to those who ask Him whether suffering is a sign of our sins. He shares the parable of the barren fig tree, where a gardener pleads for more time to care for the tree, hoping it will bear fruit. This passage tells us about God's patience and forgiveness, offering us the opportunity to turn back to Him.

Last week, staff took part in a Formation session on enhancing the **Liturgical life of our school**, focussing on deepening the children's engagement in Prayer and Worship. The session was a great success, and we are already seeing its impact, with children now standing for the Gospel reading during the Celebration of the Word. We look forward to continuing this journey, ensuring our liturgical life grows in meaning and participation for all.

Our children continue to collect pennies for our **St Joseph's Penny appeal**, embracing the spirit of giving during this season of reflection and charity. They will be gathering any spare pennies they have over the coming weeks, culminating in an exciting penny race within each year group! If you would like to support our Lenten efforts for St Joseph's Penny, donations can be made through Parent Pay. Any contributions to this worthy cause would be greatly appreciated.

Our **Easter fundraiser collection** is still going strong and I wish to thank all those who have donated so far. The Chocolate Raffle will take place here in school towards the Easter break. We would be grateful for any more donations of chocolate (chocolate bars, Easter eggs, boxes of chocolate). These can be handed in to your child's Form Tutor or they are welcome to bring them to myself in room CS8. If you wish to make a monetary donation, you may do so via ParentPay. As always, we are grateful for any support you can offer to the Catholic Life of our school.

This week, we are reflecting on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle of Rights and Responsibilities**, which reminds us that every person has fundamental rights that must be respected, but also responsibilities to uphold the dignity and well-being of others. In school, we explore this teaching by considering how we can protect and respect the rights of those around us. Our children will reflect on this in form time and during the Celebration of the Word, looking at the example of St. Thomas More, who remained steadfast in his Catholic principles even though it was hard to do so, reminding us of the importance of defending what is right, even when it is difficult.

As part of our commitment to deepening our school's prayer life, we have introduced a new approach to our end-of-day prayer. Instead of a single shared prayer across all year groups, each year group now recites a **prayer that is most relevant to their age and stage in their journey of faith**. This March, Year 11 children are learning the Serenity prayer ahead of their GCSE exams:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

**Amen**



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

This week, **St. Christopher is our Saint of the Week from 8S**. As the patron saint of travellers, he reminds us of the importance of selflessness, courage, and faith in God's protection. His example encourages us to support one another on life's journey. May we find strength in knowing God walks with us during this Lenten season.

As always, I welcome any feedback you may have. Please feel free to reach out to me at [h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.uk](mailto:h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.uk).

Yours faithfully

**Miss H Purkiss**  
*Associate Assistant Headteacher*

