



27th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

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

On Friday, schools around the UK launched the **Jubilee Year of Hope**. To mark this remarkable occasion, we held a wonderfully varied celebration in school. The day was filled with engaging activities and events that allowed all children to actively participate and immerse themselves in the theme of hope. We also celebrated Mass with Father Samuel from St Chad's Church. We came together as a school community to reflect and pray on this significant year. The atmosphere was vibrant, and it was clear that our children were fully engaged in all the activities- such as Jubilee Haiku creation, memory games reflections, and treasure hunts, making the launch of the Jubilee Year a truly memorable and meaningful experience for everyone. Images are available to view on our school app.

This week, our Gospel reading for the **Celebration of the Word** comes from Luke 1:1-4 and 4:14-21. In these passages, we learn that Luke carefully recorded the events of Jesus' life to provide an orderly account of His ministry, beginning with the announcement of His mission in the synagogue of Nazareth. This passage speaks powerfully to us as we reflect on the Jubilee Year of Hope. It reminds us that Jesus came to bring hope and healing to all, and as His followers, we are called to continue this mission in our own lives. We are invited to be instruments of God's mercy and compassion, reaching out to those in need and sharing the hope that comes from faith.

This week, our focus is on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle of Rights and Responsibilities**, which reminds us that every person has fundamental rights, but also the responsibility to respect the rights of others. As we reflect on this principle, we also observe **Holocaust Memorial Day**, a time for us to remember and reflect on the atrocities of the Holocaust. In school, we mark this important occasion through prayers and assemblies, honouring the victims and survivors and recognising the importance of standing up against discrimination, hatred, and injustice. This day calls us to consider our own rights and responsibilities, not only as individuals but as members of a wider community, committed to creating a world where dignity, respect, and compassion are upheld for all. As we reflect on the Holocaust, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to promote peace, tolerance, and understanding in the world around us.

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.



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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, we are inspired by the words of **St. Monica, one of our Year 11 Form Saints**, who once said, *"Nothing is far from God. The prayers of a mother are powerful beyond measure."* St. Monica's life was a powerful example of perseverance, prayer, and love, as she tirelessly prayed for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine. In the spirit of St. Monica, let us reflect on how we can embody her dedication in our own lives by supporting and encouraging those around 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

