



30th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Celebration of the Word Week Five & CAFOD Family Fast Day

Last week, we had the privilege of taking a group of our children to visit the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis. The experience was truly extraordinary, and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. I encourage you to explore the St James' app, where you will find the photographs capturing this special moment. This event gave the children a profound opportunity to connect with their faith and witness an important part of our Catholic tradition. All Key Stage Three children will receive a bookmark in honour of Blessed Carlo Acutis this week.

I am pleased to invite all Year 7 children and their families to join us for the **Welcome Mass at Our Lady's Catholic Church in Edgeley on Thursday this week, 3rd October, at 6pm**. This special Mass is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer, as we welcome our new Year 7 cohort and their families into our school family. I look forward to celebrating this milestone in their journey of faith and education with you.

This week's **Celebration of the Word** is focused on the Gospel reading from **Matthew 21:28-32**, which tells the parable of the two sons. In this passage, Jesus speaks about obedience and repentance. One son initially refuses his father's request but later changes his mind and does what his father asks, while the other son agrees to help but ultimately does not follow through. This parable challenges us to reflect on the sincerity of our actions and reminds us that true repentance is demonstrated by doing what is right, not just saying the right words.

This message also aligns with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of **Solidarity**, encouraging us to actively stand together as a school, doing what is good and just. Like the first son who ultimately obeys, we are called to act with love and compassion, showing solidarity through our deeds, especially in supporting those in need and fostering unity in our community. In assemblies this week- we will be reflecting upon which charities the children would like to support over the coming year- bringing us closer to our neighbours and putting this social teaching into action. Let us guide our children to understand that their actions matter and that living out their faith requires making choices that reflect kindness, justice, and responsibility.

CAFOD Family Fast Day is an important part of our focus this week as well. As we reflect on the significance of sharing our resources with those in need, I encourage our children to engage in small acts of self-denial, offering their prayers and sacrifices in solidarity with those facing hunger and hardship across the world. This is a powerful way for our children to live out the values of their faith and contribute to a more just and equitable world.

Our daily **Liturgy of the Hours** continues, and I have included the new prayer for October below, which you may wish to use for reflection at home with your children:



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Prayer for October

Dear God,

As we end our day, we ask You to stay with us throughout this month of October. Help us to pray the Rosary with devotion and be thankful for all we have, especially during harvest time. May we spread kindness, love, and peace wherever we go, just like Mary did. Bless us all in our studies, friendships, and lives.

Amen.

St James – Pray for us.

We would also like to remind you of our **lunchtime prayer**, which is a daily part of our school life:

Lunchtime Prayer:

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

Amen.

As we reflect on this week, our quote for reflection is from Blessed Carlo Acutis: **"To be always united with Jesus, this is my life's programme."** Let this inspire us all to stay connected to our faith, supporting one another in solidarity, love, and compassion.

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to email me at h.purkiss@stjamescheadle.co.uk. I am always grateful for your thoughts.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss
Associate Assistant Headteacher