



31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

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

This week, people in our school and local community will be celebrating Eid, a time of joy, gratitude, and togetherness. As a Catholic family, we respect and acknowledge all faiths. We send our warmest wishes to those celebrating this festival- **Eid Mubarak!**

This week, our Gospel reading for the **Celebration of the Word comes from Luke 15:11-32**. In this passage, Jesus shares the parable of the Prodigal Son, where a father welcomes back his lost son with open arms after he has squandered his inheritance. This passage reminds us of God's endless mercy and love, showing that no matter how far we stray, He is always ready to forgive and embrace us when we turn back to Him.

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 Option for the Poor**, which calls us to prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable in our society. During Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are reminded of our responsibility to care for those who are struggling. In school, we explore this teaching in form time by considering how we can support those in need through acts of kindness and generosity. Our children will reflect on this by looking at the example of **St Vincent de Paul**, who dedicated his life to serving the poor and sick, reminding us that true faith is shown through compassion and action.

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**. Year 7 children are learning an adapted version of the Official Jubilee Year of Hope prayer:

*Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.*

*Holy Spirit, our inspiration, in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our call to grow in faith and love.*

*Help us to hear you in scripture, to see Jesus in others, and to be united as God's global family.*

*Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.*



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## **Amen**

This week, **Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is our Saint of the Week from 9S**. Known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," she is the patron saint of ecology and the environment. Despite facing hardship and rejection for her faith, she remained devoted to God, finding peace in prayer and nature. Her example inspires us to trust in God's plan and care for His creation. As she once said, *"Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?"* This week, let us help our children to follow God's will with courage and love 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**

