



8th July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on Saint Benedict, as it is his Feast Day this coming Thursday.

St Benedict was born into a distinguished family in central Italy, studied at Rome, and early in life was drawn to monasticism. He had an idea of gathering various families of monks into one "Grand Monastery" to give them the benefit of unity, fraternity, and permanent worship in one house. Finally, he began to build what was to become one of the most famous monasteries in the world—Monte Cassino, commanding three narrow valleys running toward the mountains north of Naples. The Rule that gradually developed prescribed a life of liturgical prayer, study, manual labour, and living together in community under a common abbot. Benedictine charity showed concern for the people in the surrounding countryside.

Many of St Benedict's rules link to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and we can learn much from them:

- Unity: Working together in Solidarity
- Fraternity: Living as a community and working towards the Common Good
- Study and Labour: Dignity of Work and Participation which gives our lives value
- Benedictine charity: Option for the Poor, helping the most vulnerable in society

The children will think about how they can live out these Principles and will be asked to choose one to live out this week. You may wish to discuss this with your child.

Our end of the day prayer for July and our lunchtime prayer are as follows.

End of day prayer for July:

July is the month in the church's year which is dedicated to the precious blood of Jesus so we pray this prayer attributed to St Catherine of Siena:

Precious Blood, ocean of divine mercy: Flow upon us.
Precious Blood, most pure offering: Procure us every grace.
Precious Blood, hope and refuge of sinners: Atoned for us.
Precious Blood, delight of holy souls: Draw us.
Amen

Lunchtime prayer:

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



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

We are always happy to receive feedback so please do get in touch if you have any comments or queries, my email address is c.pickles@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher