



9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Celebration of the Word Week Two**

This week's Celebration of the Word is focussed on the theme of new beginnings, gifts and talents. Children will reflect on Matthew's gospel which tells us *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"*. This is a wonderful passage which tells us how important it is to use our God given talents proudly and to the best of our ability. Our children have many varied strengths and talents, they are all Imago Dei and through reflection on this during our Celebration of the Word this week; we hope they will approach the new year with determination to use their gifts and shine in their school life.

This week we are looking forward to celebrating **whole school Mass**. It is a wonderful opportunity for the entire school to come together and participate in a long standing tradition here at St James' whereby we give thanks and ask for God's blessing for the year ahead. Mass will be celebrated by Father Rafferty, and will follow our theme of new beginnings, gifts and talents. Children will also be practising hymns during Form time and music lessons ready for Friday's celebration. Any children who have received their First Holy Communion will be able to participate in the sacrament of the Eucharist. All children are welcome to receive a blessing during Mass if they wish, regardless of their personal beliefs. Mass is a time when we come together and unite as one St James' family.

Another exciting event is the visit of the **Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis**. Carlo Acutis, a Catholic Italian teenager who died in 2006 from Leukaemia, will be beatified on 10<sup>th</sup> October in Assisi, Italy. Carlo was a young person who loved football, computer games and the Eucharist. He has been the subject of interest around the world. Pope Francis referred to Carlo as a model of holiness in a digital age. Carlo's life should teach today's young people how to properly use and enjoy technology, including the internet and social media whilst having a faith they are proud of. St James' will be taking children to visit Carlo's relics when they are in Manchester on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September. I am sure this will be a great experience for our children. If your child would like to be involved in this visit, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

**Our Catholic Social teaching focus this week is Dignity**. We believe every human person is made in the image and likeness of God. This is a gift that we all share as fellow human beings; we are all infinitely loved by our Creator. God is present in every human person, regardless of religion, culture, nationality, orientation or economic standing. Each one of us is unique and beautiful. We are called to treat every person and every creature with loving respect. This week, as we embark upon a new school year, our Faculties will be reflecting on how we can educate and encourage our children to display dignity and respect in all areas of their lives.

Another area of devotion within St James' is our Liturgy of the Hours. As you may be aware, each Form time starts in prayer and we also pause as a school Family to pray at lunchtime and at the end of the day. The end of the day prayer changes each month according to the liturgical time of the year. This September, Pope Francis has asked us to pray for **our environment and those affected by climate change**.

The prayer for September and our lunchtime prayer are as follows:



**ST JAMES'**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

End of day prayer for September:

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.

Amen.

Lunchtime prayer:

Bless us, Oh Lord,  
and these thy gifts which  
we are about to receive from thy bounty,  
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 [h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk](mailto:h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss  
Associate Assistant Headteacher

