



20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Celebration of the Word**

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians which is celebrated this Friday. As you are probably aware, our school and our churches are part of Shrewsbury Diocese, this is one of 22 dioceses in the country. A Diocese refers to a community of the Christian faithful in communion of faith and sacraments and it is led by the Bishop, our Bishop in Shrewsbury is Bishop Mark. Our Lady Help of Christians is the Patron Saint of Shrewsbury Diocese hence why we are focusing on her feast day.

Our Lady is such a key figure in the church and May is the month in which we traditionally honour Mary. Many Christians undertake pilgrimages during this month to shrines associated with the Blessed Virgin. We can find help in asking for Mary's intercession, joining our prayers to her intercession, but also the confidence that God continues to act in the world. God hears the cry of those who suffer and God responds. With maternal love for us, Mary wants what is best for us - she wants Jesus for us. Her feasts not only empower us to turn to her in prayer, but also to love Jesus and others with a greater love.

The children will be asked to reflect on how they can live out the message of God here on earth with inspiration from our Mother Mary. Perhaps they can do something for someone else who is struggling and show them the love Mary shows to us. This week's prayer links to the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of the **Common Good**; what we can do here on earth so everyone can flourish. How can we live out Mary's example and love others?

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

End of day prayer for May:

May is the month in the church's year which is dedicated to Mary so let us pray:

Hail Mary,  
Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.  
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.



# ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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](mailto:c.pickles@stjamesheadle.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles  
Senior Deputy Headteacher