



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

12th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word - Half Term Five, Week Three

This week's Gospel which is the **theme of our Celebration of the Word** is from John 10:27–30, where Jesus says: *"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand."* These powerful words reassure us of the deep and lasting relationship we share with God. He knows us, and He protects us. In the midst of exam pressures, and everyday worries our children face, we, and they, can find comfort in the knowledge they are held safely in God's hands.

We saw a historic moment in our Church last week with the **election of our new Pope**, Pope Leo XIV. He brings with him a heart for unity, service, and simplicity, and a deep desire to listen to young people and renew the Church's mission in a changing world. A former teacher, he has spoken about building "a Church of mercy and encounter." His election reminds us of the universality of the Church. Here at **St James'**, we reflect that same community spirit as we look to serve one another, walk in faith, and grow as Global Catholic Citizens inspired by Gospel values.

Our **Catholic Social Teaching** focus this week is **Stewardship**. This is the call to care for creation and to use our time, talents, and resources wisely. Stewardship means recognising that everything we have is a gift from God, and we are called to protect and nurture it for the good of all. As we move through the term, let us reflect on how we care for our environment, our relationships, and our school community.

We hold our **Year 11 students in our prayers this week as they continue their GCSE examinations**. We are proud of the hard work they have done and the resilience they have shown. May they enter each exam with confidence, peace, and clarity of mind.

Here is a short prayer that you may wish to use this week to join us in praying for our children as they enter this exam season:

Loving God, bless our Year 11 students. Calm their hearts, strengthen their minds, and surround them with Your peace. Amen.

Our **Form Saint of the Week** is **St. Joseph**, chosen by **8C**. St Joseph is a powerful example of quiet strength, faithfulness, and trust in God's will. As the earthly father of Jesus and protector of the Holy Family, he is a model for all of us in how to live with humility, responsibility, and love. Though the Gospels record no spoken words from Joseph, his actions speak volumes. The angel said to him, *"Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife"* (Matthew 1:20), and Joseph responded with obedience and courage. His life teaches us that sometimes the greatest acts of faith are lived out in silence, service, and trust. May St Joseph inspire us this week.



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I welcome any feedback you may have. Please feel free to get in touch with me at h.purkiss@stjamescheadle.uk

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss