



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

14th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Celebration of the Word – Week Seven & Feast of St. Teresa of Avila

This week's Gospel reading is **Mark 10:17-30**. It is a Gospel that is closely linked to our School Ethos and Mission Statement: *"To ensure everyone within our school **family** achieves their full potential, to encourage learning and development through **faith**, and to strive for **excellence**."* In this wonderful passage, Jesus speaks with a rich young man, challenging him to give up his worldly possessions and follow Him. When the man hesitates and walks away, Jesus reminds His disciples, *"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."* For our children, this Gospel teaches that while some challenges in our daily lives may seem overwhelming at times, with faith and trust in God, they can overcome any obstacle and live out our school mission statement. This Gospel shows us that true fulfilment comes not from material possessions but from living out our **faith**, showing kindness to others within our school **family**, and striving to reach our full potential with God's help.

As we celebrate the Feast of **St. Teresa of Avila**, a Saint known for her deep spirituality, we reflect on her teachings about the power of prayer and trust in God's guidance. This connects to our new **meditative prayer group**, led by our Faith Prefects, which will take place on **Wednesdays at lunchtime in our Chapel**. Participation is voluntary for all pupils, offering them a peaceful space to reflect, pray, and deepen their faith. It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to grow spiritually and find calm amidst the busy school day.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be hosting a **whole school Mass** on **1st November 2024** in celebration of **All Saints' Day at 11:30am in the Sports Hall**. Father Mark from St Winifred's Parish has kindly agreed to celebrate with us to mark this Feast Day within school. We would love to invite members of our children's family to join us, but as space is limited, attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a place for yourself or other family members, please either complete the Google Form on the link provided at the end of this update or email me directly at h.purkiss@stjamescheadle.co.uk. We would love to welcome you to celebrate this wonderful school tradition with us.

In connection with this week's focus on the **Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle of Option for the Poor**, we remind our children of the importance of supporting those in need. St. Teresa of Avila emphasised the need to love and serve others, particularly the most vulnerable in society. As a school, we encourage our children to live out this principle through acts of kindness and participation in charity fundraising. In the coming weeks, we will begin our school's annual charity initiatives, encouraging each form to take part in raising money for those who are less fortunate, fostering a spirit of generosity and compassion. We are also hosting a parental meeting for our upcoming Camps International ethical impact expedition to Peru on Monday 14th October at 6:30pm in the main school hall- we hope to see many of you there to learn more about this amazing opportunity for our children.

For reflection at home, I have included our **October prayer** below:

Prayer for October

Dear God,

We ask You to stay with us throughout this month of October. us to pray the Rosary with devotion and be thankful for all we have, especially during harvest time. May we spread kindness, love, and peace wherever we



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go, just like Mary did. Bless us all in our studies, friendships, and lives.

Amen.

St. James – Pray for us.

We also continue with our **lunchtime prayer** each day:

Lunchtime Prayer

Bless us, Oh Lord,

and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty

through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

This week's quote for reflection comes from **St. Teresa of Avila** herself: *"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing away; God never changes."* Let us remind our children that, in moments of uncertainty, they can trust in God's enduring presence and love.

As always, I welcome any feedback you may have. Please feel free to reach out to me at **h.purkiss@stjamescheadle.uk**.

Yours faithfully,

Miss H Purkiss

Associate Assistant Headteacher

All Saints Day Whole School Mass google form- <https://forms.gle/FMhRyLzKygSVvjx49>

