



25th November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Celebration of the Word – Half Term Two, Week Five

This week, our Gospel reading and school **Celebration of the Word is from John 18:33-37**. In this passage, Jesus stands before Pilate and speaks of His kingdom, which is not of this world. He says, *“Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”* This message reminds us of the eternal nature of Christ’s kingdom and calls us to live as people of truth, guided by His voice in all that we do.

We can discuss this week’s Gospel with our children by reflecting on what it means to *“listen to His voice”* in our daily lives. Encourage them to think about how they can seek truth by being honest, standing up for what is right, and showing kindness to others. This week, they can live this out at school by practising small acts of integrity, such as helping a friend in need, admitting mistakes, or sharing encouragement with those who may feel left out. Let us remind our children that by listening to Jesus and living truthfully, they become part of His kingdom and reflect His love to the world.

This week’s focus on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle is the Common Good**. We encourage our children to recognise the importance of working together for the benefit of all, ensuring that everyone’s well-being is considered. This week, we invite the children to honour this principle by considering how their actions affect those around them. By focussing on the well-being of all, we foster a sense of unity within our school family-making everyone feel as though they belong.

Just a reminder that our school will be hosting a **Carols for Caritas concert on 12th December**. Tickets for this festive event will be available to purchase soon on Parent Pay so please add the date to your diary- it promises to be a festive evening. We will notify parents via our app when tickets are released. In the meantime, if you or a business owner you know would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact me directly at h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.co.uk. Any donations would be gratefully received and will help raise funds during our Caritas Christmas Initiative. We appreciate your ongoing support in making these efforts a success!

I am excited to announce that this Advent, each Key Stage Three form will have the opportunity to experience a special **Travelling Nativity reflection** as part of our spiritual preparations for Christmas.

During the reflection, each child will write their own Advent prayer on a candle template. These prayers will be displayed around school as a collective display of our faith and reflection during this holy season. We hope this travelling nativity will enrich your child's spiritual experience of Advent and deepen their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. **The travelling nativity will take place from 27th November to 18th December.**

Our Foodbank Collection has been extremely successful, with some forms providing over 150 items. These donations will be collected by a local volunteer this week, and they will make a real difference to those in need this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated in any way.

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the Catholic community remembers those who have died. Our school prayer for November reflects this theme- we say this each day in our lessons and we will take this time to remember all those we know who have gone ahead of us. I have included our **prayer** below for your own reflection at home:



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Prayer for November

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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.*

Our weekly quote "*Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men*" from St Andrew invites us to reflect on our own calling to follow Jesus and share His message with others. Like St Andrew, we are encouraged to lead others to Christ through our actions, words, and kindness. This week, let us ask our children, and ourselves to be more mindful of how we can bring others closer to Christ—whether through a kind word, offering support, or simply being a good example of Christian love and patience.

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

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss

Associate Assistant Headteacher

