



28th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Celebration of the Word – Half Term Two, Week One & The Feast of All Saints

This week's Gospel reading and our school Celebration of the Word is **Mark 10:46-52**. In this passage, Jesus encounters Bartimaeus, a blind man who calls out to Him for mercy. Despite being told to be quiet by those around him, Bartimaeus persists, and Jesus responds to his faith by restoring his sight.

This Gospel highlights the importance of faith and perseverance, even in the face of challenges or discouragement. For our children, it teaches that no matter the obstacles they face, they should not be afraid to call on God for help. It reminds us all that Jesus listens to those who seek Him with faith, offering hope and transformation. As we approach **All Saints' Day**, this story also encourages us to reflect on the lives of the saints—those who, like Bartimaeus, showed great faith in God's power. It inspires us to follow their example, growing in faith and compassion towards others.

This week we are hosting a **whole school Mass on Friday 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. Just a reminder that if you as a parent or members of your family would like to join us to celebrate Mass- we would love to see you there. Space is limited and attendance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a place for yourself or other family members, please email me directly at h.purkiss@stjamesheadle.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 **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**, we remind our children of the importance of building a strong, supportive community. As a school, we encourage our children to live out this principle by actively participating in school and community events and supporting one another in school life. In the coming weeks this half term, we will begin our school's annual charity initiatives with particular focus over the Christmas period on Caritas. We will be encouraging each form to work together in raising money for those in need, promoting a spirit of solidarity and compassion.

We are currently planning some exciting **fundraising events for Caritas**- a Diocesan supported charity. The mission of Caritas is rooted in our Catholic faith, which calls us to love our neighbours and put faith in action through love/caritas. Bishop Mark has asked all local Catholic schools to support this worthy cause. If you or a business owner you know would like to donate a raffle prize please contact myself at school- any donations would be gratefully received. These will be raffled at our upcoming Charity events this half term. We thank you in advance for your ongoing support with our fundraising efforts.

A reminder that the final day for deposits for the Camps International expedition to Peru is Monday 28th October 2024. This is payable via their website. We hope many of you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for our children to engage with a wider community. If you have any questions regarding the expedition please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to assist.

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



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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:

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.*

This week's quote for reflection comes from St. Charles Borromeo, whose Feast day falls at this time of year. *"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head."* For our children, it serves as a reminder to embody the values and mission statement of our school family, inspiring others through their actions both in and out of the classroom.

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