



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

6th May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

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

This week's **Celebration of the Word** comes from **John 21:1–19** and tells the story of the Risen Jesus appearing to His disciples by the Sea of Galilee. After a night of failed fishing, Jesus guides them to a miraculous catch. He then shares breakfast with them: a beautiful image of His care and presence in the ordinary. Most profoundly, Jesus restores Peter after his three denials, asking him three times, *"Do you love me?"* and commanding him, *"Feed my sheep."* It is a reminder that failure is never final with Christ: He calls us back to Him, strengthens us, and sends us out with purpose.

On **Wednesday**, the Catholic Church will start the **Conclave** to prayerfully and thoughtfully select our next Pope. Cardinals will gather in the Sistine Chapel to elect a new pope. Did you know? The word conclave comes from the Latin *cum clave*, meaning "with a key," because the cardinals are physically locked in until a new pope is chosen. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Cardinals decision-making and they choose a leader who will serve with humility and courage.

Our Catholic Social Teaching theme this week is **Dignity of Work and Participation**. God calls us to use our gifts and talents to contribute to our communities. Work is not just a way to make a living, it's a way to express our dignity and help build a just society. We are proud to see this principle put into action this week as our **Year 11 children lead a series of charity events** in school. Their creativity, leadership, and commitment to making a difference is a wonderful example of CST lived out in practical ways. Their efforts not only raise funds but also help our younger children to see how acts of service and generosity are at the heart of our faith life within school.

On **Friday**, we celebrated the **Feast of St. James the Lesser**, our school's patron saint. It was wonderful to come together for a **unified Celebration of the Word**, marking this special day with reverence and community spirit in every form across the school. It was a lovely occasion to reflect on St. James' example of quiet, faithful discipleship and to honour his place in our school's identity.

During our school day, we observe what is known as **Liturgy of the Hours**. Each lunchtime, we pause to pray together, creating a moment of calm and connection with God in the middle of our busy school day. At the end of every day, we conclude with prayer, uniting our learning with our faith and offering our time and efforts back to God. This week, as we prepare for the **Conclave**, all pupils will be praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for a successful, thoughtful, and faith-filled outcome. If you wish to unite with our prayer, I have included it here:

Almighty God, we pray that the conclave brings us a Pope who pleases You by guiding Your Church to grow in faithfulness to You. We pray together with the intercession of our Mother Mary and all the Saints. Please Lord, protect and guide your Church during this time of transition.

Amen.



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Our **Form Saint of the Week** is **St. Michael the Archangel** from **7C**. St. Michael is known as the protector and leader of God's heavenly armies. He reminds us of the strength that comes from standing up for what is right and trusting in God's power over darkness. As he declares in Scripture, *"Who is like God?"* a powerful reminder that no force can stand against the strength of God. We ask St. Michael to pray for us this week as we seek to be brave, faithful, and just in our daily lives.

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

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss

Associate Assistant Headteacher