



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

29th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School

This Sunday 28th September was the 26th Sunday in Ordinary time. The gospel reading was from Luke Chapter 16 verse 19-31. Jesus told the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, and he gives us a warning that we must not ignore the poor. In this reading, the rich man has no name so it could apply to any of us, who are comfortable. Jesus gives the poor man Lazarus dignity, by calling him by name.

This week, we are focussing on the Catholic Social Teaching - **solidarity**. We are thinking about the fact that we are part of the diocese of Shrewsbury, and we are invited to share in pilgrimage. We are also encouraged to have solidarity with the poor when we support fair trade and family fast day.

This is the second week of 'Fairtrade fortnight'. Pupils have been learning about the meaning of fairtrade symbol and about the organisation that works to give workers a fair wage for their goods and services.

On Monday 29th September some pupils from Cheadle Catholic school will bring an icon that has been travelling on a pilgrimage around all the schools in the diocese. It is a photograph of a stained, glass window in Shrewsbury Cathedral that depicts the visitation of Mary the mother of Jesus to her cousin Elizabeth. When Mary visited Elizabeth, the child 'leapt in her womb' with joy. She recognised the significance of Mary's baby and the two women offered mutual support for each other. The event reminds us of the importance of friendship and the joy of God's presence in our lives. This week, key stage three classes will be participating in a reflection in the chapel and focussing on the themes of the **joy of friendship, and faith in God's plan for us**. These themes are fundamentally connected to our core values of faith and family. Each pupil has been given a prayer journal, in which they will be asked to reflect on the whole school Mass and the reflection in the chapel. Pupils are being encouraged to start their own personal prayer journals at home.

It is **Family fast day on Friday 3rd October** and we are asked to eat simply, cut out luxuries and donate our money to CAFOD to help the poor.

Pupils who would like to join in and play or sing in a music for worship group, are very welcome, whatever their ability, to come to the Chapel on **Wednesday lunchtime**.

Next week, '**Knit and Natter**' group is on **Tuesday lunchtime** in the chapel. All are welcome- if someone is not able to knit or crotchet, we will teach them. We are making small items such as poppies and bobble hats with chocolates, for Christmas. Any donations of black or red wool or needles will be gratefully received.

A prayer for the week ahead: We will be praying the rosary and the Angelus, whilst the icon of the visitation is with us.

The Angelus teaches us about Mary's example to us: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. . . be it done to me according to your word." The leader (V.) tells the people to behold Mary, our model, our hope, and we respond (R.), "Yes, thy will be done." Mary realised that God, the creator of all things, is in charge... When we pray the Angelus, we ask *not what God can do for us but what we can do for God*.





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Leader: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

All: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit

Leader: Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blest is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

All: Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Leader: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

All: Be it done unto me according to Your Word

Leader: Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Leader: The Word was made flesh.

All: And dwelt among us

Leader: Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

All: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Leader: Pray for us O Holy Mother of God

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray. Pour forth we beseech you O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection through the same Christ our Lord.

Dear Lord Jesus, deepen our sense of solidarity and spirit of friendship. Make us responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that we may bring them your love. Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in this mission of charity.

All: Amen.

St James Pray for Us

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at t.mcgeough@stjamesheadle.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Teresa McGeough
School Chaplain

