



ST JAMES'
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

11th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word

As we enter the fourth week of Lent we continue to focus on the three pillars of prayer, fasting and giving.

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on the fourth Sunday of Lent; the midpoint. It is known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare means "rejoice" and the Church expresses hope and joy in the middle of our penitential Lenten practices. At Mass, the priest will often wear pink vestments, just as he does for Gaudete Sunday during Advent. Pope Francis speaks of the joy of the Gospel: "The identity card of the Christian is their joy, the joy of the Gospel, the joy of having been chosen by Jesus, saved by Jesus, regenerated by Jesus; the joy of the hope that Jesus is waiting for us." This joy is not an emotion, it's sharing in the very life of Jesus which had both joy and plenty of pain. We know that sometimes life can bring pain and suffering but by turning to God's love and grace, we can often find joy. We can also spread joy in our actions, for example in our response to one of the Pope's encyclicals, *Laudato Si*, which speaks about the need to care for our Common Home. The children will therefore be thinking about the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Stewardship

Our end of the day prayer for March and our lunchtime prayer are as follows.

End of day prayer for March:

In March we traditionally remember Saint Joseph, so this month we pray:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Amen.

Lunchtime prayer:

Bless us, Oh Lord,



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and these thy gifts which
we are about to receive from thy bounty,
through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

You may also wish to explore some of the Lenten family prayer resources produced by CAFOD, they can be found [here](#).

We are always happy to receive feedback so please do get in touch if you have any comments or queries, my email address is c.pickles@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher