



19th February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word

Here is the first weekly update of this half term, of course we will be focusing on Lent over the coming weeks.

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on the start of Lent which was last Wednesday when we celebrated Ash Wednesday. During Lent we think about three pillars, shown in this image:



This week the teachers will focus with the children on prayer and most specifically the power of the collective prayer most of us will be familiar with, the Lord's Prayer. They will also look at this thought provoking passage from Matthew 6: 1-8 "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Prayer can sometimes become a shopping list of desires, or an attempt to bargain with God. To counteract this, Jesus teaches the disciples to pray, with words which still resonate with us today. The Lord's prayer reminds us to pray for God's will to be done. Why would we ask for our own desires, when God knows what we really need? God knows what will truly make us happy and fulfilled. We pray for our daily bread – enough food not just for me, or for you, but for us. All of us together, having our needs met. We recognise that we are not perfect, that at times we get it wrong, and we ask God for forgiveness. But we also recognise that no one else is perfect either and that God calls us to forgive them. You can find an international version of the Lord's Prayer [here](#) and you may wish to share this as a family.

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

End of day prayer for February:

Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace.



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.
May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you.
Amen.

Lunchtime prayer:

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

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@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher

