



22nd January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word

Here is the third of our weekly updates on our prayer focus for the week.

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on The Conversion of St Paul whose Feast Day we celebrate on 25th January. St Paul, formerly Saul, experienced his conversion on the road to Damascus. In the Acts of the Apostles we hear these words "I was on that journey and nearly at Damascus when about midday a bright light from heaven suddenly shone round me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" I answered: Who are you, Lord? and he said to me, "*I am Jesus the Nazarene, and you are persecuting me*". I said: What am I to do, Lord? The Lord answered, "*Stand up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told what you have been appointed to do*". The light had been so dazzling that I was blind and my companions had to take me by the hand; and so I came to Damascus. Someone called Ananias, a devout follower of the Law and highly thought of by all the Jews living there, came to see me; he stood beside me and said, "Brother Saul, receive your sight". Instantly my sight came back and I was able to see him. Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Just One and hear his own voice speaking, because you are to be his witness before all mankind, testifying to what you have seen and heard."

This week, staff will share with the children that sometimes things don't always work out as we wish and we may take a path that leads us away from God, but God will never leave us. Like the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, God will always welcome us back with open arms. You may therefore wish to share this prayer as a family:

Heavenly Father, you chose Paul to preach your Word, help me to be enlightened by the faith that he proclaimed.

St. Paul, you relied fully on God after your glorious conversion. Help us to know that our faith relies on God as you also knew.

Amen

Each week, I will also share our end of the day prayer for January and our lunchtime prayer:

End of day prayer:

Angel of God,
My guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

To light and guard, to rule and guide
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@stjameschadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher