



25th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word

As we enter Holy Week, the pinnacle of the liturgical year, we turn our attention to the Holy Triduum consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

On Thursday of this week, our Faith Prefects will lead the whole school in a reflection based around Maundy Thursday. The Last Supper really is a most moving event and one in which the institution of the Eucharist was founded. The reflection will focus around this and the sacrifices Jesus made to grant us eternal life.

Through his actions primarily, but also through his words, Jesus demonstrates God's humble love. The washing of the disciples' feet in John's Gospel is a prime example of such a demonstration by actions and then in words. Jesus asks his disciples—and through them, us—to take care of others as he has taken care of them, and us. Here at Jesus' final meal, in the breaking of the bread and the washing of feet, we see the perfection of his love. Gathering us around his table, to share the meal that sustains us, Jesus gives us the gift of himself. Humbly bending to take a towel and a water basin and wash the dust and dirt from the feet of his friends, Jesus tells us, "I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done for you." May we never stop seeking a world where all are invited to the table of life.

This reflection is a lovely way to ponder what Maundy Thursday means:

Jesus arrested, judged, found guilty and condemned to die is held captive overnight.

If I were arrested and held this night what would I be found guilty of?

That I made friends with people irrespective of their colour, creed or class....

That I shared my bread with the poor....

That my words... and actions... brought healing and forgiveness....

That I made justice and didn't count the cost

That I sought the truth and then spoke of it....

That I recognised my neighbour and loved them as my very self...

That I met God along the way in the healing and forgiveness I received....

That I accepted hospitality at many different tables....

That I was changed by the lives of others..... and often repented my arrogance and foolishness in encountering their wisdom ...

That friends and strangers sometimes paid the price for me....

That I never sought out suffering..... but journeyed with it to the best of my ability...

That the love of those about me taught me to love myself before God...

You call us out of brokenness

to mend and remake your creation.

Grant us the courage to stay

with all those who are held captive this night.

In the name of Jesus who is good news, Amen

Our end of the day prayer for March and our lunchtime prayer are as follows. I will share April's prayer with you after Easter.



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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,
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

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a most happy, holy and blessed Easter.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher