



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

29th January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Celebration of the Word

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

This week's Celebration of the Word focuses on The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple which we celebrate on 2nd February. It is only in St Luke's Gospel that we read of this, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated in the Catholic church forty days after Christmas, marking the day that Mary and Joseph would have brought Jesus into the Temple. Luke recognises Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel. Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognised Jesus as the fulfilment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.

This week, staff will share with the children that we are all invited to enter into God's temple even though sometimes we may not think we are worthy enough. Yet we are invited to enter that Temple in union with Mary, our Blessed Mother. She willingly became Jesus' Mother and with her, we are now able to appear before God, purified and holy in His sight. In offering Christ Jesus to the priest to offer Him to the Father, Saint Joseph also presents all who strive to live in union with Jesus. The hope is that, like Simeon and Anna, others will see God alive within us and experience the Savior of the World through us. You may wish to pray this prayer as a family:

My saving Lord, Your loving parents offered You to Your Father in the Temple in accordance with the Law You revealed to Moses. In that offering, our souls are purified and we are offered to Your Father with You. I thank You for the gift of salvation and pray that my soul will always radiate Your light as You dwell within me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen

Our end of the day prayer for January and our lunchtime prayer are as follows. We will have a new prayer for February on Thursday:

End of day prayer for January:



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Angel of God,
My guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide
Amen

End of day prayer for February:

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

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Pickles
Senior Deputy Headteacher