



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

26th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School – Week 19

Thank you for your continued support in encouraging our pupils to attend the Chapel activities at lunchtime

Monday: Drop in to meet the Chaplain/ Reel Faith Planning

Tuesday: Knit and Natter

Thursday: 1:30 pm Youth SVP

Friday: Reel Faith

Sunday 25th January, was Week 3 of Ordinary time, Year A. This Sunday, we focussed on The Word of God so this week in Faith and Family time, we will focus on words.

The Gospel reading was from Matthew Chapter 4 verses 12-23. ***“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”*** We will be focussing on the core value of Excellence and the Catholic Social teaching of Rights and Responsibilities.

*‘...the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.’*

Jesus is referred to as the ‘light of the world’ because his teaching, which involved his careful use of words, enables people to ‘see the light’ and to understand God’s love for us.

Last week, it was announced that the words ‘six, seven’ were almost voted the 2025 children’s word of the year, but fortunately, that title was given to a much more powerful and meaningful word, **‘Peace’**. We will be focussing on the fact that all human beings have the right to live in peace and a responsibility not to spoil other people’s peace.

On Tuesday 27th January, it is Holocaust Memorial Day. This year, the theme is, ‘It started with words.’ This day is a memorial to the killing of six million Jews, and millions of others, including 3.3 million Soviet POWs, 1.8 million Polish civilians, and hundreds of thousands of others between 1941 and 1945.

This week, we are thinking about how sometimes we use words that we don’t understand. Sometimes, we use words that spread rumours and harm others. The holocaust began with words.

Being betrayed by someone we trust is horrible. As humans, we need friendships and relationships which are only successful, if they are built on trust.



With God all things are possible
Matthew 19:26



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On 'Faithful Friday' this week, we will reflect on a theme of treachery and faithfulness (fidelity). On TV, it is just a game but in the real world, making assumptions about people, and believing rumours is dangerous and cruel. Careless words or actions can destroy a relationship and ripple throughout society and even generations. It sows distrust, preventing families, communities and nations from flourishing as they should. When we are betrayed it cuts deep and relationships can break down beyond repair.

NEW! 'Reel Faith' In this group, we watch clips and look at the links to scripture. The point of this group is to spark discussion and prayer. All suggestions for clips that lead to discussion around biblical themes, are welcome. They must of course be age appropriate, suitable for viewing by all pupils. Please send them to the Chaplain at t.mcgeough@stjameschadle.co.uk



*Clips should be no longer than 5 mins. **Everyone is welcome to join in.**

Prayer for the week ahead:

Let us pray,

Eternal God, we come before you, to remember the victims of the Holocaust, the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides. Let us remember that the holocaust began with the careless and destructive use of words. We pray that we will choose words that build others up and promote peace.

Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image. One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil. We thank you for the peace makers in our lives. In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we will know that we are loved unconditionally by God and to live with confidence and courage that we belong. Lord help us to remember that we are *all* loved by God, even those who behave badly, and that we are called to treat others as beloved children of God.

All: **Amen.** St James: **Pray for us**

Yours faithfully,

Mrs T McGeough
Lay Chaplain



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