



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

5th May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School- Week 30

Prayer and liturgy in school

This is the fifth week of Easter Year A. *The gospel on Sunday was from John 14:1-12*

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

14 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going."^[c] ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also.^[d] From now on you do know him and have seen him."

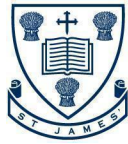
⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.



In the Gospel, Jesus says, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**"





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Jesus declared himself the exclusive path to God, the embodiment of absolute divine truth, and the sole source of eternal life. By stating "no one comes to the Father except through me," he meant he is the only mediator, offering salvation and spiritual life to humanity while leading followers directly to the Father. This statement, often referred to as a "Solus Christus" (Christ alone) claim, was meant to assure disciples of their security in Him.

"I am the Way": Jesus is not just showing a path, but is himself the bridge between God and humanity, offering a living, accessible route to Heaven. **"I am the Truth"**: He is the ultimate reality and the final authority on God, embodying the truth that brings freedom from sin and divine understanding. **"I am the Life"**: Jesus is the source of both spiritual life on earth and eternal life after death, overcoming the power of death.

St James' Feast day Mass

On Tuesday 5th May, we celebrated St. James' feast day. Fr Simon O'Connor very kindly came to celebrate Mass for us and we are very grateful for his kind words and message of encouragement. He made a big impact on the children and staff. The whole school community was invited to participate by listening, and joining in with the prayers and responses. Pupils from all year groups, volunteered to read, to write bidding prayers, and to bring up the offertory gifts. There were a significant number of pupils who helped to prepare Mass, preparing the altar and the hosts. I would like to thank them for participating in such a special way. Particular thanks go to Oliver Sheehey for assisting with the music during the Mass. t.mcgeough@stjamescheadle.co.uk

Speaking of "Solus Christus" (Christ alone), this is the title of the hymn that we sang at the end of the Mass and the priest gave us the message, 'Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.'

In Christ alone, my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song

This Cornerstone, this solid ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my All in All

Here in the love of Christ I stand...





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The Year 11 leaver's Mass will be on Wednesday 6th May at Christchurch at 6pm. Pupils from Year 11 have been asked to volunteer to read and to participate in the Mass. They have also made canvases to represent their forms. At this Mass, the whole teaching staff will come together to pray for your children and to wish them well in the future. We are looking forward to celebrating in the most important way with our Year 11 pupils.

SVP NEWS

Our Easter tombola was very successful and we would like to thank all those who bought tickets. There are still prizes to be won so we will roll again on Friday. Any donations of chocolate or sweets will be gratefully received, so that we can raise money to fund our projects. We intend to make another visit to the residential home this term.

Prayer for the week ahead:

Catholics honour Mary with prayers and processions to show reverence because she is the mother of Jesus. **But veneration is not the same as worship.** It holds the Blessed Virgin in high regard while recognising that she is not divine like her son. Those who venerate Mary have a deep respect for her place in God's plan. They recognise her holiness and see her as a mother figure of the Church. Mary is a model of faith because of her obedience, humility, and complete trust in God.

The month of May is a special time when Catholics honour the Blessed Virgin Mary with prayers, crownings and processions. While several months throughout the year observe Marian celebrations, May is known as the Month of Mary. Honouring Mary during May began as early as the 13th century, when specific days in May were devoted to Mary. May is also associated with spring and new life, which Mary represents as the mother of Jesus, who gave the world new life through his death and resurrection.

Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus in Rome is credited with dedicating May to the devotion of Mary. He intended to prevent immorality and redirect students' attention to the devotion of Mary. This practice spread from Rome to other Jesuit colleges and finally throughout the whole Church. In 1815, Pope Pius VII encouraged May devotions by granting an indulgence to those who honoured Mary with special prayers during May. In 1859, Pope Pius IX made the indulgence plenary. Then, in 1945, Pope Pius XII made the observance of Mary in May official.

Honouring the Blessed Mother in the Month of May. (Father Dave Caron, O.P.)





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The Memorare

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.
To thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.*

St James: **Pray for us.**

Yours faithfully,

Mrs T McGeough

Lay Chaplain

