



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1st December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School – Week 13

Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to attend the Chapel activities at lunchtime. Below is a reminder of what we have available:

Monday: Mass Preparation
Tuesday: Knit and Natter 1.25 - 2.00 pm Before or after eating
Wednesday: Music for Worship group. 1.25 - 2.00 pm Before or after eating
Thursday: Youth SVP 1.30pm
Friday: *NEW Bible and prayer group. 1.35 - 1.50 pm

Sunday, 30th November, was the first Sunday in Advent. The Sundays in the Catholic Church are on a three year cycle. **On Sunday, 30th November**, we began Year A, as **Advent begins**, four Sundays before Christmas. In the week beginning 1st December, we will be focussing on the core value of excellence and the Catholic Social Teaching of rights and responsibilities. Preparations are being made for our Whole school Advent Mass, which is on Tuesday 16th December. This morning we lit the first Advent candle on the wreath during our staff briefing.

* **NEW Bible study group.** Everyone, children and staff are invited to come to the Chapel on Friday lunchtimes for a short prayer and discussion with a focus on the bible.

The attendance at 'Knit and Natter' has increased so our beginners are supporting each other in their learning. Thank you to Mrs Lochery for supporting the group. **We welcome all who would like to crochet or knit, whatever their experience.** All are welcome - if you cannot knit or crotchet, we will teach you! **If any staff, parents or grandparents would like to join us in making these items, please contact me via email at t.mcgeough@stjamescheadle.co.uk**

If any children would like to join in and play or sing in a music for worship group, they are welcome to come to the Chapel on **Wednesday lunchtime**.



St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

The Youth SVP Group (St. Vincent de Paul Society) is a charitable group that encourages young people to see, think and do. We are discussing issues that concern us in our community and planning simple ways to help. The group are currently painting glass tealight holders and making Christmas cards for the parishioners who are supported by local SVP groups. We have regular members who will be commissioned at the Year 7 assembly on Friday 5th December. The members will receive a badge and prayer card. All pupils are welcome to join.



With God all things are possible
Matthew 19:26



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For the next two weeks, KS3 classes will be visiting the Chapel during an RE lesson to reflect on a theme of 'Advent: God's promises, and prophecy'. They will be given an Advent calendar to take home based on the Jesse tree, which takes them on a biblical journey through Advent.

Did you know? Advent only begins on December 1st approximately once every 6 to 11 years, or roughly one-seventh of the time. During Advent, no flowers decorate churches, but it is usual to have an Advent Crown also known as an Advent Wreath. These are made from a circle of evergreen plants like holly and ivy which symbolises God with no beginning or end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change. The holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Four candles are fixed round the circle with another in the middle.

One purple candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent; we light this as a symbol of **Hope** so prayers on this day focus on hope. On the second Sunday it is lit again together with another purple one; this candle is a symbol of God's **Peace**, reminding Christians of the Prophets who said that the Messiah would be born. The third purple one is lit on the third Sunday as a symbol of **Love**, which represents John the Baptist who baptised Jesus. On the fourth Sunday the pink candle is included, the candle of **Joy** reminds Christians of Jesus' mother, Mary. On Christmas Day, the white candle is also lit representing Jesus Christ as the light of the world. The fifth candle, lit on Christmas Eve, reminds Christians of the birth of Jesus.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs T. McGeough

Chaplain



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