



5th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School – Week 16

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

Monday: Mass Preparation

Tuesday: Mass at 1:30pm in the Chapel to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany

Wednesday: Music for worship group.

Thursday: 1:30 pm Youth SVP

Friday: *NEW!* **'Reel Faith'** This group is designed to link clips and reels to scripture. The group will study a passage from scripture, watch a clip, discuss and pray. Everyone is welcome to join in.

In the week beginning Monday 5th January, we will be focussing on the core value of Excellence and the Catholic Social teaching of Solidarity and Global Community.

On Tuesday 6th January, we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany with Mass in the Chapel at lunchtime (1:30pm) all are welcome.

The Jubilee Year of Hope officially ends on 6th January. Pope Leo XIV will conclude the Ordinary Jubilee by closing the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. This will take place on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. We could be forgiven for thinking that by closing the doors, all hope is gone and it seems like saying that the light at the end of the tunnel will be switched off! Of course, this is not the case. Pope Francis said,

"In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring."

The late Pope emphasised that we often meet discouraged people who look to the future with scepticism and pessimism, as if nothing could bring them happiness. In this context, Pope Francis expressed his hope that the Jubilee would be an opportunity for everyone to rekindle their hope. For many people who marked the year of hope, especially with a pilgrimage, there has been a renewed sense of purpose, greater devotion to prayer, and opportunities for a deepening of faith.

An example of where we, as the family of St. James', brought hope to others, is the very generous response to the hamper appeal last term. Mr Kirrane took two boot loads to Wythenshawe foodbank and to Chelwood foodbank. Mrs McGeough took some late donations (about six boxes) to Sale West hub foodbank on 22nd December so no donation was left behind! Some people will have been able to eat over Christmas because of us. This gift to others will have reminded them that all hope is not lost, there are people who care.



With God all things are possible
Matthew 19:26



Prayer for the week ahead:

In faith and family time this week, pupils will be introduced to the poem, 'The work of Christmas', by Howard Thurman. This is a variation on the original...

**When the carols have been stilled,
When the star topped tree has been taken down,
When family and friends have gone home,
When we are back to our routine, the work of Christmas begins:
To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace for all people,
To bring Christ's light to the world.**

Dear Lord, We thank you for the gift of a new year and the hope that it brings. We pray for all members of our community who have been affected by bereavement. We pray especially for those for whom Christmas was filled with sadness or struggle. We pray that we will offer kindness, understanding and prayer. We pray especially for the victims of the tragic events in Switzerland and for those affected by war. Help us to begin the work of Christmas, to bring new hope and happiness to us all. Amen. St.James, pray for us.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs T McGeough
Lay Chaplain



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