



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

18th May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School- Week 32

Our SVP group needs to raise funds in order to support projects that help the vulnerable and needy in our local community.

When we visit the residential home again, we would like to take small gifts with us and we would like to do activities with them such as crafts or puzzles so we need to build our funds. Our Easter tombola has raised £89 so far. Any donations of money or gifts would be very gratefully received.

The Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph (and the wee donkey) - lived in poverty...

Prayer and liturgy in school

This is the seventh week of Easter Year A. *The gospel on Sunday was from John 17:1-11.*

In this gospel, we have the great prayer of Jesus to his Father. John's gospel has a sort of poetic and mysterious feel. It can be difficult to discern what the words might mean...

Sometimes – as with poetry – just being quiet with the text may bring its own reward.

If you had to rest with just one sentence from today, you might settle for *'And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.'*

The High Priestly Prayer

17 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶ I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have





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given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

If you have ever been brave enough to ask anyone to pray for you, you will know that it probably wasn't easy, especially if you didn't know whether someone is a believer or not. That request can come from a place of desperation and from not knowing where else to turn. It is likely to feel risky but they can only say 'no'. The response can be shocking - people who you thought were your friends might change their opinion of you or give you a negative response, but more often than not, in my experience, people will respond in a positive way, and even feel touched that you asked them. Knowing that someone we love or respect is praying for us can give us real comfort, strength and consolation. How much more powerful then, it is to know that Jesus is praying for us?

Prayers for the week ahead:

This week, as it is May, there will be particular prayers of devotion to Our Lady, (Mary, Jesus' mother) all are welcome. Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtime there will be prayers in the Chapel. Or if the weather is hot, we will move to the faith garden. 1.45pm-2pm

22nd May is the anniversary of the Manchester Arena atrocity. Let us pray for the victims and their families, especially this week...



We pray for the evil of this world to be abated and human beings of all races, nations, creeds and religions to find the common goals of peace and justice, we pray that all people will seek healing and building up of life, rather than destruction and death.

Lord, hear our prayer. **Amen.** St James: **Pray for us.**





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Yours faithfully,

Mrs T McGeough
Lay Chaplain



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With God all things are possible Matthew 19:26