



20th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Sharing in the Prayer Life of St James' Catholic High School – Week 28

Prayer and liturgy in school

Pupils are invited to come to the Chapel at break time or lunchtime, or visit our faith garden, if they want to talk to the Chaplain or need to take some time to pray, especially if they are having a difficult day. Prayers for peace will be said in the Chapel at lunchtime on Tuesday, to mark Pope Francis' anniversary.

Faith and Family Time

This is the third week of Easter Year A. Luke Chapter 24:13-35 *They recognised Him at the breaking of bread.* This week's reading is about the road to Emmaus. Jesus' disciples did not recognise Jesus on the road to Emmaus but when he broke bread with them, their eyes were opened. This is a reminder that we meet Jesus in the Eucharist when we attend Mass. We believe that Jesus walks beside us all the time but that He is really present with us in a very special way in the Mass. When we offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass, we are able to completely focus on Jesus in a unique way, which is not possible in our day to day lives. There are so many distractions.

Every week a Chaplain from St Nicholas' school, Mairie Gelling, writes a reflection on the gospel. This is the one for this week; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jaX8G0Zpns> In this film, we are reminded that the disciples' encounter with Jesus changed them. This is an alternative 8 min film about Easter and the road to Emmaus. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfa-HExtJtw>

*Mary of Clopas or Cleophas is believed to be the mother of St James the Lesser. She is mentioned in John 19:25 as "Mary the wife of Clopas" and in Matthew 27:56 as the mother of James and Joseph (Joses). She was a devoted follower of Jesus, present at the Crucifixion and the tomb.

Mairie Gelling has been sending these faithfully every week to the chaplains in our diocesan schools so that we can share them with our pupils. I am very grateful for this resource, and for Mairie's hard work and support for me in my role as Chaplain.





ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Anniversary of the death of Pope Francis 21st April:

Marie also sent this film to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis' death on 21st April. It is a very poignant reminder of his life, all that he did and stood for - you may need your tissues...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUTrDaIPixk>

St James' Feast day Mass

Preparations are underway for our whole school Mass on Tuesday 5th May. We will be looking for baptised Catholics to volunteer to write bidding prayers, to read and to bring up the offertory gifts. If any pupils would like to volunteer, they should speak to their form tutor or the Chaplain or email t.mcgeough@stjamesheadle.co.uk

The Year 11 leaver's Mass will be on Wednesday 6th May at Christchurch at 6pm. Pupils from Year 11 will be asked to volunteer to read and to participate in the Mass.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUTrDaIPixk>

SVP NEWS

Our next activity will be to raise money for the SVP with a Chocolate tombola. 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.

Year 11 Exam preparation

Christians Against Poverty offer a prayer journal for those facing struggle. <https://capuk.org/news-and-blog/christian-prayers-for-exams> Exam season can feel overwhelming, but as Christians, we have a powerful resource available to us: prayer. If you're feeling anxious or overwhelmed, remember that you're not alone. Many people find comfort and strength in turning to God during challenging times. Prayer provides comfort and focus as you navigate this season.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs T McGeough

Lay Chaplain





ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Prayer for the week ahead: Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace.

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

St James: Pray for us.

Pope Francis: Pray for us.

