



# Growing Together in the Spirit of Christ's Love



## Word of the Week: Matthew 12:1-8



At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath."

He said to them, "Have you not read what David did, when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor lawful for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law how on the sabbath the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are guiltless? I tell you something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice', you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is lord of the Sabbath."

The **Word of the Week** gives us an example of Jesus' compassion towards others. The Pharisees are out to let everyone know that Jesus and his disciples are breaking the religious laws. The disciples have 'worked' on the Sabbath as they have plucked the grain and are consuming it as they are hungry. The Pharisees are frowning upon them.

But Jesus being Jesus turns the tables on them and recounts how King David and his men also broke the religious law when they were hungry. He shows that you can still be truly devoted to God even if you don't adhere rigidly to the rules. He shows that God will be happier if you demonstrate compassion and love rather than hypocrisy and superiority.

Jesus emphasizes the need for kindness rather than ritualistic practices and shows that having a good heart and treating others with empathy is more powerful than ticking a box and having a hardened heart. Jesus challenges the Pharisees on their righteousness and makes it clear there are more important things to be concerned about than picking grain. The priority should be put upon the relationship between yourself and God and the relationship between yourself and others.

We are all called  
to grow together  
in unity over time.  
-Amanda Idleman

### Our school mission statement:

#### **'Growing together in the spirit of Christ's Love'**

- We as a community are encouraged to take care of one another.
- We are encouraged to grow in our understanding of one another.
- We are called upon to support each other – making our school community a place where everyone can grow and thrive.



## Prayers for the week

Dear Lord,

**Teach us to see with eyes of mercy. When we are tempted to judge, remind us of how you never did. Help us to choose understanding rather than harshness. Let our hearts reflect Your mercy, not our pride. Amen**

For where  
**TWO or THREE**  
are gathered together  
in My name,  
**THERE AM I**  
in the midst of them.  
MATTHEW 18:20

Dear Lord,

**Let us reflect the compassion of Christ in every encounter. When we see suffering, let us not turn away. When we hear pain, let us listen with love. Shape us into someone who carries Your healing presence into the broken places of this world. Amen**



Dear Lord,

**Thank You for bringing us together as one school community. Help us to grow, not just in knowledge, but in kindness. Teach us to care for each other, to stand up for what's right, and to be brave enough to show love, even when it's hard. May we learn to forgive quickly, include others freely, and speak words that lift up, not tear down. Let our friendships be strong, our hearts open, and our actions reflect the love of Jesus every day. Amen.**

## Reflection Questions

- Do I ever look down on others?
- Do I think I am better than other people?
- Do I show compassion and forgiveness when it is needed?
- Do I recognize when someone may need my care and kindness?
- Am I growing as a member of the school community?
- What can I do to show the Spirit of Christ's love within me?
- What am I being called to do each day to help our school community?



**All Hallows**  
Catholic High School  
*'Growing Together in the Spirit of Christ's Love'*

Think about our school mission statement.  
How can we grow together as a school community?

How does our mission statement fit with this week's bible reading?

If you were to have your own form mission statement what would it be?

What is your form mission this year?

This week we pray to St Carlo Acutis, who was made a Saint by Pope Leo on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. He showed us the way to grow in our faith in God and our love for others, through following the example of Jesus.



## ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

- Be mindful of how you speak this week; are you being polite? Are you being kind?
- Do at least one random act of kindness – but do it under cover and do it out of the goodness of your heart rather than for a reward.
- Don't leave anyone out – if you see someone who looks all alone go and chat with them and welcome them into your group.
- Help with something at home without being asked to.
- Don't gossip.
- Bring in a tin of food or bag of pasta for the food bank.
- Put an extra snack in your bag incase your friend has forgotten theirs.



Song: Remain in Me  
([CLICK HERE](#))  
God, go with me to school Prayer  
([CLICK HERE](#))