



A New Beginning



Word of the Week: Luke 14:1-14

One Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable:

“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.



As we start this new academic year the Word of the Week is an interesting one. Jesus is bringing to the table the values and actions that he wants people to live by. This is an interesting parable, and we may find ourselves thinking about our own actions and where we think we belong in comparison to others. Jesus asks us to choose the lower place, to welcome those who cannot repay us and to live with humility and generosity. He shows us the value of selflessness and putting others before ourselves. He reminds us to prioritise serving others rather than seeking recognition or status.

This is a good message for the year ahead – we can help one another, see everyone as valuable, recognise that we are all made in the image of God, all deserve the same respect and all be treated with dignity.

We can all contribute to our school community and invest in making our community the best it can be. We want you to think of others and treat others with kindness so that everyone can flourish and do their best. The more you invest and put into the year, the more you will get out of it. Be the best person you can be this year.

Prayers for the week

Dear Lord,

As we begin our new school year, may we walk humbly with you. May we open our hearts to those around us, especially those who are overlooked or forgotten. Teach us to serve, not to seek status. May this new beginning be rooted in your grace.

Amen

Dear Lord,

Teach us to be humble - not to boast, but to serve others in our community. May we find joy in not being first, but in lifting others up and helping them when they need it. Let this day be a new beginning in how we treat one another.

Amen

Dear Lord,

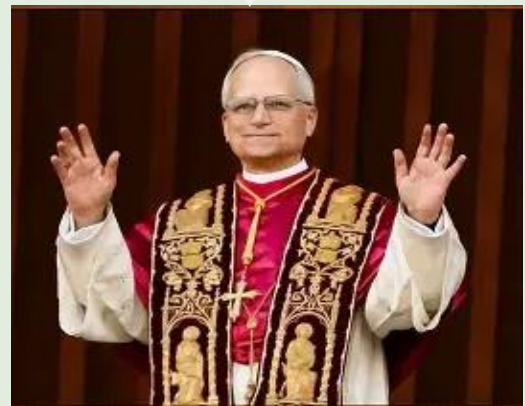
Thank you for walking with us this week as we have returned to school and started a new beginning. As we prepare for the weekend, help us carry your message of humility and love into our homes and hearts. May next week be another chance to grow.

Amen

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to choose the 'lowest place' in today's world?
- Who are the people in our school or community who might feel left out?
- How can I make space for others in this new beginning?
- How can I take time for myself?
- What have I learnt this week about humility?
- What can I do to get the best out of this new academic year?

"To share the message of hope with one another, in outreach, in service, and looking for ways to make our world a better place, gives true life to all of us, and is a sign of hope for the whole world."



Pope Leo XIV

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

- Invite someone to join you at break time who might be alone.
- Smile at someone you don't usually talk to. A small gesture can be a big welcome.
- Offer help to a teacher, classmate or younger pupil.
- Give a complement or encouraging word to someone who needs it.
- Congratulate someone who has done something well.