

# HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS SUMMER HOLIDAY MISSION

## THIS WEEK'S WORD:

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish."

Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'



## REFLECT

What a strange thing for Jesus to say! We know Jesus doesn't really mean we should abandon our families. What Jesus really wants to know is that his disciples are serious about their commitment to him. Being a follower of Jesus will not be easy. Jesus is going to face very real challenges - and so will Jesus' friends. Our challenges, our crosses, will help us to become even stronger and even more loving. Following Jesus will bring us new life.

At the beginning of term, we are coming together as new communities. Take time this week to think about what that means for you. How will you celebrate the different groups in school – your class, your form, your year group, the whole school? Each person is unique and special - and together make something wonderful. How serious are you about making a positive difference to your school community? How are you going to make sure you carry out your good intentions to live out your commitment to your community? What plans can you make?

Am I prepared to put other people first, even if it hurts a bit? It would be a great way to make my family, my group of friends and my school an even stronger community if I could be a bit more like Jesus and show how serious I am about my commitment to love.

## LET US PRAY

Thank you, Lord, for all the wonderful people in my life.

Help me to show them how much I love them, even if it costs me time and effort.

Give the courage and determination to put my good intentions into practice.

Amen

## MISSION

This week, your mission is to show that Jesus is the most important in your life by choosing Him first in small ways.

1. Choose Jesus First: Each day, pick one moment where you could do what you want, but instead, you choose what Jesus would want (e.g., helping a sibling before playing, sharing a toy, saying kind words instead of complaining).
2. Carry Your Cross: Do one thing that is a little hard for you, but you do it with love for Jesus (e.g., tidy up without being asked, finish homework without grumbling).
3. Count the Cost: At the end of each day, think: "What did it cost me to follow Jesus today? Did I choose Him first?"

# CARLO ACUTIS: CANONISATION

As Holy Cross and All Saints School, we recognise and celebrate the lives of all the saints, and today we rejoice in welcoming a new saint, Carlo Acutis. His canonisation is a special moment because it shows us that even in our own time, young people can live with great faith and love for Jesus. Carlo used his gifts and talents to bring others closer to God, reminding us that holiness is possible in everyday life. For our school, celebrating Carlo's canonisation inspires us to follow his example of joy, service, and devotion to the Eucharist as we continue to walk the path of the saints.

## A little bit about Carlos Acutis:

Carlo Acutis was born May 3, 1991, in London though his family moved to Milan shortly after. From a young age, Carlo had a special love for God, even though his parents weren't especially devout.

He had a gift for empathy and was known for defending kids at school who got picked on, especially the disabled. Carlo loved football and video games. He tried to stay disciplined and only played games for an hour a week even though he really wanted to play much more. He also bought computer programming books and taught himself computer coding and animation. He had a great devotion to Mary and loved to pray the Rosary. He went to Mass daily and went to confession weekly. He loved the Eucharist and was fascinated by the Eucharistic miracles. He asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages - to the places of the saints, and to the sites of the Eucharistic miracles. Using his research, he began creating what would eventually become a website to catalogue and share information on Eucharistic miracles with others. Carlo was concerned by people growing distant to the Church and the sacraments and desperately wanted to bring them back. On the site, he told people that "the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven." At age 15, Carlo was diagnosed with untreatable leukaemia. He offered us his suffering for others coping with illness and said, "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, the Pope and the Church."

