

# FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints  
Catholic Academy Trust



**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

Do your parents tell you that you have a messy room, but you just don't see it yourself? Or is there some unfinished DIY project that you've stopped noticing?



Students from St Joan of Arc School have been in Calcutta, India for the last two weeks. For many of them it is their first school trip away from home, and their first time in a developing nation. There's a lot to take in - the sights, sounds, and smells can be quite overwhelming. The cars beep continuously. There aren't many public bins so there is litter everywhere. And poor people are everywhere.

But it also seems that the local people are so used to these sights, sounds and smells, that they no longer are noticed - like the messy bedroom and unfinished DIY job.



In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus goes up a hill with Peter, James and John. Whilst there he is transfigured - he's seen in all his divine glory by those disciples. Peter is so overcome that he offers to build tents so that they can stay there. But instead, Jesus and his disciples return down the mountain.

The St Joan of Arc pupils that are in India have spent time at a home for children saved from poverty. They've experienced closeness with God in the service of the poor. Some are already emotional at the thought of leaving but we have to come down the mountain.

The challenge is to see the poverty that is around us where we are. Whilst in Calcutta, the group visited the home of Mother Teresa and had Mass with her sisters of the Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Teresa once said, that in our country there is a greater poverty than in India, the poverty of loneliness.

*"Hunger can be solved with rice. Thirst can be solved by water. Loneliness isn't so easily solved."*

To solve the poverty of loneliness we have to give of ourselves. We have to love our neighbours.



Let us pray that God would open our eyes to the poverty all around us. Amen.

**Think:** Do you know anyone who might be lonely? Look out for them at school or work. Perhaps try to spend some time with them or give them a call.

To find out more about St Joan of Arc's mission trips to India in support of Udayan, see their travel blog here: [joa-udayan.co.uk/](http://joa-udayan.co.uk/) or see Dcn Liam's Instagram posts at [instagram.com/DcnLiam](https://www.instagram.com/DcnLiam)

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