

**Talk about:**

Talk with your child/ren about the idea of commitment.  
Who or what do we follow?  
Do we follow a certain football team, pop star or celebrity, TV programme?  
What place does faith and prayer have in our family life and daily routines?

**Pray together:**

*Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits  
you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
May I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.*

*Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*



**To remember:**

God knows us and calls us by our name.  
God is very merciful and kind, God is love.  
Jesus calls us to know him, to love him and to follow him.



**“Follow Me”**



**For Parents / Carers**

**Our Catholic Schools' Week  
8 - 14 October 2018**

**“Follow Me”**

**The pictures on the front cover are from Caravaggio's painting of the calling of St Matthew the Tax Collector.**

There is some debate about which of the figures in the painting is St Matthew. In these figures we can see different responses to being called by Christ. Two of them look rather surprised that it might be them who are being called. It's almost as if they were saying "Who? Me?!" Or "Why me?!" The other has his head down and seems unaware.

Jesus Christ with great mercy continues to call us to follow him today. He calls each of us personally and by name.

*"As Jesus was walking on from there he **saw** a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him." (Matthew 9:9-10)*



## **God loves you personally**

God sees each of us, the Lord looks with perfect love and tenderness upon us. God loves you and your family. As parents and carers we are busy looking after the children in our care. In the Bible we see that God is the perfect parent figure, a tender and powerful Father caring for his children. God's love is also compared to a mother's love in the Bible showing us the tenderness of God.

## **About this week:**

This week we are celebrating our Diocesan Catholic Schools' Week. We are given an opportunity during this week to continue to foster, build up and enhance relationships between our parishes, schools and homes for the good of all. God calls us together as a community, a family, a people. He calls us together to know his love and follow him.

Bishop Peter has asked us to celebrate a Diocesan Year of Prayer & Vocation this year as a way of thinking about our following of Jesus Christ. Overleaf is a prayer by St Richard of Chichester that many are praying this year, we invite you to pray it this week.

## **Think about:**

God created each and every one of us.  
He knew us even before we were born.



God calls each one of us by name.  
God calls us each day to follow him.