

St Joseph's Catholic High School Newsletter

Friday 2nd May 2025



Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope you are all safe and well. Please click on the image below to be directed to this week's Head Teacher Message.





Please like and subscribe to be made aware of all new and exciting St Joseph's content.

Chelle Diocese of Northand

"The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

St Joseph's Day

Yesterday, Thursday 1st May, all of the St Joseph's community came together to celebrate our Feast Day, St Joseph the Worker. Fr Kevin O Driscoll came into school to celebrate a whole school Mass before we all went onto the school field for a photo where we spelt out St Joseph's.

Water Bottles

As we enjoy lovely, warm weather, please ensure that your child has a water bottle every day for school.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Mr Stapleton

It is the Lord

Weekly Reflections 4th May 2025 3rd Sunday of Easter



From the Gospel of John (21: 1-14)

At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God,

Accept out praise for all you have done in Christ – a mystery before which we stand in awe, a wonder before which we bow down in praise.

Through Christ our Lord Amen

Day 1 What is the Greek word for fish? What is 'Icthys' also an acronym for in Greek? Why do you think the sign for early Christianity was a fish?

Day 2

When Jesus died, why do you think the disciples went back to their old ways of fishing rather than spreading the Good News of Christ? When Jesus appeared, what did it give the disciples and why? Day 3 How can you be more Active and Curious in seeking out Jesus in your life but also by showing it to others in theirs?

Catholic Social Teaching - Peace

Today the world has a profound thirst for peace. In many countries, people are suffering due to wars which, though often forgotten, are always the cause of suffering and poverty." **Pope Francis**, **20 September 2016**

Peace is not just the absence of war. It is part of God's nature, and a value we should all seek to live out in our daily lives.

"Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life." **Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 225**

How this half term can you promote Peace in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?

Theme of the Week – It is the Lord

In Sunday's Gospel we hear of the miracle of the catching of the fish. Seven of the disciples have been out fishing all night and to no avail. Jesus appears and instructs them to cast their nets to the right of the boat and in an instance they had caught one hundred and fifty-three fish in total. And it is the catching of the fish that John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) recognised Jesus. The Greek word for fish is 'Icthys' and this is an acronym in Greek of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. 'Iēsous meaning Jesus, Christos meaning Christ, Theou meaning God, Yios meaning Son and Sōtēr meaning Saviour. Only through this miracle, a miracle that only the Son of God had the power to work, were the disciples able to recognise Jesus on his third appearance to them after His death.

The sign of the fish was an early symbol of Christianity with a boat being an early sign for the Church. And the disciples were responsible for the enormous catch of leading people to Jesus when Christianity grew. Peter in the Gospel takes a leading role in the Gospel of jumping out of the boat and rushing to Jesus (Jesus said he would be the rock that he would build His Church) with the other disciples playing their part in doing lots of the hard work of dragging the haul in. And it is because of the actions of these disciples after Jesus' death that allows us to sit and listen to the wonders of Jesus and His Father. However, we must also acknowledge that the disciples initially returned to their old occupations after Jesus' Death, afraid and feeling alone. They too needed Jesus to appear to them to truly see their vocation and he did so by providing a meal for His friends like he does for us through the Eucharist during Mass.

Sometimes we need to acknowledge to ourselves that we may be in the infancy of our faith like the Church was when Jesus appeared to the disciples. It might be the case for many of us that we haven't gone overboard for Jesus like Peter because either we haven't recognised the moments when Jesus has appeared to us or not fully understood when he has. As the breakfast on the beach nourished the disciples, how does the Eucharist continue to nourish those who follow the risen Lord? How have we met the commitment that discipleship calls us to do? How can we act on that this week? How can we be more **Active** and **Curious** in allowing ourselves to be more open to Jesus so we too can find our calling and vocation in life?

St Joseph's the Worker Feast Day – Thursday 1st May 2025

Yesterday, Thursday 1st May, all of the St Joseph's community came together to celebrate our Feast Day, St Joseph the Worker. Fr Kevin O Driscoll came into school to celebrate a whole school Mass before we all went onto the school field for a photo where we spelt out St Joseph's. We then went out into the community to serve and help others to live out our School Mission Statement of **"Unlocking Belief in All"** and demonstrate our school virtues of being: *Learned and Wise, Loving and Compassionate, Truthful and eloquent, intentional and prophetic, attentive and discerning, faith-filled and hopeful, curious and active, grateful and generous.*

St Joseph's students went to St Anthony's primary school, St Bernard's' prep, St Ethelbert's primary school, Holy Family primary school, Iqra primary school, Our Lady Of Peace primary school, The Riverside Day nursery in Windsor, a Faith Walk to Eton and Windsor, Oxford House care home and Wexham Park Hospital. **All students were outstanding**. They engaged with all the activities they had to deliver with ease. All parents and carers should be very proud of how their child conducted themselves out in the community and it was a true privilege to see and hear their achievements. More photos and testament from the students will be in next week's newsletter but a couple of emails sent through to me yesterday said:

"What a great privilege to have your students here at Wexham today. They are all stars. I hope they had a great time here. Thanks must go to the staff as well. Thank you for allowing us to take part in your special day".

"I just wanted to let you know that your students who attended Iqra Primary were absolute stars! They were so polite with all our staff and pupils and really gave 100% to engage with everyone. I hope they achieved what they aimed for and had a positive experience.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of your big day — our pupils really enjoyed themselves!"



Mary Pyle – Former Deputy Head Teacher of St Joseph's

This week, we were sadden to learn that Mary Pyle, a former Deputy Head Teacher of St Joseph's, passed away. Mary served the school for over 40 years and was Deputy Head Teacher for many of those before retiring in 1996. It is fair to say she played an enormous part in Catholic education in Slough and lay the foundation for our school today. We pass on our condolences to her husband Tony and her family at this sad time. Please do say the following prayer for Mary:

Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me and my loved ones.

Amen

Pupil Nominations of the Week

Year	7
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Nicholas Endler and Zofia Woronwicz for excellent weeks.

Year 8

Mia-Grace Wood and Jack Powell

Year 9

Bruno Valek and Kwame Offei – Yeboah for achieving the highest positive points this week.

Year 10

Jonathan Byamukama and Evadne Vermeulen for receiving the most positive points this week.

Year 11

Year 12

Adrian Konstantyn for great work in Travel and Tourism and Warrick Passos Wiggs for the most positive points on ClassCharts.

Year 13

Matteo Mennone and Ethan Louis for living out the St. Joseph's values every day and helping staff when needed.

Homework Superstars

Year 7	Nicholas Endler
Year 9	Victoria Okocha
Year 10	Maya Kordaczka



Dear Parent/Carer(s),

I am writing this letter to inform you of the slight amendments we are making to the timings in our school day. The changes will take effect from **Monday 5th May 2025**. The timetable below shows you the amendments. *This new timetable has been created to support our pupils taking their GCSE & A Level examinations throughout this summer term.*

Please note that students will still have their Form Time before Period 1.

Lesson	Time
Period 1	8:45am – 9:45am
Period 2	9:45am – 10:45am
Break	10:45am – 11:05am
Period 3	11:05am – 12:05pm
Lunch 1	12:05pm – 12:40pm (Years 8, 9, 11, 13)
Lunch 2	12:40pm – 1:15pm (Years 7, 10, 12)
Period 4	1:15pm – 2:15pm
Period 5	2:15pm – 3:15pm

Yours faithfully,

Mr G Stack-Clark Assistant Headteacher

Year 7 News

It has been a great first week back, Year 7 have been flying! They have picked up just **over 1400 positive points** since we came back last Wednesday. I hope they all enjoyed St Joseph's Day, we had a lovely whole school Mass, had a lovely time working within the community and of course watching the Staff vs Students Football game. Hopefully their Head of Year did not disappoint too much!

Have a lovely weekend all!

Mr Cooper-Santos – Head of Year 7

Year 8 News

What a fantastic start to the term! It's been great to see so many positive behaviours across Year 8, with minimal negatives.

It was amazing to see all of Year 8 out in the community yesterday, representing the school so positively on out Feast Day. Your effort and attitude did not go unnoticed.

Let's continue this momentum by staying organised: make sure your equipment is ready the night before and all homework is completed on time.

Have a great long weekend – enjoy the break, and we'll see you all back, refreshed and ready to go, on Tuesday!

Mr Hunt – Head of Year 8

Year 9 News

What a beautiful week it's been. After celebrating Mass as a whole school last Friday for the death of the Pope, it was a time to collectively come together. St Joseph's Day this week, on Thursday, was the opportunity for students to contribute and give back to the community, showing the values represented in St Joseph's as a school. Students went to local primary schools and lead prayer and reflection workshops with Year 5 or completed the faith walk to Eton and back. I hope you have a fantastic Bank Holiday Weekend.

Miss McCormack – Head of Year 9

Year 10 News

Another busy week, St Joseph's Day on Thursday was a great success! The Year 10 students visited various local primary schools, where they led engaging and fun-filled mini sports days for younger pupils. It was fantastic to see their leadership and teamwork in action, and the younger students had a wonderful time.

The celebrations concluded back at school with a BBQ, which drew a great crowd and plenty of spirited support!

Looking ahead, a reminder that **Parents' Evening will take place next Thursday**. Please ensure that appointments are made with all of your child's teachers, and that **attendance is confirmed via ParentPay**. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and next steps.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend ⓒ Miss Joseph – Head of Year 10

Year 12 News

This week, as part of our whole school celebrations for St Joseph's Day, Year 12 took part in a number of activities in the community, including selling cakes for charity outside Wexham Park Hospital and helping with Retreat Days for Year 5 students at a number of different primary schools. They represented the school well and we trust that they gained much from this new experience. During Form Time this week, we also began speaking to the students about matters such as UCAS applications, references and student finance.

There will be more sessions on this to follow but in the meantime, we would encourage all of our Year 12 students to start thinking in more detail about whether or not they wish to go to University, apply for an Apprenticeship or enter directly into the workplace. If they wish to go to University, now is the time to start thinking about which Universities and which courses. Many Universities will be holding Open Days over the next few months, which gives the students an opportunity to go and look around, ask questions and gain a greater understanding of what it would be like to study there.

Miss Stevens – Head of Year 12

Year 13 News

This week saw the school celebrate St Joseph's day and it was lovely to see the Year 13 students get involved in the various activities that took place on Thursday. As exam season approaches, it is important that everyone is aware of the exam timetable and the leaver's process for Year 13. Every student received a printed copy of their exam timetable this week and a separate letter detailing the end of term arrangements (also attached). Please could I ask that you review this with your child and as always, if you have any questions, then please do get in touch via email at <u>l.finn@st-josephs.slough.sch.uk</u>.

Have a fabulous bank holiday weekend.

Mrs Finn – Head of Year 13

House Competitions



Chess Inter-House Competition Final Results:



Year	7 Results		Yea
Cecilia	1000	1	Cecilia
Veronica	800	2	Peter
Mark	800	2	Mark
Peter	400	4	Veronica
Teresa	400	4	Jerome
Jerome	400	4	Teresa
Year	8 Results		Yea
Teresa	1000	1	Teresa
Peter	800	2	Veronica

ICOI	o nesuits		
Teresa	1000	1	Teresa
Peter	800	2	Veron
Jerome	600	3	Cecilia
Veronica	400	4	Jerom
Cecilia	400	4	Mark
Mark	0	6	Peter

Year 9 Results			
Veronica	1000	1	Ced
Jerome	800	2	Jer
Peter	600	3	Pet
Teresa	400	4	Ma
Cecilia	400	4	Ter
Mark	100	6	Ver

Year 1	0 Results	
Cecilia	1000	1
Peter	800	2
Mark	600	3
Veronica	400	4
Jerome	400	4
Teresa	0	6
Year 1	1 Results	
Teresa	1000	1
Veronica	800	2
Cecilia	0	
Jerome	0	
Mark	0	

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Photo taken by: Ms. S Viegas John C. (left) and Krystian C.(right)



Year	L3 Results	5	4
Mark	1000	1	KI
Cecilia	800	2	3.400
Jerome	600	3	
Peter	600	3	

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Overall Results		
Cecilia	4600	1
Jerome	3600	2
Veronica	3400	2
Peter	3400	2
Teresa	2800	5
Mark	2500	6

Year Group Champions		
Year 7	Maksym Borysenko, 7C	
Year 8	Joseph Cartwright, 8T	
Year 9	Brianne Barrozo, 9V	
Year 10	Krystian Cyran, 10C	
Year 11	Darragh O'Connor, 11T	
Year 12	Filip Kaczmarek, 12C	
Year 13	Rodney Coroza, 13M	



Girls Flag Football

It was a top-of-the-table clash this week against the mighty Northwood School. Having played them last year, we knew they were an extremely well-drilled and experienced team. It was neck and neck, with both teams scoring touchdowns, and with one minute to go, there were only two points in it – Northwood just edged ahead to come out on top.

We've had an amazing season, and the girls will be moving on to the **championship finals on 9th May** at Dukes Meadows, Chiswick. This is a fantastic achievement, as it means St Joseph's has finished in the top three out of twelve teams to progress to the finals.



Faith Walk to Alexandra Gardens – Celebrating St Joseph's Day

Students from 7V, 8V and 9C took part in a special faith walk to Alexandra Gardens in Windsor as part of our St Joseph's Day celebrations. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect, enjoy the beauty of creation, and spend time together as a school community.

Everyone represented the school with pride and respect, living out our Catholic values throughout the day. We showed *solidarity* by walking together in faith, *stewardship* by appreciating and caring for the environment around us, and *human dignity* by treating each other with kindness and compassion.

It was a memorable day for all involved, and a great way to celebrate the life and example of St Joseph.



United Nations Model Conference – Wednesday 30th April

St Joseph's proudly hosted a vibrant and thought-provoking Model United Nations event, welcoming students from Holyport College, Eton College, Beechwood, St Mary's, Slough and Eton School, and Windsor Girls' School.

The day began with a keynote address from **Filedma Meehan of** *Save the Children*, who reflected on the charity's 100-year legacy supporting vulnerable communities in conflict zones – a fitting start to a day focused on global awareness and diplomacy.

Students, having been assigned countries and key global issues to research in advance, engaged in highlevel debates across five different councils. Their confidence and diplomacy skills grew visibly as discussions progressed.

Following a lunch break, **Lucy Reeve from** *The HALO Trust* shared her field experiences in post-conflict recovery, emphasising the long-term efforts needed to rebuild war-torn communities – an inspiring and sobering insight for all attendees.

The day culminated in a General Assembly, where mixed-school delegations presented and defended their proposed resolutions.

Congratulations to **Roza Gorna**, who represented Ethiopia in the Historical Council (St Joseph's School) and was recognised as an outstanding delegate!

The event concluded with a panel Q&A featuring the guest speakers and Mr Stapleton, followed by the presentation of awards.

A **special thank you to the staff and student leaders** whose organisation and commitment made the event a success!







VE Day – 80th Anniversary!

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. **Thursday 8th May** is known as Victory in Europe Day, a time for the country to unite and give thanks that the war had finally come to an end. On this bank holiday, **Monday 5th May**, there will be many events taking place throughout the country, including a fly past and a procession in London so keep an eye out for these. In the local area, there may be events happening near you. To see what those events might be, please click <u>HERE</u>.

Please see below an open letter written by 10 surviving Second World War veterans, inviting the nation to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe in celebrations on Monday 5th May.

The Open Letter

Almost 80 years ago, something remarkable happened.

It was the culmination of years of sacrifice, collective action and hardship. Together with our allies around the world and across the Commonwealth, we defeated the scourge of fascism and defended our country, our democracy and our way of life. Few of us who fought in that war are still with us today. But those of us who are ask only one thing.

That you remember.

Remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Remember the danger of authoritarianism and fascism. Remember how it took all of us coming together across classes, religions, nations and races to prevail. Remember that peace and democracy don't just happen, they need to be maintained. So please join us in celebrating this VE Day and VJ Day later this summer. Please join in community celebrations on the 5th of May, the ongoing work in schools and the formal commemorations on the 8th of May.

But however you take part – please take a moment to remember as well.

To remember what happened isn't just about honouring the fallen – to remember is also our best hope of avoiding it ever happening again.

The official anniversary of the end of War in Europe is Thursday 8th May and there will be an opportunity for students to pause, reflect and give thanks for being able to live in a country where they are free from persecution and the terror of war.

When you go home Tell them of us and say For your tomorrow We gave our today





Theme: United in Diversity 2025



- Mufti Day: Students are invited to wear clothing that reflects their own culture or a culture they admire and wish to respectfully represent.
 - Bring a £1 donationproceeds to our school charity

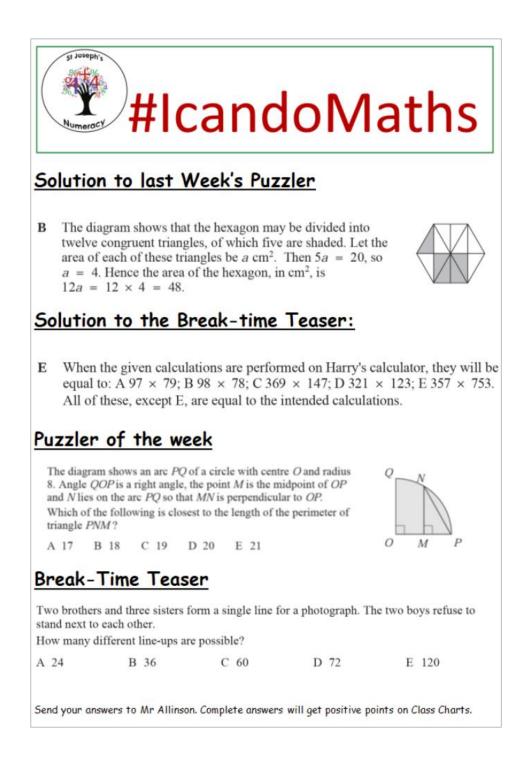
MULTICULTURAL DAY PRESENTATION

Entries Are Now Open! Until 10th May

• *Get in the Spirit* Bring artefacts symbols of your region or religion to share.

- Cultural Dance, Poetry, Singing and Music
 Sign up now! See Ms Ura or give your name to your form tutor
 - Cultural Clothing Fashion Show See Mr Ura with your ideas

 Eat Up!
 Bring sweet treats to share! Give your name to your form tutor and what you would like to bring







HPV Vaccination

What is HPV?



- The HPV (Human Papillomavirus) is a group of very common viruses that can cause cancer.
- · There are over 200 kinds of HPVs. • More than 70% of unvaccinated people will get the virus.
- For most people, HPV clears on its own. But for some people it can go on to cause HPV related cancers.
- HPV lives on the skin and can be found on hands and underneath fingernails.
- HPV can also be found on surfaces such as door handles, surfaces and equipment. The HPV Vaccine

In the UK, all children in school year 8 are offered the HPV vaccine. You only need one dose of this vaccination, and it is completely free.

ONE VACCINE CAN PROTECT YOU FROM HPV RELATED CANCER, GET PROTECTED NOW

Your child's school will inform you when we are due to visit. Please complete a YES OR NO consent form when you receive it.



vaccine or contact us on: @ eastschoolimms@berkshire.nhs.uk



Menu

WEEKLY	St Joseph's Catholic High School - Week Three			
Monday Chinese Style Chicken Curry	Tuesday Mexican Tortilla Bake	Wednesday Creamy Cajun Style Chicken	Thursday Cottage Pie	Friday Oven Baked Fish served with
served with Rice & Prawn Crackers		Pasta		Chips & Tartare Sauce
Spinach, Tomato & Mozzarella Pasta	Dhal with Cauliflower & Spinach served with Rice	Mixed Bean Taco served with Sour Cream & Cheese	Bean & Vegetable Burrito with Sweetcorn Salsa	Roast Vegetable & Pesto Pizza
Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Vegetables or Freshly Prepared House Salad	Baked Beans or Mushy Peas
Sweet Chilli & Coriander Noodles	Pasta with Ham & Cheese Sauce	Pasta in a Cheese Sauce	Tomato Pasta Pot	
Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Sandwiches Fillings	
Jam & Coconut Sponge	Fruit Turnover served with Custard	Iced Chocolate Sponge	Iced Lemon Shortbread	Chocolate Chip Flapjack

Available daily: Sandwiches, Wraps & Baguettes, Panini, Jacket Potatoes, Cold Desserts & Fruit

EAL NEWS

(English as an Additional Language)

Do you know?

Raising multilingual or bilingual children is a long-term commitment. To make multilingualism work for your child and family, there are things you can do each day and might need to think about over the long term. These things include:

- sticking with your heritage language, even when there's pressure to choose English
- reminding yourself that using your heritage language helps to strengthen family bonds
- using your heritage language to play games, read books, cook food and do other fun things that make it positive for your child
- making sure your child gets plenty of chances to hear and use their heritage language

Children who grow up in a family where parents have only limited English do better at learning English in school if they keep speaking their heritage languages at home. That is because a solid base in their first language makes it easier for them to learn a second one.

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Free Online Resources

International Children's digital library: <u>this website</u> aims to enable families to have access to the books of their cultures and language regardless of where they live.

SCHOOL CLUBS



Languages Department

Our KS3 French and Spanish students have had a fantastic half-term in MFL club with Ms Shaw, on **Tuesdays** (Week A) at 3:30-4:30pm in T5. Having fun with languages, exploring cultural themes and enjoying friendships is what we love, so do come along! An appealing prospect with chocolate: *les oeufs de Pâques* (French); *los huevos de Pascua* (Spanish).



"Unlocking Belief in All"

Tennis JCO

Dance

KBR

Cricket

THU