

28th June 2019



# Newsletter



Dear Parents

Our children have enjoyed another busy week at school and once again we are so grateful to all staff and parents who enable these experiences to take place.

## Mad hair and sock day

This was an interesting and colourful day and it gave our children an opportunity to be creative and use some self expression! The total amount raised was £244; this money will go towards International Week and we all had a lot of fun into the bargain!



## Family Lunch

Our Year 6 parents were treated to lunch with their children on Wednesday. These events have proved to be very popular and once again we are grateful to our admin, catering and midday staff for ensuring their success. Thank you everybody!



## New Parent Induction

We welcomed our new Reception parents to school yesterday during our special Induction evening. This was an opportunity to answer any questions and to explain about school procedures and the EYFS curriculum in more depth. Thankyou to all involved.

## Deanery Mass

The Mini Vinnies travelled to St Edmonds in Loughton to attend the annual Mass for schools along with their Parish Priests within the Brentwood diocese. The theme was celebrating community; family, friends, schools and the church.

### EYFS and KS1 Mass

This was a lovely celebration and the first of its kind at our school. We will ensure that this becomes a regular celebration from now on. Thank you to all involved.

### Parents Day

We look forward to welcoming parents from Years 1 - 5 to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Please remember to book your appointment online to ensure that you are able to meet with your teacher.



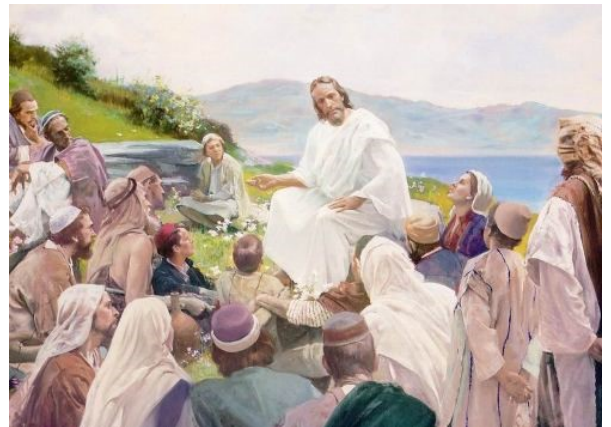
### Year 4 to Kentwell

We love this trip! It provides an opportunity for our children to travel back in time for the day and experience life as a Tudor child. Thankyou to all parents for working hard to ensure that the children look the part - I look forward to hearing their stories on their return to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

### Gospel Values Awards

Congratulations to the first children to receive the Gospel values certificate

Butterflies: Evie Underdown	3N: Olivia Mardyla
Ladybirds: Hayley Ranathunga	4C: Medhaj Bachoo
1D: Emilia Mardyla	4E: Seren-Bliss Feast
1S: Kayla Umaru	5P: Kaylah Kuttin
2C: Lilly Bergamini	5S: Roquiyah Adams
2HD: Casey Okpanachi	6CA: Lewis Ridler
3G: Mya Matunge	6N: Samuel Reed-Langley



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2C**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **99.31%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **32**, with **98%** attendance.

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

**It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school.**

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

RB	96%
RL	99%
1D	97%
1S	92%
2C	99%
2HD	97%
3G	95%
3N	98%
4C	95%
4E	96%
5P	94%
5S	95%
6CA	96%
6ND	90%





### Cricket Tournament

Well done to the children in Year 3 who took part in the Rapid fire cricket tournament. It was a day of learning and playing competitive matches against teams from schools all over Harlow.



### Tennis Tournament

Well done to Tudor, James, Niamh and Kelechi who took part in a year 5/6 tennis tournament on Tuesday at Latton Green Tennis Club.









# RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 30 June, Feast of Saints Peter and Paul - Matthew 16:13-19

"On this rock I will build my Church."

On this Feast of St Peter and St Paul, we give thanks for two pillars of the Church. On their shoulders the Good News was carried throughout the world.

Peter is the rock and he holds the keys to the kingdom - what a symbol of strength! And Paul's zeal was tireless; he poured himself out completely.

But they didn't always get it right. Soon after the passage above, Jesus rebukes Peter for getting in the way of his mission, and we know that Peter goes on to deny his Lord three times. Paul, before his conversion, ruthlessly persecuted Christians.

Nonetheless, Jesus still makes Peter a strong foundation for the Church and calls Paul to spread his word. None of us is perfect, but with God's help, we find strength to build up the kingdom. Although the legacy of Peter and Paul is a tough act to follow, we can help in our own way to build firm foundations for those who come after us.

What mark do we want to leave on the world?

What will our legacy be for our sisters and brothers in Christ?

Our prayers and actions are building blocks for the future that lies ahead. Even after we are gone, their impact will continue to be felt.

St Peter and St Paul, we give thanks for the legacy you gave in response to Christ's calling. Pray for us, that we too may respond to this call and help build a better world where all God's children can flourish.

Amen.

## The Words of Pope Francis

How many times, in prayer, do we limit ourselves to asking for gifts and listing requests, forgetting that the first thing we should do is praise God's name, adore Him, and then go on to acknowledge His living image in our brothers and sisters.



## Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



**Encountering Christ**  
Prayerfully preparing for the  
Sunday Mass and praying in  
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - The Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

### 1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



### 2 Read

**Taken from the Gospel for 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (Matthew 16:13-19): Peter the Rock**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."



### 3 Reflect

**After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.**

*This is one of the very rare saints-days to displace the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, which shows its importance. In a way it is still a Feast of the Lord, for it is the feast of the Church. Peter is to be the Rock foundation of Jesus' own people, for that is what we are. Christ has called us together as his own people, and he has promised that he will always be present in this Church, 'when two or three are gathered together in my name'. So Christ is present even in an ordinary household trying to live together with Christ at their centre. Here Jesus makes the promise to Peter that what he binds on earth will be bound in heaven; his decisions will hold firm in the eyes of God. Later Jesus makes the same promise to the community itself. So Peter is the spokesman for the Christian community, voicing the decisions of the Church. At his last meeting with his disciples the risen Christ promises to be with them 'till the end of the ages'; the bishops, as the successors of the apostles, are the channels of Christ's presence among us now. So today is the celebration of Christ among us, his people.*

**How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

### 4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church  
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

[www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)



# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019



## First Reading: *Peter's Narrow Escape*

### Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get up!" he said "Hurry!" - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on your belt and sandals." After he had done this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak round you and follow me." Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me."

*This story is delightfully told: Peter is like a sleepy child, woken in the middle of the night. There are perhaps too many escapes from prison in the Book of Acts; Luke obviously enjoys this kind of story, and so would his audience. However, such narratives demonstrate the special protection which God exercises over the infant Church. Once James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, had been executed, if Peter had gone too, the community would have been dangerously bereft. The presence of the angel signifies this special protection and divine intervention to ensure the continuance of the Church. Peter has already been leading the Church (he has introduced the centurion Cornelius, the first gentile convert) and he still has to take a leading part at the Council of Jerusalem, thereby ensuring the liberty of gentile Christians from observance of the full Jewish Law. After that Peter disappears from the scene. The tradition is strong that he was martyred in Rome, but we do not know where his apostolic role took him. Paul tells us that, while he himself was entrusted with the mission to the gentiles, Peter was entrusted with the mission to the Jews. The Jewish Christians were an important group among the first generations of Christians.*

*What do stories like this in the Acts of the Apostles tell us about the special place Peter occupied in the early Church?*

## Second Reading: *Paul in the Evening of his Life*

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

“We will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace.”

*The Second Letter to Timothy was probably written in Paul's name, rather than being directly authored by him. As Paul frequently does, this passage uses the images of sport, so popular in the ancient world: the arena, the race-track and the winner's crown. Paul gives full expression to his consciousness of the Lord's power to save, and also to his longing for the completion of his own life in the Lord, balanced (as always) by his eagerness to do the Lord's work in his mission here and now. This longing is at the heart of every Christian. Despite a human fear of death, we know that in the end we will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. The early Christians saw this 'Appearing' of the Lord in terms of a royal procession in the clouds, signalling the end of the world, but what we look forward to is not so much the dissolution of the universe but to a personal meeting with the Lord. This meeting will be awesome and daunting because we will be brought face to face with ourselves and see ourselves as we truly are - including all those faults and failures which we refuse to admit even to ourselves, yet conscious of the overwhelming comfort of forgiveness in the divine love.*

*What will it be like at the Lord's 'Appearing'? Is it something for which you too long?*

**The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God**

w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)

Happy Birthday to... Lukas Semenka & Cora Laporte



### Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Dylan Cater, for fantastic story planning ideas

Ladybirds: Edward Guna, for making great progress with his writing

1D: Rafe Norris, for writing fantastic instructions for how to fly a Tardis

1S: Amelia Randle, for working hard with her precision monitoring

2C: Talulah Gray, for trying very hard in all lessons

2HD: Ella Haley, for trying hard to improve her literacy

3G: Eva Gautis, for always producing outstanding work in Literacy

3N: Evilija Kucinskaite, for writing an excellent self-evaluation

4C: Martha Edwards, for amazing Design & Technology skills, making Tudor purses

4E: Jonjo Hanifin-Flynn, for a fantastic attitude to learning this week

5P: Oliwia Niedzwiecka, for always trying her best in everything she does

5S: Molly Cozens, for producing an outstanding History powerpoint and having a great attitude to learning

6CA: Manuela Ogbonze, for being an excellent support and friend in class

6ND: Aaron Boodoo, for great enthusiasm towards the Year 6 production

## Diary Dates

### Menu Week 1

#### Monday 1st July

4E Swimming

Dance 3.15-4.15

KS1 Cricket & Rounders 3.15-4.15

#### Tuesday 2nd July

Parents' Day

Multisport Club KS1 3.15-4.15

Choir

Year 6 Production 6pm

#### Wednesday 3rd July

Year 5 visit to St. Marks

Athletics Club KS1 3.15-4.15

Cricket & Rounders Club KS2 3.15-4.15

Karate 3.15- 4.15

Year 6 Production 6pm

#### Thursday 4th July

Year 2 Library visits

Choir

Athletics KS2 3.15-4.15

#### Friday 5th July

Year 1 Assembly

Tennis Club KS2 3.15 -4.15

Karate 3.15 -4.15

### House Points

**Congratulations to the  
winning house St Andrew**

Miss S McGuigan

Headteacher

Please download our News & Events  
App for dates for the year. Details  
are available on the schools website  
under News & Events at  
[www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher