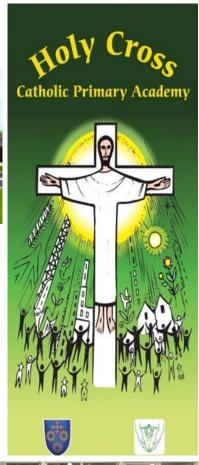


#### Peer Mediators and Play Leaders

A big well done to our new Year 6 Peer Mediators and Play Leaders in Year 5 and 6. The children have worked incredibly hard in preparation to take on these key roles in our school. They have been challenged with helping everyone to play together with love and kindness and to encourage all children to be good friends. Jesus teaches us the value and importance of being there for each other and this is the example that we want our older pupils to set for the whole school. My thanks to Mrs Gallagher for her hard work with the children and for co-ordinating the programme.





We are remembering Miss McGuigan next week on the first anniversary of her death, the 8th October. All Parents, Governors and Staff (both past and current) are welcome to join us for a special Key Stage Two Assembly where we remember her and the wonderful things that she did for our pupils and our school. This will take place on Friday 7th October at 2.30pm in the church.



#### Mental Health Week

Next week will be having a special focus on promoting good Mental Health and wellbeing and on Friday we are going to have a Wear It Yellow day in support of the Young Minds Charity. Children can wear non-uniform with something yellow and we would be grateful if parents could please donate £1.50 for the charity via Pupil Asset.



#### Parking

Please ensure you are parking carefully and considerately, to other road users, pedestrians and our neighbours.

We have the Nichols Field carpark, just a short walk away, available for our parents use. If you would like a map to show the location of the carp park, please speak to the office.

#### Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our event yesterday. This is such an important charity as sadly cancer touches so many of our lives. We raised a fantastic £465!



#### Parent Volunteers

We are always grateful to parents for their help and we are especially thankful for any parents who can come in for an afternoon or morning to hear children read. If you could spare a couple of hours a week to support us with this please contact the school office for more information.

#### Harvest Assembly

On Friday 21st October our Friday Assemblies will both have a Harvest theme. The children will be singing Harvest hymns and giving thanks for all of the food that we eat and good things that we have from God.

#### Friends of Holy Cross School-FOHCS (PTA)

We really need your help please! Everyone in our school community is immediately a member of the PTA when their child joins the school. Our school budget is dwindling and it is difficult to afford anything other than the essentials for the children. We also understand that families are struggling with the rise in energy costs but every bit of support: helping out, baking a cake or making a donation will make a huge difference. We have been able to buy new footballs for the Key Stage Two children thanks to the £100 donation from the PTA.

The team (FOHCS) would like to invite everyone to the first meeting of the year on the 5th October at 9.00am in the Parish Hall. This will be an opportunity to have a coffee and share ideas. Even if you can't commit to every meeting please come along to find out how you can help (however small). FOHCS will be letting you know soon about the exciting events that are being planned. A sneak peek...children get your dancing shoes on!

#### Kingfishers Gibberd Garden Trip

This week Kingfishers had the opportunity to visit the Gibberd Garden. The children were able to develop their creativity by exploring the gardens and the wonderful statues and choosing their favourite one to sketch and look at in depth. The children also embarked on a group competition trying to find all 88 statues across the garden, all the groups managed this challenge successfully!



#### Great Open-Door Assembly

On Tuesday morning, Great Open-Door led a whole-school assembly on the theme of resilience. Through a combination of fast-paced drama, music, singing and puppets, the message shared was; Trust in God, Trust in Jesus. As ever this was an excellent and thought-provoking assembly. We thank Jo Hargrave and her team and look forward

to their return.













# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Squirrels achieving 99% attendance for the second consecutive week. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Badgers, also attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at 8:30am until 8 50am

Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative test before they may attend school. There is no need to keep your child off with a common cold, if they are well enough to come in.

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

	Butterflies	97%
	Ladybirds	95%
	Dragonflies	97%
	Grasshoppers	97%
	Hedgehogs	97%
	Squirrels	99%
	Badgers	99% (
	Foxes	97%
	Hares	93%
	Rabbits	95%
	Kingfishers	93%
	Robins	98%
	Eagles	91%
	Owls	97%

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Pupil Asset report absence option on every day of absence. 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.



Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

## Gentleness

#### - love and friendship

"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also." (6:29) Samaritan Village (9:54)

Congratulations to the following children who received the Gospel values certificate this week.



Dragonflies: Amara Nwoye Grasshoppers: Zuzanna Janczewska

Hedgehogs: Sophie Doyle Squirrels: Blake Leagas

Badgers: Riley O'Sullivan Foxes: Freya Bown

Hares: Toby Marsh-Gray Rabbits: Leah Hyde

Kingfishers: Araibella Morgan Robins: Emilia Mardyla

Eagles: Athena Harrsion Owls: Luciann Henry

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

## ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox'title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom; it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

#### **PUBLIC SERVERS**

Robiox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Robiox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

#### ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Robiox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Robiox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Robiox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

PEGI RATING

#### IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money, People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## ( a)



#### SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Robiox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Robiox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

#### DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

#### PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Robiox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Robiox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

#### MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

#### DEALING WITH STRANGERS

Cas

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

#### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



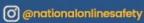




Sources https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333451/toblos-over-half-of-ushttps://corp.robiox.com/parents/









Based on the gospel for Sunday 2 October, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 17:5-10

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith."

It is easy to have sympathy with the apostles' request that Jesus increase their faith. Sometimes the needs of the world and the demands of discipleship can seem overwhelming. However, we can take heart in Jesus' response. God can do wonderful things through even the tiny mustard seed of our faith. Our role is to play our part, not due to any hope of reward, but simply because it needs to be done. We are called to see the needs in front of us and to respond, and this is something each of us can do, however small we may feel our faith is.

As we approach Family Fast Day on Friday (7 October), we can see the desperate need of our brothers and sisters in East Africa, suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Let's remember that God wants to use each of us to do amazing things, like ensuring that all people have the nourishing food they need to survive and flourish

Rather than ordering mulberry trees into the ocean, perhaps this Family Fast Day we can use our faith to reach out to our brothers and sisters in love and solidarity.

Creator God,

You have given to our care a world with abundant resources.

Make us generous people, who use our faith

to ensure that the world's harvest is shared

and all people have food and justice.

Amen



#### The Words of Pope Francis

Sometimes we human beings believe that we are the masters of everything, or on the contrary, we lose all self-esteem. Prayer helps us to find the right dimension in our relationship with God, our Father, and with all Creation





## SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 'Little Way Week' edition of *The Wednesday Word*. Little Way Week is a week of service which is inspired by the life of St Thérèse of Lisieux who remained faithful to God throughout her short life. St Thérèse is a great model of faith for all people.

Helping our children to grow in faith, to know and to love God, is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Faith in God transforms how we see the world and helps us to keep growing in our love for each other too.

#### Wednesday 28th September 2022

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us about the power (and also the duty) that comes from having faith in God. Faith can 'move mountains'; it can free us from anxiety and give us confidence and inner strength.

A family full of faith is a family full of joy. Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FAITH**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough

To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022



The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "Were your faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey

you. Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, 'Come and have your meal immediately'? Would he not be more likely to say, 'Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards'? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty.'"

Adapted from

Luke 17: 5-10 (the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel in Church ~ all are warmly invited. \_\_\_

"How beautiful it is to support each other in the wonderful adventure of faith!" Pope Francis



WORD CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL



Having faith is to believe and trust in God's love for us. Faith is one of life's greatest blessings – it is a gift to be shared. The Church exists to help people to grow in their faith. You can find out more at: cbcew.org.uk

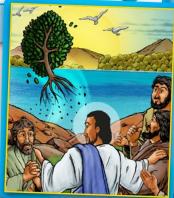


## Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overlead (or below for younger children)

One day Jesus' friends, the apostles, said to him, "Please increase our faith. Make our faith grow stronger." So to help them understand how small their faith really was, and how real faith helps us to do amazing things, Jesus said to them, "If your faith was the size of a tiny mustard seed, you could do astonishing things. You could even tell this mulberry tree to pull itself out of the ground, roots and all, and to plant itself in the sea, and the tree would obey you!"

What did the apostles ask Jesus to do for them? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



## Wednesday's Word is ...

## FAITH 22 3

#### **Loving God & Each Other**

"The family is the place where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith." Pope Francis

Faith greatly enriches our lives. Ask your child what the word 'faith' means to them. Who do they know who has great faith in God? Who helps them to grow in faith and learn more about God? You may want to tell your child about someone in the family, at school or in the parish who helped you to grow in faith when you were young.

"Faith and love are everything, and nothing is more precious than these." St Ignatius of Antioch

Faith and love are inseparable. Having faith in God helps happiness and love to grow in our families. What can we do to help our family's faith to grow, in little ways, as we celebrate 'Little Way Week'?' Perhaps we can: perform a little act of goodness each day; talk about God together and with others; read *The Wednesday Word* together; say morning and bedtime prayers; ask God to help us grow in faith. For more ideas please see: missiontogether.org.uk

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be like St Thérèse. Please increase our faith and move us to action – sharing God's love with the world in little ways. Amen.

M	М	Ε	S	Α	Ε	R	C	N	1	F	<b>TATEDNESDAY</b>
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J	S	S	C	D	R	A	T	S	U	M	SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN
0	T	В	I	N	C	R	Ε	Α	S	Ε	
В	Α	P	M	L	1	L	J	Y	В	D	APOSTLES
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D	Н	P	M	В	Н	D	E	E	R	Н	TREE OREY
F	Α	I	T	Н	E	J	D	J	Ε	M	SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS
J	Ε	U	В	Ε	0	Y	S	A	E	D	BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

our\_\_\_\_\_. Make\_\_\_\_ faith\_\_\_\_ stronger."



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.



Jesus wants us to have faith in God's help – just like St Thérèse. He tells us that faith is a powerful thing. Even if it is as small as a tiny seed, then it can help us to do great things.

See: missiontogether.org.uk/little-way-week

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...



#### Wednesday 28th September 2022 - 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 2nd October 2022 - The Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 (Luke 17:5-10): The Reward of Faith

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, 'Come and have your meal immediately?' Would he not be more likely to say, 'Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards?' Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.'"

## 3 Reflect

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

The two sections of this Gospel reading appear at first sight to be entirely separate, the first about faith, the second about the reward of service; but they do fit together. The faith required consists not in reciting a creed but in hanging on by one's finger-tips, through thick and thin, to God's power and will to save. In nothing else is there any hope, not in my own power or ability. That is why, in the second section, we have no right to expect any sort of reward as our due from God. The value of our work in itself is secondary to our admission of helplessness and our trust in God's to save us. However, not all parables should be taken as allegories. The severe master here is not necessarily God, any more than the master who in another parable praises his crooked steward. When we hear the unyielding command of the master to the slave to expect nothing and to set about serving at supper, we cannot forget that at the Last Supper it was Jesus who put on his apron and washed his disciples' feet. We may be unworthy slaves, but Our Lord's action at the Last Supper gives us confidence that our Master ministers to us.

How do I best serve God and others?

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB** 



#### 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

## WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS 🕇





#### First Reading: Keep Going

#### Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry "Oppression!" in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see; all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, "Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness."

This fascinating passage has two very different meanings; the first is the meaning of the original Hebrew prophet, the second is as a reflection on the meaning of 'faith' as mentioned in the gospel passage with which the Church pairs this first reading. The drift of the passage in the Hebrew prophet Habakkuk is endurance. 'Make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it' the original Hebrew reads - that is, as you whisk past, running your Marathon, you see an encouraging placard in the crowd, 'Keep going!' So the message in the last line is that, however tough and unpromising the course, the righteous person should live by endurance, perseverance, fidelity. The message was originally intended to keep up the spirits of the Jews as the Babylonian armies approached: it will be tough, but stick it out, for the Lord will not desert you. However, the Apostle Paul is using the Greek translation of the Hebrew text - of course he is writing in Greek - which reads 'the righteous person lives by fidelity/faith'. Paul uses the text in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11 to prove that justification is by faith. Luther adds a further complication by adding, 'alone': 'the righteous person lives by faith alone'. But for Paul, faith expresses itself in action.

How does Christian faith and hope make life different?

#### Second Reading: Sound Teaching

#### 2 Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God. Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Keep to the tradition already established.

Today we start with the first of four Sunday readings from Second Timothy. The letters addressed to Timothy and Titus, those two central members of Paul's staff, are generally considered not to have been written by Paul himself. However, they are all part of the inspired word of God, and a handful of reputable scholars considers that Second Timothy is indeed by Paul. In 1 Corinthians 16:10-11 the Corinthians are urged to treat Timothy gently, and in today's passage the author seems to be encouraging Timothy himself against timidity; perhaps he was a naturally hesitant person. One of the principal emphases of all three letters to Timothy and Titus is the adherence to 'sound teaching': they are encouraged to think and act within the tradition of the teaching which they have received and to uphold its fundamental vision. This is, of course, already implied by the laying on of Paul's hands, for a Jewish rabbi would learn much by heart, and at the end of his training was commissioned to carry on the tradition in the name of his own teacher. Such methods would have been important for the preservation of the teaching of Jesus during the Pauline period, before it came to be written down in the gospels.

What is the "sound teaching" to which Paul refers?

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

#### Happy Birthday this week to...

Damien Andersen-Hamm, Isaac Lieu, Godswill Adenupe-Olabanji, Amelia Owusu-Boateng, Anayah Arbuah, Aimee Fennelly, Joshua Puddefoot, Oskar Skowron, Zoe Staines, Julia Czarny, Hadassar Mbugua and Alexandra Sirghe.



#### Head Teachers Award:

Albie Gardner, for all his help with the Macmillan coffee morning Kiera Noonan, for all her help with the Macmillan coffee morning Riley O'Sullivan, for his generous act of kindness Jeremiah Marriott, for his maturity and positive attitude to school life. Alex Embley, for his maturity and positive attitude to school life

#### Golden Awards:

Antoni Szarek, for excellent effort in maths Dragonflies:

Hanley Matthew, for working hard on his handwriting Grasshoppers:

Hannah Mahalik-Berec, for being creative and drawing a lovely Autumn picture Hedgehogs:

Lucas Cater, for working hard on his writing this week Squirrels:

Badgers: Liliana Smaglo, for producing some fantastic store writing

Foxes: Keaton Peters, for a great attitude towards his learning and being a fantastic class

buddy to new children

Luisa Marsham, for her amazing River Nile project Hares:

Rabbits: Sean O'Connor, for being helpful around the classroom

Daisy Lane, for an enthusiastic start to Kingfishers Kingfishers:

Blanka Trus, for her excellent effort in writing a poem about Burwell House. Robins:

Eagles: Mya Simpson, for settling so well into Year 6 Katie Johns, for a fantastic effort in maths Owls:

#### Menu Week 1

## Diary Dates

Monday 3rd October Hares Swimming Lesson

Y1 & Y2 Dodgeball 3:10 -4:10

Tuesday 4th October

Y3 & Y4 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Y5 & Y6 Football 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesday 5th October

KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10

Y5 & Y6 Sports Competition Training 3:15 - 4:15

Thursday 6th October

KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Y1 & Y2 Football 3:10 - 4:10

Friday 7th October

Non Uniform Day - Wear Yellow

KS1 Assembly 9:00 - 9:30

KS2 Assembly 2:30 - 3:00

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

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Alisonteretto Seen VELL

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelleher

#### House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick