



25th November 2022



Reflection on the week: Our Gospel Value this week has been Hope and we began our week by thinking about the importance of Hope in our lives. Sometimes the challenges we face can feel overwhelming and impossible to get through but this is when we know that Jesus is right there beside us; our best friend. We have been talking to the children about resilience and not giving up, that when we Hope in the Lord that we can achieve great things. As we approach the season of Advent, we think about the light that Jesus brings to our lives and the gentle encouragement he gives us every day. This will be a joyous few weeks and I am very much looking forward to my first Christmas with you all, here at Holy Cross.

Wishing our families many blessings,

Mrs Kerrell  
Headteacher



### Reading Zone

We are excited to invite our Year 1 and 2 parents to the Reading Zone session this week. This will take place on Tuesday 29th November and Thursday 1st December from 8.50am-9.15am. Please come to Reception where we will meet you and take you to join the session.

Please remember that it is very important that you read with your child three times per week and sign their diary. Reading at home with you, not always their school book, is more important now than ever as Reading underpins so much of what your child learns at school.

### Christmas at Holy Cross

We will be preparing the school on Monday for Christmas and we are really looking forward to seeing the children's excited faces on Tuesday morning. I am thoroughly enjoying the beautiful singing that I am hearing as our youngest children practise for the Nativity Play.

We will be sending out a very important letter today about the tickets for our Nativity performances. Also later in the newsletter this week are all the important dates for the coming weeks in December (always a good idea to pop it on the fridge!).

### Parent Forum

Many thanks to our parents who attended our first Parent Forum Meeting of the year, on behalf of the parents of each Year Group. It was good to listen to the thoughts and questions of our parents and to offer answers, solutions and ways forward where possible. As I explained to parents yesterday, I am always ready to listen to our Parents' voices and want to work in partnership with you all. It is important that parents understand that we cannot always accommodate every request but I am always happy to explain the reasons why we do things as we do, as a school. I believe that parents who attended the meeting yesterday have fed back through WhatsApp to each year group.

### Uniform Policy

Following consultation yesterday with parents, we will now complete our new Uniform Policy and it will be sent to parents next week.

### Water Bottles in Bags

Can KS1 parents please be careful when putting water bottles in book bags. Books damaged by water will need to be replaced.

### Holy Cross Coats

A reminder please that every child must have a green Holy Cross Coat, as part of our Uniform Policy. I am noticing that several children have a different coat and this is not part of our school uniform. We have excellent quality, second hand Holy Cross coats available in our uniform shop; please contact the school office if you would like to find out if we have your child's size.

### Parish Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the Parish Bazaar last Sunday and for your generosity. We are delighted to share with you that it made £1136.00.

### Tutoring Groups

There will no after school tutoring groups until 12th December

### Reception Applications 2023

Applications for a place in Reception 2023 must be made by 15th January. They can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions). A Supplementary Information Form must also be completed. These are available from the school office.

### Basketball

Congratulations to the two basketball teams who took part in the tournament this morning. They finished joint winners on 10 points. A great achievement.



### Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

## Hope

- resilience, perseverance

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." (24:52)



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

Dragonflies:	Andreas Vechiu	Grasshoppers:	Dennis Jegorovs
Hedgehogs:	Sarah Ciotoi	Squirrels:	Luka Yamgoue
Badgers:	Dylan Ziya	Foxes:	Blake Simpson
Hares:	Sian Hanifin-Flynn	Rabbits:	Cooper Leagas
Kingfishers:	Iris Wells	Robins:	Alana Madarasz
Eagles:	Ranniel Masambique	Owls:	Beatrice Fagg



# COLCHESTER CASTLE



## Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle

Last Friday, Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Colchester Castle. The children had a great time learning all about the Romans, building models of an Iron Age Roundhouse or a Roman Villa and going under the castle for a story tour to learn about Boudicca's Rebellion. The children enjoyed looking at the different artefacts and using them to think about what life was like in the Roman times.

## CAFOD School Volunteers

CAFOD (The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) reaches out to Catholic schools through volunteers who deliver assemblies and workshops using the excellent resources produced by CAFOD's Education group. Would you, or someone you know, be interested in joining the team?

We provide training and termly refresher sessions, arrange for you to have a DBS check and pay your travel expenses. The role is especially suitable for someone looking to return to work after a career break, thinking about a career in education or recently retired and looking for a volunteering opportunity where they can make a difference.

For more information contact Marcela Keech at [mkeech@cafod.org.uk](mailto:mkeech@cafod.org.uk) or Jane Crone [jcrone@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jcrone@cafod.org.uk) 07779 804252



## Christmas Calendar of Events

### Tuesday 6th December

Reception and Year 1 Nativity production 2pm (ticket only)

### Wednesday 7th December

Reception and Year 1 Nativity production 2pm (ticket only)

Reception and Year 1 Nativity production 6pm (ticket only)

### Thursday 8th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Pantomime

### Friday 9th December

Festival of Light KS2 9am in Holy Cross church

Festival of Light KS1 2pm in Holy Cross church

### Tuesday 13th December

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas lunch

Years 3,4,5 and 6 bring in a packed lunch

Year 2 Carol Concert (2pm) Holy Cross church (no ticket required)

Year 2 Carol Concert (6pm) Holy Cross church (no ticket required)

### Wednesday 14th December

All pupils bring in packed lunch

Class Christmas parties 1.30pm—3pm

### Thursday 15th December

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas lunch

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 bring in a packed lunch

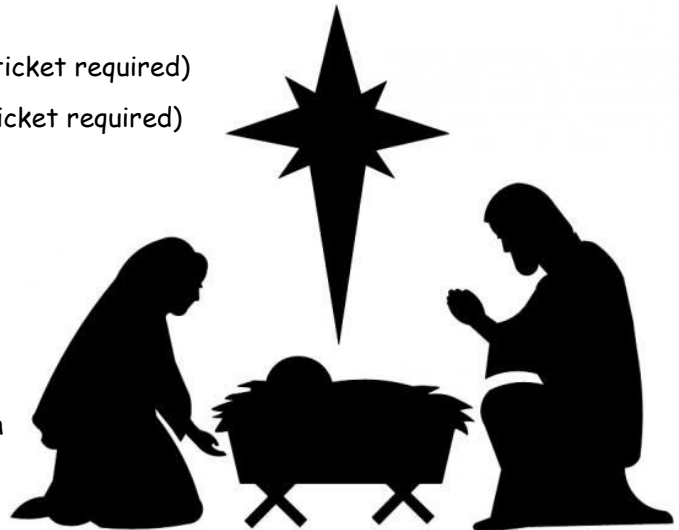
### Tuesday 20th December

Last day of term.

Finish times are as follows:

Reception at **1.20pm** from the Reception playground

Rest of the school **1.30pm** from the main playground



### Christmas Cards

The Christmas card post box will open on Thursday 1st December and will be located outside the school office door. Please remind your children to post their cards here and not to hand them out in class. They will be collected, sorted and delivered to the correct classes. Please remember to write the name of the child and the class they are in on the envelope.





# PTA

## Christmas Events

The PTA will be selling the following items on the 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 13th December after school

Guess the Name of the Elf  
£1 each

Snowman Soup

Snowman Poop

Reindeer Hot Chocolate cone

Do you wanna build a snowman

£1 each

Raffle tickets to win a  
drinks hamper  
£1 each

cash or card payments



### Christmas Jumpers

Christmas Jumper Day is fast approaching on 8th December. With that in mind we are asking for donations of Christmas jumpers you no longer need, which we will then sell for £2. This will make the day more affordable for our families and raising money towards the snacks being provided by The Friends of Holy Cross for the Panto.

The last day to bring in your old Christmas jumpers is Thursday 1st December.



## CHRISTMAS EDITION

Pre-order yours by **9th** December

in the school office and collect on

Friday **16th** December

Payment by cash or card

**1 doughnut\* for £1**

**6 doughnuts\* for £5**

**12 doughnuts\* for £10**

\*all original glazed

## **Pupil Premium Funding in Key Stage 1 and 2/Free School Meals in Key Stage 2**

Our school can obtain additional funding to support your child's education and if you're a parent whose child is in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) they could avail of free school lunches. Please read the information below and if this applies to you, please contact us as detailed.

### **Pupil Premium in Key Stage 1**

**If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and if you meet any of the eligibility criteria below, our school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at our school to help your child.**

At Holy Cross, we receive an extra funding for every eligible pupil who is registered.

To apply please contact:

[admin@holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk) or telephone  
Mrs. Thomas on 01279-424452

### **Free School Meals and Pupil Premium in Key Stage 2**

Children in E.Y.F.S, Years 1 and 2 are automatically entitled to a free school lunch under the Governments' Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme, this stops when children enter Year 3.

However, if you meet the eligibility criteria below, your child may be entitled to a free school lunch.

In addition to free school lunch our school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at our school to help your child.

To apply please use this link

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are receiving any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (not Working Tax Credit), with an annual income below £16,190
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, income related
- Support under part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, with a household income of £7,400 or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

#### **Does my child have to eat the free school meals?**

No, pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive funding which can support your child in other ways.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS




Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Butterflies achieving 97% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Eagles, also attaining 97% 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.

**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.**

 Butterflies	97%	
Ladybirds	83%	
Dragonflies	94%	
Grasshoppers	95%	
Hedgehogs	92%	
Squirrels	96%	
Badgers	95%	
Foxes	96%	
Hares	90%	
Rabbits	93%	
Kingfishers	92%	
Robins	94%	
Eagles	97%	
Owls	91%	



## Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children for trying really hard with their times tables this week.

Hedgehogs: Viktor Svoboda

Badgers: Zofia Rutkowska

Hares: Jeremy Cox

Kingfishers: Naomi Oregbhemhe

Eagles: Gilda Bosompem

Squirrels: Adam Bujnowski

Foxes: Feodora Benghea

Rabbits: Aria McGinty

Robins: Thomas Hyde

Owls: James Harten



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

## 1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

## 2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

## 3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

## 4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

## 5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

## FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

**Childline:** talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at [www.childline.org.uk/get-support/](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/)

**National Bullying Helpline:** counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting [www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html](http://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html)

**The NSPCC:** the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at [www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/) and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

## 6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

## 7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

## 8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

## 9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

## 10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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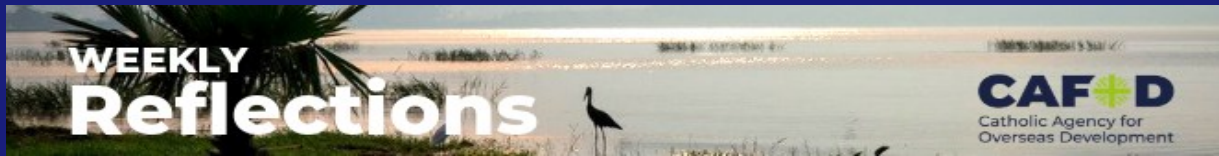
/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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Based on the gospel for Sunday 27 November, First Sunday of Advent: Matthew 24:37-44

**"So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming."**

As Advent begins, we start to prepare for the birth of the Christ child at Christmas time. But we also remember that we are constantly waiting in hope and expectation for Christ who is to come again in glory.

It is not easy to hold onto hope, especially in a world full of change, when we can sometimes feel as though we are lurching from one crisis to the next. But at this time of year in particular, we remember the promise of hope that has been made to us. That Christ will come again to make all things new.

We do not know exactly when that will be, but it is expected of us that we be found ready and waiting, so that we are not caught unprepared.

We are called to live differently, to show our readiness to welcome Christ in how we welcome others. Especially those who are poor, vulnerable or marginalised in any way.

Veronica lived in Kharkiv, Ukraine when the bombing started. She travelled for days to reach the Polish border and when she arrived, she had not eaten for 20 hours. When she finally crossed into Poland, she reached a meeting point run by a local organisation where she received a warm meal and was offered shelter.

Veronica said, "I never expected to encounter such helpfulness here. Here I get everything I need for now."

Come, Lord, bringer of hope.

Create in us a desire for a world transformed to reflect your glory, and lead us in your ways so that together we may make a change, dispelling the darkness of poverty.

Amen.



### **The Words of Pope Francis**

Christ is the unifying centre of all reality. He is the answer to all human questions. He is the fulfilment of every desire for happiness, goodness, love and eternity present in the human heart.



A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School

**THE** Wednesday  
**WORD**



## SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

The season of Advent begins this Sunday.

Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth - God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

Advent is also the season of hope: a time to think deeply about Jesus' return at the end of time, which we read about in this Sunday's Gospel.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

So let's use this season of Advent to be open to welcome the Lord, to make a fresh start and to draw closer to God. The message is clear for all of us: we are to stand ready!

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ADVENT**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



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

"Advent is like a springtime,  
when everything is renewed  
and so is fresh and healthy."

*St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022



Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking and having a good time, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this: that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because you do not know when the Son of Man is coming."

Adapted from  
Matthew 24: 37-44 (the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year A)

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel  
in Church - all are warmly invited.**

"The Lord is coming. May we  
await him with open hearts!"

*Pope Francis*



**THE** Wednesday  
**WORD**

CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL



Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditional Advent wreaths have a candle to light on each Sunday of Advent which reminds us of the light that Christ brings into our world.



# 1 Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay alert! Nobody knows when I will come back so you must always be ready. You can be sure that if the owners of a house knew at what time of night a thief was coming, they would stay awake and wouldn't let the thief break in. So, you must always be ready, because you do not know when I shall return."

**What did Jesus say we should always be?** Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



## 2 Wednesday's Word is ... ADVENT



## 3 Loving God & Each Other

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in each one of us memories of goodness."

*Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (Pope from 2005 to 2013)*

Advent reminds us that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into our world. Ask your child what else they know about Advent. What do they like best about this season which leads up to Christmas? Advent is an opportunity to be spiritually refreshed and helps us get ready for Christmas. You may want to share with your child what you know and like best about the season of Advent.

Advent helps us get ready for Christmas. It is a time to make an extra effort to be more loving towards God and our neighbours.

As a family, how can you prepare well through Advent - to 'stay awake', to be ready to welcome Jesus? Perhaps you can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need; be a peacemaker; put up a crib, Advent wreath and Advent calendar; make a special effort to let other family members know how much you love them - through your words and actions.



Dear Lord Jesus, help us to 'stay awake' and to be aware of your presence in the people that we meet in this **Advent** season. Amen.

### Gospel Gallery

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>THIS SUNDAY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ADVENT BEGINS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ALWAYS READY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JESUS RETURN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**



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

**bafclik refadily knolwifs Sitfayl**

"\_\_\_\_\_ alert! Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ when I will come \_\_\_\_\_ so you must always be \_\_\_\_\_."

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



Advent is a time to do more good deeds. Even small good deeds bring more of Christ's light into our world and make us ready to welcome Jesus at any time.



Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...







*Celebrating the Year of the Word  
with The Wednesday Word.  
Encountering Christ - prayerfully  
preparing for the Sunday Mass.*



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - The First Sunday of Advent

**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

**The Gospel for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - Like a Thief in the Night (Matthew 24:37-44)**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the house-holder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'



**3** Reflect

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

*In each year of the three-year cycle the Advent Sunday gospel-readings have the same pattern: the first is about the final Coming of Christ. In the second John the Baptist is preparing a community of repentance to welcome Jesus' mission. In the third John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah. On the fourth Sunday we look to Mary preparing for the birth of her Son. In this Sunday's reading about the Second Coming the accent is the same as in the Paul's letter to the Romans (today's second reading): we have a pressing and urgent need to take action without delay. The Second Coming will be sudden and unexpected as when a thief breaks in at night and no protective preparations have been made; it will also seem random and apparently without discernible cause, as when one person is taken, another left behind. We do not even know whether that final confrontation (when each of us is brought face to face with the awesome presence of God) will be a unique event for each of us at death, or whether it will be a group event, as is suggested by Matthew's parable of the sheep and goats sent to right and left. There is no time in eternity, no waiting-room! It will not be as any human mind can envisage it.*

**Should we look forward to or dread the final meeting with the Lord?**

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**

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022



## First Reading: *The Vision of Peace*

### Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation; there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*With the beginning of Advent we focus on the coming of Christ, in history (that is, at Bethlehem), in mystery (that is, in the Church) and in majesty (that is, at the end of time). Today's first reading helps us to reflect on the peace which Christ brings, and for which we all yearn. The hill on which Jerusalem lies is not a particularly high one, but when Christ comes it will become like a towering mountain (as in Isaiah's vision), dominating the whole country. All nations will realise its importance and come to Jerusalem as the source of all salvation. Teaching about the salvation of the gentiles, which first comes to the fore in the writings after the exile in Babylon, reaches a high-point in today's reading. The permanent ending of war and strife is signalled by the re-moulding of the weapons of war. You can't make war if you have converted your tanks into chicken-houses and your aircraft-carriers into skateboard-parks – the modern equivalent of swords into ploughshares and spears into sickles. So Advent is a time of peace, peace between nations but also peace between families and within families, a time for reconciliation of quarrels as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.*

*What can I do this Advent to increase peace?*

## Second Reading: *The Time is Near*

### Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Each year there must really be a coming of Christ into our lives and our society.”

*After his great exposition in the Letter to the Romans about the saving work of Christ, Paul goes on to encourage the Christians of Rome to be faithful. With the Resurrection the final era of the world has begun. There is no room for delay: the night is nearly over and the children of light are coming into their own. Paul sees a pressing need for action, and much of his moral advice, especially in First Corinthians, is grounded on the assumption that the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world is imminent. Did Paul get it wrong? He never says exactly how imminent it is, how soon the Second Coming will occur, but we can safely say that he would have been surprised to discover that two thousand years would pass without any sign of it happening. However, it is equally safe to say that timing is not his concern. The Second Coming remains imminent, in that there is no time to delay in mending our ways and preparing for this event. We are given an important reminder of this by our celebration of Christmas. Each year there must really be a coming of Christ into our lives and our society.*

*How can Christmas be to me a coming of Christ?*

**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 this week to...

Lilly Bergamini, Mia Melone, Tobi Ojo, Tilly Johnson & Taylor Leagas



### Golden Awards:

Dragonflies:	Lillian Henry, for her neat handwriting and always trying her best in writing
Grasshoppers:	Luca Cushway, for always making great effort at completing work
Hedgehogs:	Thea Dixon, for writing excellent questions in literacy
Squirrels:	Leonardo Sontag, for trying hard with all his work
Badgers:	Diana Serekaite, for showing greater confidence in class discussions
Foxes:	Hendrix Morgan, for having a fantastic attitude on our trip to Colchester Castle
Hares:	Erin Page, for brilliant science work
Rabbits:	Amber Williams, for trying hard in her maths, this week
Kingfishers:	Phoebe McNamara, for a positive attitude to learning
Robins:	Mara Ciotoi, for excellent effort in maths this week
Eagles:	Alex Embley, for working so hard in maths and having a positive attitude to work
Owls:	Shauden Sesay, for fantastic work in numeracy

### Menu Week 1

## Diary Dates

<u>Monday 28th November</u>	<u>Tuesday 29th November</u>	<u>Wednesday 30th November</u>	<u>Thursday 1st December</u>	<u>Friday 2nd December</u>
Rabbits Swimming Lesson	Y1 & Y2 Reading Zone 8:50	Y3 Eucharist Service 9:00	Y1 & Y2 Reading Zone 8:50	KS2 Assembly 9:00 - 9:30
Y1 & Y2 Multisports 3:10 - 4:10	Foxes Library Visit 9:00	KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10	KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15	KS1 Assembly 2:30 - 3:00
	Badgers Library Visit 11:00		Y1 & Y2 Football 3:10 - 4:10	KS2 Dodgeball 3:15 - 4.15
	Y3 & Y4 Football 3.15 - 4.15			
	Y5 & Y6 Football 3:15 - 4:15			

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)

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelliher

### House Points

**Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick**