

Reflection on the week:

The Gospel last Sunday (Luke 18: 1-8), reminded us of the importance of praying to God and to know that he will answer our prayers. We know that God loves us very much and when we pray to him we are showing our love and trust in him. He hears our silent prayers, that come from our hearts.

We have also been reflecting on our Gospel value of Integrity and the importance of being honest to ourselves and to others. This sometimes takes courage but we show that we are following the example of Jesus, when we tell the truth. We have been delighted to receive so many Harvest donations this week and we thank you for your kind generosity. We have taken them to Streets to Homes for them to distribute the food to others in the community who need it the most. It has been a very busy term so far so I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 31st October.

Wishing our families many blessings,

Mrs Kerrell Headteacher

Reading Meeting

We would like to invite our Key Stage 2 Reading Meeting which will take place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 1st November at 3.30pm. We will be sharing with you some ideas about how you can support your child with enjoying reading and how to fit it in to our busy lives.

Library Amnesty

We have sent an email regarding overdue library books. Please bring your overdue books to the school office on the morning Monday 31st October, for them to be returned to the library.

Parents Evenings

We will be opening up our booking system for Parents Evening in Half term. Please make your 10-minute appointment. The meetings will be held in the Hall and there will be an opportunity to look at your child's work.

Coats and Uniform

We have noticed that several of our children are not wearing their Holy Cross green school coat and hat. Just a reminder please that the coat is part of our school uniform and it is not possible to wear an alternative. We expect all pupils to be wearing our winter uniform after half term. There should be no Polo shirts being worn after half term. It must now be a shirt or blouse and tie. The ties are available from the school office.

We do have a second-hand uniform shop which has an excellent stock of lots of uniform if you would like to contact Lynn Benson, via the Holy Cross Facebook group, or by leaving a message with the school office.

Breakfast Club

A reminder to parents who are using Breakfast and After school club that we must have 24 hours' notice of booking your child in, if you would like a place. It will no longer be possible, after half term, to drop off your child without a prior booking. Parents dropping off at Breakfast Club, must walk their children up to the main school door and not drop at the end of the path. For safety we ask that you do not walk through the staff car park. These procedures are important for safeguarding reasons and we ask that everyone follows them.

Goodbye and Good luck

We said goodbye to this week to two longstanding and much loved members of staff, Mrs Aleks-Jones and Ms Leonardo. Our sincere thanks to the for all of their hard work and dedication to the children. We wish them lots of luck and blessings for the future.

Open Days

Just a reminder that our open days for perspective Reception pupils will be on Tuesday 1st November 9.30 am Wednesday 2nd November 1.30pm, Monday 7th November 9.30 am and Wednesday 9th November at 1.30pm. Please contact the school office to make an appointment



Special Air Quality Assembly

Today year 5 were able to watch a special assembly all about air quality. The children were able to learn new facts in a really fun way. They all thoroughly enjoyed the production and are all now experts on air pollution and how we can help to reduce it!



Football Tournaments

Children from Years 1, 2, 3, and 4 attended football tournaments today. All the teams played extremely well and were a credit to the school.





Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Simplicity

- non-attachment to wealth, live simply

"You cannot serve God and wealth." (16:13,

"Do not worry about your life." (12:22)



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

Dragonflies: Jan Ostrowski Grasshoppers: Jemimah Shoji-Akinwale

Hedgehogs: Dominic Annobil Squirrels: Adam Bujnowski

Badgers: Adaora Oguejiofor Foxes: April Thorp

Hares: Ohemaa Yaa Prempeh Rabbits: Ire Oyelami

Kingfishers: Natalie Harmas Robins: Helith Alkagamage

Eagles: Amanda Girciute Owls: Julia Magryta

BAGS 2 SCHOOL COLLECTION 3RD NOVEMBER

What can go in the bag?

Man's, ladies' and children's clothing Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)

Handbags

Hats

Bags

Scarves and ties

Jewellery

Lingerie

Socks

Belts

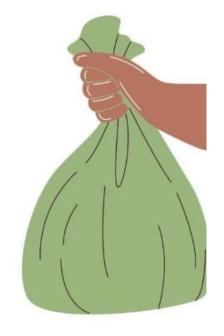
Soft toys

Household linen

Household curtains

Household towels

Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases, and duvet covers)







Friday 4th November Games, snacks and unlimited drinks

KS 1* - from 3.15 to 4.30pm

*Reception children must be accompanied by an adult

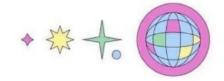
KS 2 - from 5 to 6.30pm

TICKET £3.50

PRE BOOK AT THE OFFICE NOW!!

Payment by cash or card

The PTA need volunteers to help organise and run this event. Please get in touch with the office to know how you can help.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Ladybirds achieving 97% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, for the second consecutive week are Eagles, 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.

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.

89%
97%
93%
95%
95%
94%
95%
98%
93%
89%
91%
95%
99%
95%

Lost Hours of Education

Maintaining a high school attendance percentage is such an important factor in your child's success in learning.

Your child's attendance percentage is available to view on the Pupil Asset app.

The table below shows you what this means in terms of lost hours of learning, this half term.

September — October 1/2 term			
Percentage	Hours of	Weeks missed	School days missed
100%	0	0	0
97%	5	0	1
95%	10	0	2
90%	17.5	0	3.5
86%	25	1	5
80%	35	1wk 2dys	7
75%	45	1wk 4dys	9
70%	52.5	2wks 1/2dy	10.5
60%	70	2wks 4dys	14
50%	87.5	3wks 2.5dys	17.5

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

BeReal is the latest trending social media app. The concept is that people see others in their authentic day-to-day lives, sharing candid photos without editing or applying filters. Each day at a random time, users are simultaneously notified to take a picture of what they re doing at that exact moment. The two-minute window to submit an image means there's no time to select a particularly glamorous or exciting activity. BeReal shares two pictures: a selfie, and an image of the immediate surroundings.

Users can only view and react to their friends' photos once they upload their own.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTINUOUS NOTIFICATIONS

Like any social media app,
BeReal's developers want users
to be on it regularly and scrolling for
long periods. BeReal only sends one
notification to post a picture each day,
but there are other alberts for events
such as mentions, comments, friend
requests and reactions to your photo.
This can cause young users to feel
pressure to open the app and respond,
distracting them from other activities.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

When someone signs up to BeReal, it highlights anyone in their phone's contacts list who already has the apposousers can connect with friends, or invite others from their contacts. The 'Discovery' feed, meanwhile, shows posts from strangers and gives users the option to add them as friends, too. This means your child could potentially connect with – and communicate with – a stranger.

PUBLIC SHARING

As well as sharing posts with friends in the moment, the app also allows posts to be shared publicly and public content to be viewed. Before a user can see this public content, they must post their own photo first. Unfortunately, there currently seems to be a lack of moderation on the content that's being uploaded, so a young user could be exposed to posts which aren't suitable for their age.

EASY LOCATION

beReal's default setting is to share the exact location of where a post was sent from. Given that images are usually shared within the two-minute window, anyone your child is friends with on the app will know exactly where they are (or at least, where they are (or at least, where they are two minutes earlier). As we've noted, this could include strangers who are intending to use this geographical information for malicious purposes.

VISIBLE PERSONAL DATA

As with any other form of social media, it's important that your child doesn't share too much personal information on their profile. BeReal allows for a photo, full name, approximate location and a short bio. It's safest to make sure that your child's profile doesn't display anything which could identify where they go to school or exactly where they live.

REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

Advice for Parents & Carers

LIMIT NOTIFICATIONS

BeReal offers the option to turn off individual types of notification.
Doing this will significantly reduce the number of times your child
is tempted to open the app by incoming comments, uploads, friend
requests and so on. Ironically, it will allow them to actually 'be real' by
being present in the moment and their current environment as opposed to
being engrossed on social media.

STOP AND THINK

BeReal's goal is for users to be authentic with friends, removing the pressure of that flawless photo or perfectly worded post. It's still vital, though, that children stop and think rather than uploading something risky just to meet the two-minute deadline. Point out to them what kind of information strangers could extract from an image: school crests, street names or local landmarks, for example.

KEEP IT AMONG FRIENDS

Time to Berest

Remind your child why adding strangers to their contacts isn't a good idea, and advise them to decline any friend requests from people they don't know in real life. If something your child see on BeReal makes them feel uncomfortable, they can report it by clion the three dots in the top right. The reporting tool allows them to the reason that they're flagging up the post.

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Remind your child to use an avatar as their profile pic (as opposed to a photo of themselves) and use a nickname or just their first name, not their full name. Any information they add to their bio (which is optional) should be kept vague, and personal details should remain private. It's also worth turning off the geolocation feature either through the device's settings or in BeReal itself.

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.

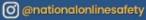




www.nationalonlinesafety.com









Based on the gospel for Sunday 23 October, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 18:9-14

"Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector."

Who are we, tax collector or Pharisee? Or both, but at different times?

It is easy to get caught up in everyday life, running from one event to another, working out our own path through life. As we try to make our way, we might begin to think that we must do it all ourselves. We must be grown up, self-sufficient; do things by our own merits. We begin to wonder why other people cannot just do the same.

There is a risk we then harden our hearts to God's love and to the needs of others. We become unjust and see others as separate and unlike us.

In this parable, Jesus reminds us that we are not alone. We need God; we need his love to make us complete, so that we can love our neighbours, whoever they are and wherever they are. So we can feel compassion for those in need here and overseas, who may not seem like us.

God loves us whatever sort of person we are, and wants to pour out his love to us, every second of every day. We need his love. Let us repent of trying to be self-reliant rather than God-reliant.

Lord, help me today to accept your love in all its abundance so that I may in turn love others with overflowing generosity. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Everything in the Church is born from prayer, and everything grows thanks to prayer.

Wednesday 19th October 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 23rd October 2022 - The Thirtieth 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 23rd October 2022 (Luke 18:9-14): The Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, 'I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.' The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted."

3 Reflect

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

These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'.

Take some moments to reflect on these words from the Gospel: "God be merciful to me, a sinner". Through these words, what is God saying to you?

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: The Prayer of the Humble

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 35:12-14. 16-19

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man; he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds; until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The Book of Sirach was translated into Greek by the grandson of the author. The grandfather wrote in Hebrew. He was a wise, witty and sometimes cynical teacher in Jerusalem, who gathered and built on the pithy sayings of the sages. The first part of this reading, about the widow's persistent appeal to the Lord, may well be the basis of last Sunday's parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Did Jesus build his parable on this piece of wisdom of the ancients, or did Luke use the Book of Sirach to expand Jesus' teaching? So also the second part of the reading, which prepares us for today's parable of contrasting suppliants (proud and humble) in the Temple: did Jesus build on the ancients or did Luke? Jesus certainly heard and learnt from the holy books of Judaism. Whether Jesus directly used Sirach or not, the message of the two parts of this reading is clear in the phrase which joins them together: whoever whole-heartedly serves God will be accepted. There is no pretending in prayer. As a wise old priest once said to me, 'In prayer you can stop pretending to be Queen Victoria or a poached egg."

What does this reading from Sirach have to teach us about prayer? What is the best short prayer you know?

Second Reading: Paul's Farewell

2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18

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 first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But 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.

This is the last Sunday reading from the 'Pastoral Letters', addressed to Paul's assistants, Timothy and Titus. Fittingly, it is a summing-up and defence of his mission, according to the literary conventions of the time. We do not know where the trial he mentions took place, nor the eventual outcome, though the tradition holds strong that he was martyred in Rome (and his severed head bounced three times, giving rise to three fountains, the famous 'Tre Fontane' in Rome). In his letters Paul several times mentions imprisonment, but nowhere a formal trial; so we can only guess. Did he set out on further journeys, even to Spain, after his confinement in Rome? We do not know. The sporting images of the 'good fight' and the 'race' are typical of Paul, and also the image of a libation, the first few drops from a cup of wine, offered in homage to a divinity. But most of all we are reminded that Paul had long yearned for death and to be fully united to his Lord and ours: 'Life to me, of course, is Christ, and death would be a positive gain' (Philippians 1:21), but he remained fully aware of the Lord's call to provide energetic guidance in the early Church.

Can you make any of Paul's self-defence your own?

Be fully united to the Lord.

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

Wednesday 19th October



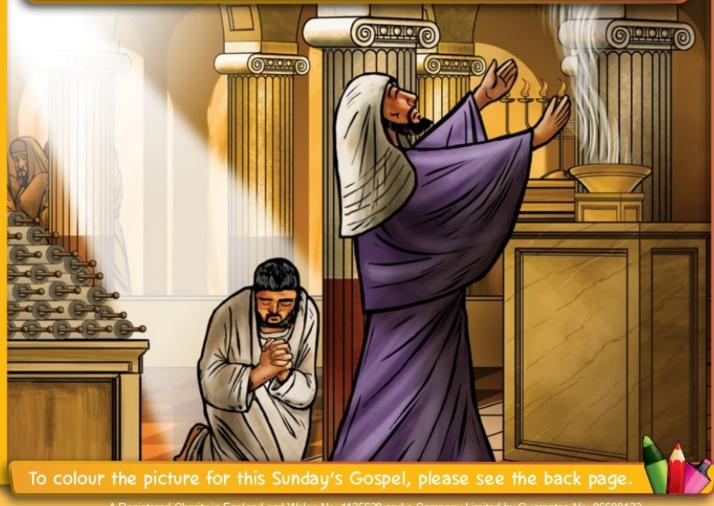
Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

There were some people who thought they were better than everyone else. One day Jesus told them a story."Two men went into the Temple to pray. One of them was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful like other people, and particularly that I am

not like this sinful tax collector here. I fast twice a week and always give money to the Temple.' The tax collector stood some distance away, not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven, but he bowed his head and said, 'God, have mercy on me, for I am a sinner.'" Then Jesus said, "It was the tax collector who was pleasing to God, not the Pharisee. Those who praise themselves and think they are better than others will be humbled, but if you humble yourself then you will be praised by God."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 23rd October 2022. Luke 18: 9-14 (30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HUMBLE**.



2

Wednesday's Word HUMBLE



"When we live humbly, God takes our small efforts and creates great things." Pope Francis

Whose prayer was pleasing to God: the humble tax collector's or the proud Pharisee's? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that we should be humble - especially when we pray.

Ask your child what the word 'humble' means to them. (Parent help - humble people do not think that they are better or more important than others; they are honest about their weaknesses and not afraid to say 'sorry' to God if they have done wrong). Who does your child know who is talented, but does not boast or show-off? It may help your child if you give an example of a humble person that you know.

"God speaks to those who are truly humble of heart" St Pio of Pietrelcina

God is pleased with those who are humble. A humble person knows that all good comes from God and that any talents we have are gifts from God. As a family, name one of each other's special God-given gifts, something that you admire in the other person. Then each of you name a gift that you are especially grateful for - it could be a quality, skill or attitude. Decide on a way that you will use that gift to help someone in this coming week. You may like to finish this evening's special Family Time in humble prayer, each thanking God for the gift that he has given you to share with others (please see the prayer below).

O my God, I thank you for the gift of [Each person name their gift], which you have given to me. Help me always to serve you humbly and use my gift to make the world a better place. Amen.

法	SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN S P R O T C E L L O C			
ESDA	PHARISEE CTXAPEOPLEP			
	O E G O R L B L G O D			
ZO	COLLECTOR L M E D H I S E M E T			
HO I	HUMRLE L P H A R I S E E X H			
	PEOPLE ELHUBARECTU			
	D PLEASE CEGAETELE LM			
of the same	GOD TATLELPMETB			
100	SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS O H P M D O G E S A L			
	BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY R P P L E A S E G X E			
Cross out the letters a k c in the 4 jumble words to find 4 real words	you be praised by"			
Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiles				

This week let's make a special effort to: say sorry to each other if we have done wrong; praise other people's strengths and successes; regularly remember to thank God for our own gifts.

Happy Birthday this week and next to...

Roxanne Hand. Grace Kelly, Gerald Larbi, Lillian Henry, Pola Bubetty, Ella Haley, Dominic Marshall, Krzystof Czarny, Nihini Oyelami, Naomi Dawodu, Eloise De-Souza, & Lyla Quinn.



Golden Awards:

Dragonflies: Layla Smith, for working hard on her writing

Grasshoppers: Elliott Ziya, for always making the right choices

Jayden Ondiege, for a fantastic Harvest poem Hedgehogs:

Squirrels: Eva Durchi, for trying hardest in all areas

Badgers: Oliver Danel, working so hard on his handwriting with great results

Foxes: Kojo Kwakye, for fantastic effort in all subjects

Hares: Indie Bennett, for her tremendous attitude in geography

Sean O'Connor, for being a fantastic caring friend Rabbits:

Amelia Randle, for going above and beyond in maths and challenging herself Kingfishers:

Robins: William Viliman, for settling really well into our class and his fantastic attitude to learning

Morayo Bolaji, for fantastic work in literacy Eagles:

Owls: Taylor Leagas, for fantastic progress in maths

New Menu Week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 31st October

Bags 2 School Collection

Hares Swimming Lesson

Y1 & Y2 Dodgeball

3:10 - 4:10

Tuesday 1st November

All Souls Mass 9:15

Fire Brigade Firework Safety

Assembly

Y2 - Y6 Reading Meeting 3:30

Y3 & Y4 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Y5 & Y6 Football 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesday 2nd November

School Photo Day

KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10

Thursday 3rd November

Last day of Bags 2 School

Collection

Robins Library Visit 9:00

Owls Library Visit 10:00

KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Y1 & Y2 Football 3:10 - 4:10

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

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

Alsonteretto Seen VElla

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelliher

House Points

Friday 4th November

KS2 Assembly 9:00 - 9:30

KS1 Assembly 2:30 - 3:00

KS2 Dodgeball 3:15 - 4.15

Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick