

11th November 2022



Reflection on the week: On Armistice Day today, we remember the sacrifice that our brave servicemen and servicewomen have made in the great wars and conflicts and are still making today in current conflicts. We pray and hope for peace in our world so that everyone can feel safe and be free. Our Gospel Value this week has been LOVE. The children have been thinking about being like Jesus and showing deep love from their hearts, for everyone around them, for the environment and for themselves. Love is never greater than when we think of others and consider their needs above our own.

Wishing our families many blessings,

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Lest We Forget

To mark Armistice Day today, we held a whole school two minutes silence today at 11.00am. All of our Year 6 pupils walked to the local memorial and laid a poppy wreath on behalf of our school.

Thank you for your generous donations to the poppy appeal over the last week, we know that the Royal British Legion will be very grateful for all the money that we have raised.

Please note that the snap bands sold as part of the Poppy Appeal are not to be worn to school, from Monday onwards.



Parents Evenings

Thank you to parents who were able to come along to the Parents Evenings this week. We really enjoyed meeting with you and sharing the good news about how your child is getting on so far this term. We have sent all parents and carers a link to our Parent Survey. Please complete it (if you haven't already) as your thoughts and opinions are very important to us. This is a link to the [Parent Survey](#). We will next report to parents just before Christmas when you will receive your child's short Autumn term report.

Reading Zone

We are excited to invite our parents to the first Reading Zone session next week. This will take place on Tuesday 15th November from 8.50am-9.15am. Please come to Reception where we will meet you and take you to join the session.

Maths Policies

We had several requests for help with how to solve maths calculations at Parents' Evenings. We therefore thought that it would be helpful to send out our Maths Calculation Policies which is also on the school website.

A note from Mrs Noonan our Maths Subject Leader:

Dear parents,

Please find attached the Calculation Policy we use in our maths lessons.

In each document, you will find lots of examples, images and methods that we use to teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in class. We hope that these will help you to support your children with their maths homework as you can see the methods that we are using.

Efficient, formal written methods of course are taught later on in primary school but by using the different methods and using a variety of apparatus helps children to have a good understanding of maths concepts before they use the written methods.

If you have any questions, please speak to your class teacher and they will be happy to show you which method they are using in their class.

Prefects

We could not be prouder of all of our Year 6 pupils. Today each Year 6 pupil was rewarded with a Prefect Badge to show that we recognise that they are shining to the rest of the school. Wearing their badge shows that we have faith in them to lead the way for all of our pupils; living out our 9 Gospel Values and showing excellent learning and social behaviour.



Head Girls and Head Boys

In addition to our Prefects we have also appointed 2 Head Boys and 2 Head Girls from Owl and Eagle Class. We have chosen: Rochelle, Bella, James and Connor because they always make good choices and demonstrate all of the qualities that we expect from our pupils at Holy Cross. A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children.



December Dates

The office sent out the important dates for December this week. Please read these carefully so that you know when different Christmas events are happening and save the date.

We would love to see you at the Parish Bazaar on Sunday 20th November at 12pm until 2pm. Tickets for the Luxury Christmas hampers will be on sale from Monday.

Year 5 Mass

We are extending a warm invitation to all our Year 5 families to join us for the Year group Mass next week on Thursday 17th November at 2.00pm. We hope to see you in the church.

Multi Faith Week

As part of our Come and See RE curriculum next week we will be learning about Judaism. We are looking forward to the opportunity to learn about how people of other Faith Groups worship so that we can deepen our understanding and have respect for others.

Dodgeball

Well done to the two dodgeball teams. They finished runners-up in their group and represented the school brilliantly.

Basketball trials continue next week for Years 5 & 6, ahead of their competition on 25th November.



Christmas Gifts

The last day for orders for the Christmas cards, magnets and mugs etc. is Thursday 17th November. Please ensure you have returned the order form and paid on Pupil Asset or by cash by the end of school that day.

School Photographs

School photographs need to be ordered by Sunday 20th November for them to be delivered, for free, to the school. Photographs can be ordered after this date, however postage to your home will be at an additional charge. Photographs can be ordered from happydaysphoto.co.uk.

Art Calendar Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the Art Calendar competition. We had so many wonderful entries, that it made our job very hard to pick the winners. Congratulations to:

Dragonflies: Maria Cristina Ghira

Hedgehogs: Mayah Rupasinghe

Badgers: Diana Serekaite

Hares: Praise Owolabi

Kingfishers: Rhianne-Joy Hombre

Eagles: Lilly Bergamini

Grasshoppers: Luca Cushway

Squirrels: Kiera Noonan

Foxes: Feodora Benghea

Rabbits: Ella Thorpe

Robins: Blanka Trus

Owls: Katie Johns

The calendar will be available to order very soon!

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.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Pupil Premium in Key Stage 1</p> <p>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.</p> <p>At Holy Cross, we receive an extra funding for every eligible pupil who is registered.</p> <p>To apply please contact:</p> <p>admin@holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk or telephone Mrs. Thomas on 01279-424452</p> | <p>Free School Meals and Pupil Premium in Key Stage 2</p> <p>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.</p> <p>However, if you meet the eligibility criteria below, your child may be entitled to a free school lunch.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To apply please use this link https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals</p> |
|--|---|

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.



Wow what a great success the discos were last Friday, the kids danced the evening away.

We had the biggest turn out we have ever had, with 80% of the school attending.

When we set out to do the discos we just wanted to give them something for the children to look forward to after the last 2 years.

But it exceeded our expectations and the children (and the staff) had a great time.

Of course this did come with some learning curves and we will take this with us to the next event.

We would like to thank all of the parents and staff that helped us set up, stay at the discos and even tidy up at the end. Without this it could not have happened.

We had such a large number of people offer to help and sorry we couldn't use you all, but we will have more events and we will reach out again.

So we are pleased to say we made a profit of £651.71 after all expenses.

Here is to another disco in the very near future.

We are holding a meeting on Monday at 9am in the parish hall to talk about upcoming events and Christmas plans.

If you can spare some time, we would love to see you.

The Friends of Holy Cross



Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Love

- generosity, magnanimity

"Love your enemies." (6:27),

"This is my body given for you." (21:19)



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

Dragonflies: Aidan Ebin

Grasshoppers: Jude McKie

Hedgehogs: Poppy McIntyre

Squirrels: Christabel Nyarko-Mensah

Badgers: Parker Loughran-Ricketts

Foxes: Andriya Ebin

Hares: David Owolabi

Rabbits: Giusepe Portaro

Kingfishers: Daisy Lane

Robins: Jake Sinyakin

Eagles: Ini Oyelami

Owls: Marian Marti



Holy Cross School Council will be collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child from

7th - 21st November 2022.

All Boxes will be sent on 21/11/22

A leaflet will be sent home with your child via class which will provide all instructions of what you can put in a shoe box, including labels for the age and gender of the child.





HOLY CROSS PARISH

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Have a jolly holly holiday season in our bazaar!

**SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER
12PM TO 2PM
HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL**

Admission is completely free, so bring your entire family! Refreshments will also be available at the bazaar.

Donations of candles, toiletries, bottles and sweets gratefully received



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 Foxes, attaining 98% 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 | 96% |
| Dragonflies | 95% |
| Grasshoppers | 96% |
| Hedgehogs | 92% |
| Squirrels | 93% |
| Badgers | 95% |
| Foxes | 98% |
| Hares | 93% |
| Rabbits | 97% |
| Kingfishers | 97% |
| Robins | 97% |
| Eagles | 97% |
| Owls | 96% |



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Jayden Ondiege

Badgers: Naya Kruszniewska Quental

Hares: Cristiana Sirghe

Kingfishers: Jermaine Ondiege

Eagles: Christopher Annobil

Squirrels: Maya Kluza

Foxes: Jackson Pavelin

Rabbits: Eliana Owusu-Adu

Robins: Will Banister-How

Owls: Bree Onwurah

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SENDIT

Sendit is an add-on to Snapchat, not a standalone app: it requires users to have an active Snapchat account, which they then connect to Sendit. It's important that trusted adults realise, therefore, that any risks associated with Snapchat also affect children using Sendit. Within the app, people play question games like 'Truth or Dare' and 'Never Have I Ever': users select a question to share on their Snapchat story for their friends to reply to. All responses are anonymous, although – for paying subscribers – Sendit reveals hints about who sent which messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ANONYMOUS RESPONSES

Anonymity online encourages people to say things and act in ways that they normally wouldn't. They're less accountable, and it's harder to track who sent a message. Research has highlighted that children perceive anonymous messages as being more severe than if the same message had come from a friend. Any app that lets children communicate anonymously should be treated with caution.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Categories of questions such as "Ask me anything" or "Rate me" – coupled with the app's anonymity – mean there is a likelihood of some friends or strangers (if the account is set to 'public') responding in a negative manner. These critical comments (especially if there are several) could ruin a young person's self-esteem – heightening their insecurities and affecting their mental health.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Currently costing £8.49 per week, Sendit's Diamond Membership offers clues about who sent a particular message, such as their approximate location, the type of phone used and any mutual friends. Membership also provides exclusive games and an ad-free experience. Young people may well be curious to find out who certain messages are from and therefore sign up for membership.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Open-ended questions which relate personally to the sender are an opportunity for malicious people to make offensive remarks, which can lead to full-blown bullying and harassment. Additionally, bullies and trolls can hide behind the anonymity that Sendit offers, feeling more powerful and able to intimidate their target – who, by contrast, feels hurt, victimised and helpless.

POSSIBLE GROOMING

If your child doesn't have their Snapchat account set to private, or they have previously added strangers as friends, there is a possibility of predators responding to their Sendit questions. They do this in an attempt to gather information about your child – or to initiate a conversation with them, seeking ultimately to form an online 'friendship' and gain the young person's trust.

REPEATED ENGAGEMENT

On Sendit, users receive trophies for reaching a particular number of responses, for answering friends' questions and for posting their own. This sense of achievement could incentivise a young person to be active on Sendit more frequently – spending more time on their phone or tablet as they may naturally want to collect all of the trophies or might be competing with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

If your child has already downloaded Sendit, it might be wise to have a discussion with them about the impact that saying something anonymously online could have on others. Encourage them to think about how they would feel if they were on the receiving end of a particular comment. Reminding them to stop and re-read messages before sending could reduce the number of regrettable situations.

BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

Even if you do allow your child to use Sendit, you might want to consider talking to them in advance about whether they really need a membership subscription. Either way, it's probably safest to make sure that in-app purchases are blocked in the settings, or that you have configured your child's device to ask for your approval before making a purchase online.

TALK IT OVER

Before allowing a young person onto a social networking app, it's a good idea to chat with them about the possibility of receiving hurtful comments. Explain that not everyone online is nice; that people often say things they don't mean; and that posts get misinterpreted. Teach your child not to reply to any offensive users on Sendit and simply block instead them (via the three dots in the top right of the screen).

ONLY PLAY WITH FRIENDS

Stress the importance of your child playing Sendit games only with their close friends and not having strangers on their contacts list. This should help to keep the nature of the questions light-hearted – and if the games are being played among a small group, it will be easier for the members to figure out who gave certain answers if someone's been left feeling hurt or uncomfortable by any responses.

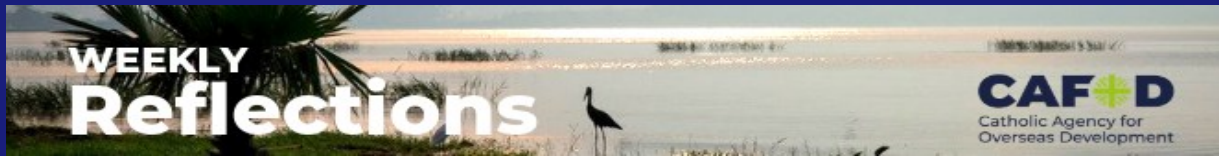
Meet Our Expert

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.



Sources: <https://www.getsendit.com/privacy> | <https://www.getsendit.com/terms> | <https://www.getsendit.com/terms> | <https://www.getsendit.com/terms>

NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



Based on the gospel for Sunday 11 November, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 21:5-19

"I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict."

Jesus warns the disciples that they face difficult times ahead. They may be persecuted, imprisoned, brought before kings and governors because of their faith in him.

And yet, they are not to prepare their defence. They are to trust in God to give them the words to bear witness and convince others of the truth.

As someone with a deep-seated fear of public speaking, this is really challenging to me. The idea of what others may think of me fills me with dread and leads me to keep silent too often.

But really, what is the worst that can happen to me on the occasions when I find myself called to speak out? People may laugh. They may disagree with me. I might face criticism or lose friends.

CAFOD supports many people throughout the world who still face imprisonment, persecution and death for taking a courageous stand in their own countries and communities. They speak out for peace, the protection of the earth and for the rights of people who are poor and marginalised.

So today, maybe I need to let go of my concerns about what others may think of me and trust in God to give me the words to speak out for what I believe in.

Will you try to do the same?

God of wisdom, give us the courage to speak out for what is right. Help us to find the words to add our voices to those of our sisters and brothers calling out for peace and justice in our world.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Behold Christ's power: love. The greatness of his power does not derive from the force of violence, but from the weakness of love. He gives us the strength to love like he loved: unconditionally, always everyone, even our enemies. #ApostolicJourney

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,

A faithful person is a gift to the world. When we grow in faithfulness, others will know that we are people who are reliable, supportive and trustworthy, who are loyal and have staying power through both good times and bad times.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus encourages the disciples (and us too) to be faithful to him. Pope Francis also reminds us that, "God is faithful, always faithful and continues to be rich in goodness and mercy."

Wednesday 9th November 2022

Everybody wants a faithful friend. Jesus offers to be our faithful friend and invites us to be his. Even though many things in the world may change, the faithful promises of Jesus will never pass away - God's love for us will last forever.

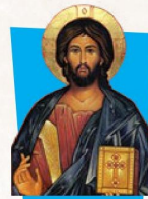
Enjoy a special time together this evening exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FAITHFULNESS**.

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 13th November 2022



When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: they will all have been knocked down." And they put to him this question: "Master," they said, "when will this happen then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?" "Take care not to be deceived," he said, "because many will come using my name and saying, 'I am he' and 'The time is near at hand'. Refuse to join them." Then he said to them, "When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. There will be wars, earthquakes, plagues and famines here and there; there will be great signs in the heavens. Before all this happens you will be shunned by all people on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives."

Adapted from
Luke 21: 5-19 (the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

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

"Let us give thanks to
God for his faithfulness."
Pope Francis



THE Wednesday
WORD

CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

If we choose to be faithful to Jesus, we still need God's help and the help of the Church (the community of the faithful) to stay faithful. A faithful person is a gift to the world. We can be certain that our faithfulness to God will be rewarded.



1 Our Special Time Together

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

Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in the temple. Jesus said, "The time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: they will all be knocked down." The disciples asked Jesus when this would happen and he replied, "Before the world ends, many things will happen. People will appear and pretend to be me saying, 'I am the Christ and now is the time!' But do not believe or follow them. And when you hear about wars and earthquakes, do not be afraid; just stay faithful to me."

What were the disciples asking Jesus? 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 ...

FAITHFULNESS

3

Loving God & Each Other

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

Ask your child what the word 'faithful' means to them. To be faithful is to be true to someone or something. Does your child know someone who is a faithful friend - someone who keeps their promises? What is it like to be in the company of a faithful person? It may help your child if you can talk about a person you know to be a faithful friend, and say why.

"Let us ask then for the grace to remain faithful to God and to listening to his Word." *Pope Francis*

How can we grow in faithfulness to God and to each other? Perhaps we can: spend time with God and listen to him through daily prayer; follow the teachings of Jesus by always trying to love our neighbour as ourselves; remember to put others' needs before our own needs; make sure that if we tell someone [or we tell God] that we will do something, we do it!



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our **faithful** friend. Please help us to keep growing in **faithfulness** to you and to one another. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

Y O D P G M A N Y Y T D
W T J E S U S B A W K L
D H A Y J N P U T T G U
D I S C I P L E S B G F
N N K B G D W E N E M H
E G E F K D L U S E J T
A S D O Y P P S S B O I
R S G N I H T C D T I A
B A A C N G N P G Y D F
Y M S T A Y B R A E N B
J I G F A I T H F U L I
D E K S A J T D D Y T D

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- ☒ **DISCIPLES**
- ☐ **ASKED**
- ☐ **MANY**
- ☐ **THINGS**
- ☐ **STAY**
- ☐ **FAITHFUL**
- ☐ **JESUS**
- ☐ **NEARBY**

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



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

Cross out the letters **C W S** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

fawicthfuls cnoswt smewc wafracids

Jesus said, "Do _____ be _____;
just stay _____ to _____."

FAITHFULNESS



To be a faithful person is to be loyal and to keep our promises. We can ask God to help us to grow in faithfulness - it really is a gift worth asking for.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 13th November 2022 - The Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

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



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for 13th November 2022 (Luke 21:5-19): Perseverance

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed." And they put to him this question: "Master," they said, "when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?" "Take care not to be deceived," he said, "because many will come using my name and saying, 'I am he' and 'The time is near at hand'. Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon." Then he said to them, "Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives."



3 Reflect

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

Luke was writing his gospel after the devastation of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in 70 AD, and the way he frames the words of Jesus suggests that he had witnessed the devastation. Massive blocks of stone, thrown down from the walls, are still lying there as they fell, scattered at the base of the Temple. The message of this passage is, then, the same as Paul's in today's second reading: the end is sure, but is not yet. Jesus prepares his followers for what is to come before the cataclysmic finale. He warns against false Messiahs, political leaders or other saviour-figures who claim to 'put the world to rights'. His followers will be continually challenged to give an account of their beliefs, harassed and martyred in every age, betrayed by those they thought their friends. There is a promise that Jesus will provide the words and wisdom for Christians to make a reply to their persecutors; there is a promise too of protection from real harm - but there is no promise that it will be a quiet and easy life. A constant theme in Luke's Good News is that the followers of Jesus must follow him in his difficulties and trials. Only with like endurance will they stay true to him and keep in his footsteps.

Reflection: Recall an occasion when the Lord gave you wisdom beyond your own.

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 13th November 2022



First Reading: *Burning like an Oven*

Malachi 3:19-20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

Each year the Church takes the opportunity at the end of the liturgical season to remind us that the Day of the Lord is coming. This 'Day of the Lord' has several different meanings, depending on context. In the Old Testament it was the great and terrible day, pictured in ever more catastrophic cosmic images, when the Lord would come to set right all injustice. In today's world this would be some upheaval! Rags to riches, riches to rags, slumdog millionaires, emperors wearing no clothes! Then Jesus came, declaring that the Kingdom was at hand, that the Day was dawning. And so it did - at the Hour of Jesus, completed on the first Easter Sunday, when the world and life were changed for ever. Yet in another sense, at another level, the Day is still to come. Christians are different from every other people, in that we live in expectation, in the knowledge that at some time everything will be brought to completion. The sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. Christ will hand over the Kingdom to his Father, having put all things under his feet, even the last enemy, death. This is the end to which we believe all history is pointing.

What do you understand by 'The Day of the Lord'?

Second Reading: *Keep Busy*

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow. We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

“We don't get any nearer perfection... simply by sitting and waiting.”

In his earlier letter to the Thessalonians Paul had warned them that the Day would come 'like a thief in the night', like an unexpected trap suddenly sprung. The recipients of the letter seem to have been so panicked that some simply downed tools and sat waiting. So now Paul chides them that anyone who does not work should not eat either. The charge of 'idleness' is not to be understood only on a literal level but on a symbolic level too. Paul himself not only worked to earn his bread and butter by his leather-working but also worked to set the fire of the Gospel alight all around the eastern Mediterranean. In all his writings he is acutely aware of the pressure from the end-point, from that Day of the Lord, although he has no idea when it will come. We don't get any nearer perfection, or any nearer the state in which we would like the Lord to find us, simply by sitting and waiting. Even those who are chair-bound, and can indeed only sit and wait, are able at the same time mightily to advance the Kingdom by bringing the light and joy of Christ to their surroundings.

What should we do to prepare for 'The Day of the Lord'?

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...

Frankie Cripps, Layla Faulkner, Riley O'Sullivan, Liliana Smaglo, Laela Spicer, Jacob Kluska, Korneliusz Adamczak, Hermione O'Brien, Thankgod Oregbhemhe, Archie Vetori & Layla Still.



Headteacher Awards:

Kayla Umaru, for creating an outstanding Saints project

Golden Awards:

Dragonflies: Edie Fitzpatrick, for trying really hard in maths
Grasshoppers: Emilia Janczewska, for always working hard in every subject
Hedgehogs: Eddie Cox, super work in phonics
Squirrels: Charlotte Nyarko-Mensah, for working hard in all areas
Badgers: Paris Goddard, for always being so enthusiastic and trying her best
Foxes: Sid Cundins, for fantastic effort in all lessons and great contributions to class discussions
Hares: Mahayla Hackett, for her incredible attitude in all lessons
Rabbits: Elliot Thomson, for his amazing persuasive letter and neat handwriting
Kingfishers: The whole class, for outstanding homework
Robins: Indie Usedon-Duff, for excellent effort in all subjects
Eagles: Alex Embley, for excellent effort especially in literacy
Owls: Isla Marsh-Gray, for always producing great homework

Menu Week 1

Diary Dates

| <u>Monday 14th November</u> | <u>Tuesday 15th November</u> | <u>Wednesday 16th November</u> | <u>Thursday 17th November</u> | <u>Friday 18th November</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Multi Faith Week | Y5 & Y6 Reading Zone 8:50 | Y4 Eucharist Service 9:00 | Y5 & 6 Reading Zone 8:50 | Year 3 Colchester Castle |
| Operation Christmas Child | Y3 & Y4 Football 3:15 - 4:15 | KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10 | Hedgehogs Library Visit 9:00 | KS2 Assembly 9:00 - 9:30 |
| Rabbits Swimming Lesson | Y5 & Y6 Football 3:15 - 4:15 | Y5 & 6 Basketball Competition Trials 3:15 - 4:15 | Y5 Mass 2:00 | KS1 Assembly 2:30 - 3:00 |
| Y1 & Y2 Multisports 3:10 - 4:10 | | | KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15 | KS2 Dodgeball 3:15 - 4:15 |
| | | | Y1 & Y2 Football 3:10 - 4:10 | Youth Group (Parish Hall) Y4, Y5 & Y6 6:00 - 7:30 |

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

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelliher

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St David