



21st April 2023



Newsletter



Reflection on the week:

The children have all made a fantastic start to the summer term and we have been pleased to see a glimpse of warmer and sunnier weather. We are reflecting on the message of the Gospel this week, to trust in God even when we can't see Him; to know that He is there for us always. These words will carry us through the next few weeks as we prepare our Year 6 children for their SATs tests. Sometimes, when we look to the future it can feel overwhelming but when we put our trust in God we can climb mountains!

We are looking forward to lots of exciting events this term including International Week and Sports Day. Of course, we will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and plan to celebrate with a special picnic. The dates of these events and other important happenings are all on the school calendar so please have a look so that nothing important gets missed out.

Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Tree of Remembrance

In memory of our previous, wonderful Headteacher Miss McGuigan a Cherry Tree has been planted just inside the school entrance gates, by the statue of Mary. There is a little plaque of remembrance and we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to read it and have a moment of thanks and quiet reflection. Father Bernard has blessed the tree and we hope that as it flourishes that you will have happy memories of Miss McGuigan.

Thank you to Creative Landscapes for the donation.



Ofsted Report

We are pleased that our Ofsted Report has now been published and that we can share the great news with you that we continue to be a GOOD school. We have sent a copy of the Report out to parents, carers and staff today and we would encourage everyone to read the wonderful things that the Report says about our school.

Thank you for your support.



Safeguarding Concern

I would like to draw parents and carers attention to a concerning online character, 'Huggy Wuggy'. This character is appearing on Tik Tok and You Tube currently and may be frightening for children as it jumps out from the screen. One of the lyrics from a song on the video the character is in says, "Cause I could just hug you here. Forever, forever. Till you breathe your last breath."

The age rating for this character and the game that it is in is 13+. Parents may want to check if their children are accessing this character. For information about this concerning trend please follow this link <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andyrobertson/2022/04/15/dont-panic-what-parents-really-need-to-know-about-huggy-wuggy/?sh=2f2aadb24422>

Curriculum Letters

The Curriculum letters for your child's year group will be published on Monday on the school website. The Curriculum letter will give you information about what your child is learning this term.

PE KIT

From this term, we will be making some adaptations to the school PE kit making the material easier to launder and more comfortable and smarter to wear. We are now going to have a green sports shirt and black training pants. These must have the school logo on and be purchased from our uniform supplier. The children should also have black sports shorts for PE; not cycling shorts or leggings please.

Children can continue to wear the current PE kit until the end of the summer term and the new kit will be the set PE uniform from September.

Summer Uniform

Our school uniform is very important to the ethos of our school. We wear our uniform with pride as pupils of Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy and it is therefore important that parents and carers support us with keeping our standards of how we present ourselves high.

We are now in our summer uniform but I do appreciate that the weather is still chilly. Therefore, **for a short interim period** we allow polo shirts to be worn with trousers rather than shorts. However, once the weather warms up children must wear shorts with polo shirts which is in line with the uniform policy. Please do not mix and match the winter and the summer uniform.

For guidance please follow the link below which will inform you of what this looks like and the items that are part of our summer uniform <https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=101>

SATs

Our Year 6 pupils are busy preparing for their SATs tests. The tests will be from Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th May (inclusive) and all Year 6 pupils must be in school, on each day of the tests please. We will offer our Year 6 pupils only (not siblings) a free SATs breakfast from 8am, in the Parish Hall, on the morning of each test. We hope that this will give them lots of energy and get them into the best mindset for the test.

Reports

Your child's Spring report was sent home just before the Easter holidays. Please complete the parent reply slip and return to the office or the class teacher as soon as possible.

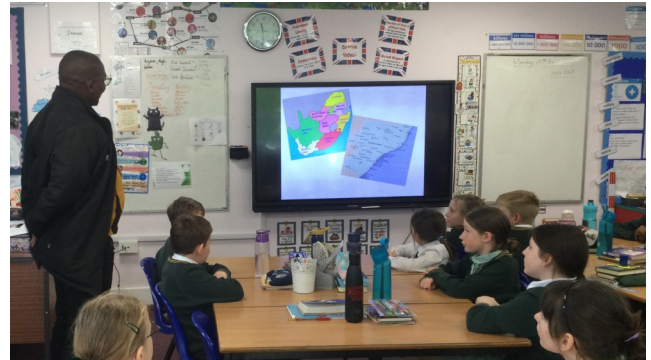
Staff Changes

I wrote to parents earlier this week to share the good news that Mrs Kelliher has been appointed as the new Headteacher of St Joseph The Worker Primary School in Hutton. He will sadly be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Also, sadly leaving us at the end of this year will be Mrs Hughes (Miss Clark), Year 5 Kingfishers Teacher.

We are wishing Mrs Sontag, Year 1 Dragonflies TA, lots of luck as she goes on Maternity Leave next Friday. Mrs Ferjani who supports Dragonflies in the afternoons will move from Year 3 Foxes to be all day in Dragonflies, from 2nd May. Mrs Collins will then become the TA Monday to Friday for Foxes class.

Regina Coeli

We were delighted to welcome Shay from our twin parish of Regina Coeli to our school on Monday. He spent the morning with us and some of the children had an opportunity to ask him questions about life in South Africa and his village. We wish him a safe journey home



Greenhouse

Mrs Gallagher is looking for volunteers to help her put up 2 greenhouses on Saturday 29th April. If you are able to help, please let the school office know.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Badgers, 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**.

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. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

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

Butterflies	98%	
Ladybirds	99%	
Dragonflies	96%	
Grasshoppers	98%	
Hedgehogs	96%	
Squirrels	96%	
Badgers	99%	
Foxes	98%	
Hares	90%	
Rabbits	95%	
Kingfishers	97%	
Robins	98%	
Eagles	95%	
Owls	95%	

Congratulations April!

Congratulations to April Thorp who received the prestigious award of 'Essex Scouts Beaver of the Year'. She won it for her 'selfless actions raising money for charity, despite her own illness'

Well done April, we are very proud of you!



Swimming Gala

Year 3 and four represented our school in a local swimming gala. The children represented us impeccably and we couldn't be prouder of the team work, determination and sportsmanship showed by all of our children. We were so proud to come 4th amongst the schools competing. Well done to everyone involved.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ECHO CHAMBERS

Digital echo chambers have become increasingly prevalent over the last half decade. Formed by a combination of social media algorithms designed to promote engagement and the basic human urge to be correct, these online environments reinforce the opinions that people already have – such as particular political ideologies – in a perpetual loop. The danger is that exposure to this constant bias can gradually nudge users towards more extreme views. That's certainly a potential hazard for young people, who tend to be more impressionable and easily influenced by things they see and read online – especially if it reflects a view they already agree with.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREME IDEOLOGIES

Echo chambers can offer routes to harmfully extreme worldviews. A typically teenage distrust of authority, for example, could spiral into a full-blown belief in conspiracy theories – sometimes rooted in ideas which are antisemitic, racist or misogynistic. For impressionable individuals who may be feeling disillusioned with life, echo chambers can often function as a gateway to radicalisation.

NO CRITICAL THINKING

While critical thinking skills are sometimes taught in schools, they are rarely domain specific. A lack of experience in thinking critically – for example, about things we see when browsing the Internet – places young people at risk of falling prey to misinformation, untruths and false narratives, which are sometimes deliberately designed to mislead them and influence their thinking.

A VALUES VACUUM

If schools struggle to deliver on a clear ethos, founded in British values as outlined in the national curriculum, it leaves a space within which other ideologies have potential to flourish. Teaching about British values in more siloed experiences, such as PSHE lessons, doesn't always effectively convey the key notions: tolerance, democratic values, individual liberty and the rule of law.

UNDETECTABLE INDOCTRINATION

Many people enter online echo chambers every day without realising. It's easy to simply consume whatever's placed in front of us as we keep scrolling, unaware that we're being funnelled down a particular route. Not recognising that their daily digital diet could in fact be deeply biased in favour of one side or the other can accelerate a young person's journey towards more extreme ideologies.

LACK OF BALANCE

It's challenging to reflect on your own beliefs and opinions, and question whether you might have got things wrong. That's why most of us naturally lean towards consuming information which reinforces and underlines what we thought to begin with. The long-term consequence of this is general close-mindedness and, potentially, intolerance of a more diverse set of perspectives.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT CHALLENGES

It could be helpful to explain to your child that, in general, people like to find evidence to strengthen their existing beliefs and prefer to ignore anything which supports an opposing perspective. Emphasise that it's OK if someone (politely) challenges what they think occasionally, and that any criticism of their view is purely that – a criticism of their opinion, not of them as a person.

DEBATE CAN BE GREAT

Encourage any interest your child shows in debating – whether at home, at school, or in clubs or societies. Debates require people to assess the merits of an opposing argument, so they can counter it. Putting themselves in the shoes of someone who has a different point of view is a useful way for children to approach new ideas that may contradict what they previously believed.

DISCUSS 'UNHEALTHY FEEDS'

Help your child understand how online algorithms shape which information is presented to them each day: ask them to consider why things appear in their feed on platforms like TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. Explain that it benefits social media companies' advertising revenue to keep people coming back by showing them content which, generally, reinforces their existing world view.

THE VALUE OF VALUES

It can be hugely beneficial if your child recognises the importance of a core set of principles, such as the British values. By regularly tying their online experiences back to those essential ideas of democracy, tolerance and kindness towards others, understanding the rule of law and protecting individual liberties, you'll be helping them grow into a more resilient and robust future citizen.

VARY THEIR DIGITAL DIET

Sitting down to read online news stories with your child is an excellent way to demonstrate to them why it's important not to always get their information from just one place. Comparing how the same story is reported across popular mainstream publications – and talking about the political biases each may have – will highlight the importance of regularly checking a wide range of online sources.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



Source: <https://archive.org/details/cognitivellusio0000unse/page/79/mode/2up> | <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369118X.2018.1218526>
<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/media-bias-chart>



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR
ADVENTURE ISLAND
SOUTHEND ON SEA
OPENING ON
11TH FEBRUARY 2023

£15 PER PERSON FOR A DAY
TICKET AVAILABLE FROM THE
SCHOOL OFFICE





Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Dominic Annobil	Squirrels:	Alex Magryta
Badgers:	Skyla Hand	Foxes:	Axel Osijo
Hares:	Erin Page	Rabbits:	Aria McGinty
Kingfishers:	Iris Wells	Robins:	Darcie Bethell
Eagles:		Owls:	Maame-Yaa Prempeh

Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Compassion

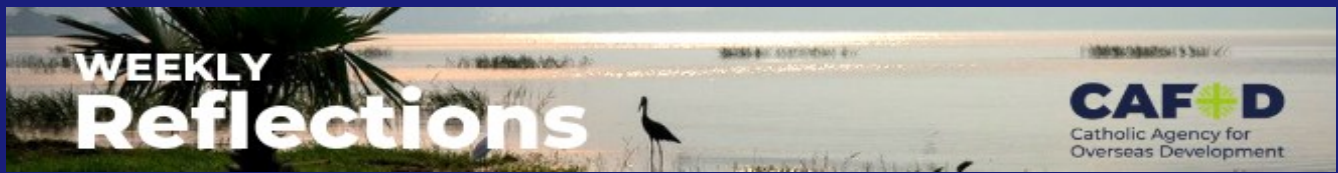
- kindness, service of neighbour

"When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her." (7:13), Good Samaritan (10:36)



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

Butterflies:	Nellie Tupper	Ladybirds:	Mia Melone
Dragonflies:	Christina Ghira	Grasshoppers:	Oba Akibola
Hedgehogs:	Mariella Messer	Squirrels:	Adam Bujnowski
Badgers:	Priscilla Asare	Foxes:	Erin Florido
Hares:	Aurora Boyce-Grace	Rabbits:	Marshall Pavelin
Kingfishers:	Mason Thompson	Robins:	Rafe Norris
Eagles:	Marissa Fraser	Owls:	Janell Muigai



Based on the gospel for Sunday 23 April, Third Sunday of Easter: Luke 24:13-35

"You foolish men! So slow to believe."

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus points out to the disciples how slow they are to believe all they have been taught. Just like the disciples, our world has been slow to believe warnings of climate change and global warming, first made over 100 years ago!

In more recent times, St Oscar Romero uttered these prophetic words in 1979: "We are polluting more and more. We made a commitment to God, that this nature is to be cared for by humankind. The covenant of humankind with God is not being carried out because humankind is the lord of nature and is becoming the exploiter of nature."

Yet these predictions have often been met with scepticism, criticism and a lack of action. Even today there are those who deny climate change, despite all they've been taught by the scientists and the evidence we see of harm being caused to our world.

Campaigning in the face of those who are slow to believe may seem challenging. But we might take courage thinking of those who do so at great cost, such as the indigenous peoples of the Amazon murdered for seeking to protect their environment and their homeland from exploitation.

Faced with what seems like an insurmountable challenge to protect our common home, St Oscar reassured us that while we cannot do everything, we can do something: in the lifestyle choices we make; in calling for change at every level of society, and in our prayers. All small steps taken together to help protect God's kingdom.

Lord Jesus, Protector of the Poor and the Oppressed,
Let our faces not be downcast, strengthen us to answer your
call to care for the wonders of God's creation. Show us the
path of life to support our sisters and brothers who live each
day with the harm being caused to our common home.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

God's gaze never stops with our past filled of errors, but looks with infinite confidence at what we can become.

Wednesday
19th April 2023

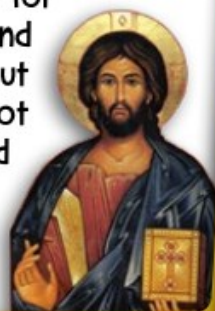


**Good News
for Families**

1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

After Jesus had been crucified, two of his disciples were on their way to a village called Emmaus. They were feeling sad and talking together about all that had happened and how some women had seen a vision of angels who declared that Jesus was alive. Then as they were talking Jesus came and walked by their side and talked to them about the scriptures; but something prevented them from recognising him. As evening approached, the disciples begged Jesus to stay with them for supper. It was when Jesus took the bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them that their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but then he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?" Filled with joy, they set out immediately and returned to their friends to tell them all that had happened and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of the bread.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 23rd April 2023. Luke 24:13-35 (the 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A)

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 **JESUS**.



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.



"Each encounter with Jesus changes our life. Jesus is with us today! He is alive, Jesus is in our hearts." Pope Francis

Why were the disciples feeling sad when they were travelling to Emmaus? After his resurrection Jesus was seen by his closest friends and over 500 of his followers. Ask your child if they know what the name 'Jesus' means (parent help: the name 'Jesus' in Hebrew means 'God saves'). Jesus came to save us from doing wrong - to show us and to teach us how to live good lives. Does your child have a favourite story about Jesus? What does your child like about Jesus? It may help your child if you tell them something that you know and like about Jesus.

"We must not fail to help our neighbours, because in them we serve Jesus." St Rose of Lima

Our lives are enriched when we know Jesus. He is with us at all times and in all places. We can encounter him in prayer and in one another. The more we know about Jesus through reading the gospels, the easier it is for us to recognise him. Knowing and following Jesus helps happiness and love to grow in our families. Each of you choose something to do for each other at home or at school to be more like Jesus. Perhaps we can: decide to pray each day; read the gospels together; remember to regularly ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" and then try to do the same ourselves.



Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you for always being there for us. Help us to recognise you as we journey through life together. Amen.



WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH



Cross out the letters
I x u
in the jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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



TALKING TOGETHER

BROKE BREAD

EYES OPENED

RECOGNISED JESUS



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

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

burolkex lexyues burlexad gulavex

Jesus took the _____, blessed, _____ and _____ it to them and their _____ were opened.

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus first helped his disciples understand the scriptures before breaking and sharing the bread with them - which is what happens at Mass each time we receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

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*



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 Sunday 23rd April 2023 - The Journey to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth,' they answered, 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening,' they said, 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



3 Reflect

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

This attractive and delicate narrative is the story of the journey to faith in the Risen Christ: it occurs in any Christian instruction, and especially in the Eucharist, which begins with the teaching of the scriptures, and then is brought to its fulfilment in the Sacrament. The two disciples (are they man and woman, as so often in Luke, perhaps Cleopas and his wife?) start off deep in depression and disappointment. But they are open-minded and willing to learn as the Stranger explains to them from scripture the meaning of events. Their hearts burn within them at the Stranger's words, but their eyes remain closed. It is only in the sacramental meal that they recognise the Risen Christ. This is the story of any Christian instruction, culminating in the Eucharist, for the Eucharist is a sacrament of initiation, bringing us to the intimate, personal encounter with Christ. Once they have been enlightened and have learnt the profound meaning of the events, the truth of the scriptures and the resurrection, then the disciples return to the Holy City and carry on their own Christian apostolate by spreading the news of the resurrection. This is the shape of the Christian vocation which we all receive, to assimilate and pass on the meaning of Christ's resurrection.

How can we learn the meaning of Christ's resurrection? How can we spread the message of Jesus?

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.**



WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 23rd April 2023



First Reading: *The Meaning of Resurrection*

Acts 2:14. 22-33

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him, "I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence." Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

Pentecost was the birthday of the Church, the moment when the Christian Church was born. This reading from Peter's speech at Pentecost explains not so much the actual event of the gift of the Spirit, but the event which lies behind it, the Resurrection. Peter sees it as predicted in the psalm: the Holy One of the Lord can never remain lying in the corruption of the grave; his resurrection is the revelation of true and permanent life. It brings to a conclusion the whole plan of God for the world. The scriptures of the Old Testament teach us the ways of God with the struggling and recalcitrant human race: they tell us about the highs and the lows, our fidelity to the Lord and our betrayals. We can see ourselves in every stage of this history, as it mirrors our own hopes, our promises and our failures. But running through it all is the certainty that God will fulfil his pledge to Eve to bring good out of evil. So the resurrection of Christ is God's acceptance of the loving obedience of his Son, expressing and renewing the loving obedience of the human race, which we, unaided, could not provide for ourselves. By raising Christ to life God shows his final acceptance of Christ's re-dedication to him of our human loyalty.

What does it mean to say that you share Christ's risen life?

Second Reading: *The Blood of the Lamb*

1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason - so that you would have faith and hope in God.

“The blood of Christ
cleanses us.”

In the Middle Ages, when ransoming was a current practice for setting captives free, theologians debated to whom the ransom of Christ's blood was paid: was it to God or to the devil? However, the real context of this passage is Old Testament sacrifice, and particularly sacrifice for sin. In these rites the blood is valuable not for the pain it represents but for life. There can be no reconciliation without blood, according to Leviticus 17:11, for blood represents life. The blood of a living creature belongs to God because it represents the God-given life. Once the blood is shed there is no more life. So in Hebrew thought the blood is a cleansing and enlivening agent, renewing life: it takes away and overrides the deadness of sin. The blood of Christ cleanses us since it represents the divine life which is given to us. So in the Book of Revelation the garments of the martyrs are washed white (the colour of victory) in the blood of the Lamb, that is, they receive new life. This also explains the importance of the Eucharistic Blood of Christ, which gives us Christ's own divine life and enables us to live with his life.

What is the significance of the Blood of Christ which is offered for us in the Mass?

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...

Roman Kelly, Axel Osijo, Albie Gardner, Naomi Oregbhemhe & Javonte-Blu Paraman Humes



Headteacher Award

Elissa Okyere, for learning and sharing 13 bible scriptures with the whole congregation at her church - very impressive!

Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Cali Smith, for sharing brilliant and imaginative ideas at carpet time
- Ladybirds: Arthur Sullivan, for great maths learning this half term
- Dragonflies: Diona Sulaj, for her excellent attitude in writing
- Grasshoppers: Elaeh Robson, for her fantastic R.E. work on Ash Wednesday
- Hedgehogs: Sebastian Gronert, for always being so helpful and willing to help others
- Squirrels: Tilly Lentz, for always trying her hardest
- Badgers: Hendrix Johnson, for concentrating well in class and producing some brilliant work
- Foxes: Sofia Dubencu, for fantastic effort with her writing
- Hares: Ella Tanu, for her brilliant attitude in R.E.
- Rabbits: Cooper Leagas, for his amazing work on the Easter story!
- Kingfishers: Logan Coombe, for trying his best in maths
- Robins: Amelia Tarczwska, for excellent effort in literacy
- Eagles: Jake Doyle, for always working hard and following school expectations
- Owls: Caitlin Masambique, for an excellent attitude to learning

New Menu week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 17th April

Robins Swimming
Years 1 & 2 Drawing club
3:10 - 4:10
Years 1 & 2 Cosmic Yoga
3:10 - 4:10
Y3 & Y4 Cosmic Yoga
3:15 - 4:15

Tuesday 18th April

Year 5 Reading Zone 9:00
Year 3 & 4 Football 3:15 - 4:15
Year 5 & 6 Football 3:15 - 4:15
Choir 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesday 19th April

Year 4 Parents Burwell
Meeting 3.30 - 4:00
KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10
Year 2 and 3 Gardening club
3:15 - 4:15
KS2 Rounders 3:15 - 4:15

Thursday 20th April

Year 1 Football 3:10 - 4:10
Year 2 Football 3:10 - 4:10

Friday 21st April

KS2 Assembly 9:00
KS1 Assembly 2:30
KS2 Dodgeball 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

Mrs A Kerrell *Mr S Kelliher*

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelliher

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Andrew's