



28th April 2023



# Newsletter

## Reflection on the week:

This week we have been reflecting on the message from last Sunday's Gospel. We heard how Jesus joined two disciples on their journey but they didn't recognise Him. We are all on a journey and the children have thought about their journey through this school year and remembered that when things seem difficult or worrying that Jesus is right there, at their side guiding and supporting them. We are also reminded that we must trust in the words of Jesus even though we can't see Him; that this is the essence of our Faith and to put our trust in Him.

Have a wonderful weekend

*Mrs Kerrell*

Headteacher

## Safeguarding Concern

I would ask parents to regularly check what their children are accessing and who their children are friends with online. This is particularly important if your child uses any devices away from your supervision and at playdates and sleepovers.

Safeguarding is our priority in school and we hope that parents can also work together to reduce risks to our children as there is always the potential for grooming. I would strongly recommend regular monitoring of your child's devices and that high-level parental controls be turned on.

Further useful information can be found on the Internet Safety page of our school website.

<http://holycrosspri.ovw7.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Internet+Safety&pid=94>

## Curriculum letters

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

## Jewellery and Make up (Including Nail Varnish)

Jewellery is not part of our school uniform and we ask that pupils do not wear any form of jewellery other than a watch. I have noticed an increasing number of bracelets and necklaces.

Additionally, make up is not allowed in school and this includes nail varnish. From next week if children wear nail varnish or make up to school they will be sent to the office and given remover to take it off.

## 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>

## Naming items

As we begin to enter the warmer weather (hopefully) and the children begin to take off coats, cardigans and jumpers please ensure that all uniform and belongings (including water bottles) are named.



## 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.

## Teaching of R.S.E.

We deliver the PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) curriculum using 'Jigsaw' which is broadly based, balanced and meets the needs of all children.

Relationships is included as part of the 'Jigsaw' programme. However, Relationships and specifically, Sex Education, is taught through our Catholic 'A Journey in Love' programme.

It is a resource created by Sister Jude Groden from our Brentwood Religious Education Service. It is the recommended programme of study for Catholic schools for Relationship and Sex Education, and has been written as a progressive scheme of work that supports the Religious Education, PSHE and Science curricula taught within the school.

Children will be taught this programme after the summer half-term, the content of which can be viewed on our school website. <http://holycrosspri.ovw7.devwebsite.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1054&type=pdf>

There is also an opportunity for parents/carers of children in Years 5 and 6 to see the presentation which will be shared with the children. This will take place on Wednesday 17th May at 9am in our school.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies, Ladybirds and Grasshoppers, achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Eagles, also attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at **8:30am** until **8.50am**.

**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	99%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	98%
Grasshoppers	99%
Hedgehogs	97%
Squirrels	95%
Badgers	96%
Foxes	94%
Hares	91%
Rabbits	98%
Kingfishers	95%
Robins	95%
Eagles	99%
Owls	93%





# **LET'S CELEBRATE THE KING'S CORONATION BY MAKING A CROWN**

**WE ARE HAVING A COMPETITION TO MAKE A  
CROWN FIT FOR THE KING.  
BRING YOUR ENTRIES IN ON FRIDAY 12TH MAY.  
PRIZE FOR EACH KEY STAGE**



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE

CHAPTER

4

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
12

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like The Walking Dead to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from Alien or who Geralt from The Witcher is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers... of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

## VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

## FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free – but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 (and are available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure your child knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



**NOS**  
National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

***ADVENTURE ISLAND***  
***SOUTHEND ON SEA***

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





### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Dominic Annobil	Squirrels:	Maya Kluza
Badgers:	Jayden Bancoft	Foxes:	Nathaniel Obinna
Hares:	Jeremy Cox	Rabbits:	Jemie Kuttin
Kingfishers:	Phoebe McNamara	Robins:	Isaac Adisa
Eagles:	Rochelle Obeng-Darko	Owls:	Taylor Leagas-Hyde

### **Gospel Values Awards**

The Gospel Value this week is...

## **Gentleness**

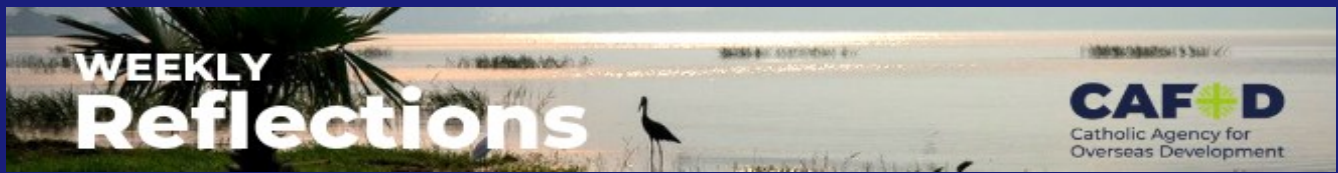
**- love and friendship**

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



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

Butterflies:	Nihin Oyelami	Ladybirds:	Samuel Obozuwa
Dragonflies:	Andreas Vechiu	Grasshoppers:	Memphis Wells
Hedgehogs:	James Hanmore	Squirrels:	River Harris-Lyons
Badgers:	Livia Mazurek	Foxes:	Vivienne Padfield
Hares:	Indie Bennett	Rabbits:	Justin Nguyen
Kingfishers:	Nicholas Nicolov	Robins:	Harvey Driscoll
Eagles:	Adjoa Kwakye	Owls:	Elizabeth Kingston-Hyde



Based on the gospel for Sunday 30 April, Fourth Sunday of Easter: John 1:1-10

**"The sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him."**

In our world today, do we follow God's voice calling us in our lives? Or are we sheep who have gone astray? Do we show love for God and the wonders of his creation in our actions? Do we love our neighbour as ourselves, or do we put our own interests before others?

Our world has been lured away by a stranger in our midst. Many have become slaves to a consumer society, despite the harm this can cause our sisters and brothers and the world we all inhabit. Many have not been able to respond to the words of Pope John Paul I who urged us to "free the self from slavery to a civilisation that encourages us more and more to comfort and to consumerism, without any concerns for protecting our environment, the common patrimony of humanity".

On this year's World Day of Peace, Pope Francis reminded us that we cannot continue to focus on preserving ourselves; but must pursue a common good for a more just and peaceful world, endeavouring to heal our society and our planet.

So, let us listen to the voice that we hear calling us and follow the one who has come so that all may live life to the full, fairly sharing the richness of the earth's resources.

Lord Jesus, who came so that all may have life and have it to the full, may we aspire not to have more but to be more.

Amen.



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

Praising God is like breathing pure oxygen: it purifies the soul, it makes you look far ahead, it does not leave you imprisoned in the difficult and dark moment of hardship.



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,

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who leads us into the joys of eternal life.

Part of a shepherd's job is to look after the sheep and help them to stay safe. When we let Jesus lead us, just as a shepherd leads his sheep, he helps us to make the right choices and fills our lives with goodness and holiness. All we need to do is to follow him.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Today, Jesus can lead us and our children through the Church, through prayer and through the lives of people who show us how to live in a way that pleases God. He is the patient shepherd who never gives up on us.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



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

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023



Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock. When the shepherd has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger, but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers." The disciples failed to understand what Jesus meant. So Jesus spoke to them again: "I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: they will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

Adapted from John 10:1-10

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"Be passionate in teaching your children to know and to follow Jesus." Pope Francis



HAVING FAITH  
IN YOUR FAMILY

The Gospel above or the **FAMILY TIME** section overleaf can be read independently by adults or children alike. However, reading the Gospel as a family really does help the family to grow in faith, wisdom and love.



When we really know Jesus and how much he loves us, it's natural to want to follow him. By following Jesus, we too can help others to know and love God – to experience the fullness of life, to live in God's love – here and now!



# 1 Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus told a parable to his disciples to help them understand that he was the Good Shepherd who they should follow, but they did not understand. So Jesus said, "I am the gate of the sheepfold. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: they will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. Whoever tries to climb into the sheepfold some other way is a thief and a robber who wants to steal and kill. But I have come so that everyone can have the fullness of life."

**Who does Jesus want us to follow?** Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? What does the Gospel picture make you think about?



## 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

**FOLLOW**



## 3 Loving God & Each Other

"It is for each of us to learn the path by which Jesus requires us to follow him, and to follow in that path." *St Katharine Drexel*

Ask your child if they know what 'to follow someone' means. Who impresses them? Who sets them a good example which they would like to follow? How has that person made life better for your child, for someone else or for the community? It may help your child if you can talk about a person whose example you follow, or have followed.

"To follow Jesus means to share his merciful love for every human being." *Pope Francis*

We can follow Jesus in the simple things we do in our lives every day, and make life better for all the family and everyone around us. How can we follow Jesus the Good Shepherd this week? Perhaps we can: be kind and contact a friend to see how they are doing at this time; go out of our way to help out at home; show others how to do the right thing and avoid what is wrong; listen carefully to wise and good people; show our gratitude to all those who teach and lead us through life.



Dear Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows us by name and guides us through life. Please help us to hear your voice and **follow** you always. Amen.

**Gospel Gallery**

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

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

- ☒ SHEEPFOLD
- ☒ GATE
- ☐ GOOD
- ☐ SHEPHERD
- ☐ JESUS
- ☐ BRINGS
- ☐ FULLNESS
- ☐ LIFE

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 **ikf** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**hitakve Jeksutis futillnekss kevertyonie**

\_\_\_\_\_ said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ come so that

\_\_\_\_\_ can have the \_\_\_\_\_ of life."

There may be times when we have to stop doing certain things to follow Jesus – rather than 'following the crowd' – if it feels wrong. Let's try to follow Jesus this week by leaving behind anything which we know is not right and then try to do all the good we can.



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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - The Good Shepherd (John 10:1-10)

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'



3

## Reflect

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

*In each year of the three-year cycle of readings this fourth Sunday of Easter is designated Good Shepherd Sunday, with readings from the parable given in John 10. In the first two Sundays after Easter the meetings with the Risen Lord are described, but after that the most important truth about the Risen Lord which the Church puts before us is that this Jesus whom we encounter is the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament God is the Shepherd of Israel, and indeed in the neighbouring pastoral nations too the protective deity of the nation is commonly called their 'Shepherd'. As the pastoral ancient world well knew, the duty of shepherds is to care devotedly for the sheep, with no regard to the personal cost to themselves. Ezekiel repeatedly castigates the recent leaders of Israel for their failure to care for the sheep and for managing the flock for their own personal advantage. It is especially striking that in all four gospels the divine title of Shepherd is transferred from God to Jesus himself, at least implying not only that Jesus is the perfect shepherd, but also that he is the incarnation of that divine Shepherd, fulfilling the duties which had hitherto been credited to the God of Israel alone. By his selfless generosity Jesus is the model for all rulers and leaders of nations.*

**What does it mean to you to describe Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Who is your special guide in life and why?**

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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023



## First Reading: *The First Conversions*

### Acts of the Apostles 2:14.36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered, 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Last Sunday we heard Peter's explanation of the Resurrection as the fulfilment of God's plan which had been outlined in the scriptures. Now we hear the practical consequences: baptism to wash away sin and reception of the Holy Spirit (like Christ at his own baptism). From the very beginning Luke shows that baptism and the promises are for all people, not just for the Jews. All are welcome into Christ's company. But we must first understand what Peter (and before him Jesus and even John the Baptist) meant by 'repentance'. It is not a doleful moping over sin. It is a change of life, a complete change of our scale of values. The Greek word for 'repentance' means a changed mind-set. The corresponding Hebrew word means turning round and going in the opposite direction. 'Repentance', then, is a serious business, not to be undertaken lightly. Careful scrutiny reveals that we may well have unswept corners where the old standards remain lurking, breeding and reproducing. The Christian is baptised into Christ and into Christ's death in order to rise to new life with Christ, but even St Paul acknowledges that we remain caught up in doing the evil we want to avoid.

*Is it possible to take on Christ's life and yet to sin? What helps us in our daily lives to repent and turn to face Christ?*

## Second Reading: *The Example of Christ*

### 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

One of the most striking things about this passage is that it is addressed primarily to slaves, exhorting them to bear with the harsh treatment of their masters after the model of Jesus' own acceptance of harsh treatment. What is staggering for us is that the author does not in the least question the institution of slavery nor sees injustice in that savage treatment which slaves tended to receive. It was not for a millennium and a half that the treatment of slaves and indeed the institution of slavery itself were seen to be incompatible with Christ's teaching on the equal dignity and limitless value of every individual human being. As Pope Benedict pointed out on his visit to Britain in 2010, the extension of this important principle of social justice to slaves is due to the work of Christian political movements in Britain. However, another principle underpinning our reading remains - that we all suffer to a greater or lesser degree, and that our suffering offers a priceless opportunity to draw close to the suffering Christ, and consciously to share in his redemptive suffering. Nor must the suffering of others in union with Christ be neglected. It is easy to despise the poorer and more neglected members of society, and to forget that, by their very disadvantages, they can be the chosen favourites of the Lord.

*How easy is it to follow the example of the suffering Christ?*

“A priceless opportunity to draw close to the suffering Christ.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*  
w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)



## Happy Birthday this week to...

Bryan Udeagha, Oliver Danel, April Thorp, Ollie Kluza, Basil Thompson, Freddie Wink, Mya Simpson, Jalyn Muigai, Naya Kruszniewska Quental, Blousey McQuillan-Clark, Luca Cushway & Damian Eze.



### Golden Awards:

Butterflies:	Basil Thompson, for making outstanding progress in phonics Nellie Tupper, for creative ideas in her writing and beautiful illustrations
Ladybirds:	Gray Grieveson, for great progress in reading
Dragonflies:	Lottie Peters, for working really hard with her writing and using amazing adjectives
Grasshoppers:	Jemimah Shoji-Akinwale, for her fantastic maths work, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s
Hedgehogs:	Krzysztof Czarny, for a great effort in all areas of learning
Squirrels:	Clara Stewart, for working really hard on all her work
Badgers:	Jacob Bown, for fantastic participation in class discussions
Foxes:	Barry Tanu, for great effort in all subjects and some great contributions to class discussions
Hares:	Ellis Sofuwa, for his amazing determination in D.T.
Rabbits:	Giuseppe Portaro, for coming back to school from the Easter break and working really hard
Kingfishers:	Filip Skowron, for trying really hard in maths
Robins:	Alana Madarasz, for making great progress in her reading
Eagles:	Amanda Girciute, for sharing ideas with her peers and always working hard
Owls:	Farrah Kent, for working hard in all lessons
Midday Award:	Elaeh Robson, for her lovely manners in the lunch hall

### Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

#### Monday 1st May

Bank holiday - school closed

#### Tuesday 2nd May

Year 4 Reading Zone 9:00  
May Procession 2:00  
Year 3 & 4 Football 3:15 - 4:15  
Year 5 & 6 Football 3:15 - 4:15  
Choir 3:15 - 4:15

#### Wednesday 3rd May

Class Photo Day - Winter uniform  
KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10  
Year 2 and 3 Gardening Club 3:15 - 4:15  
KS2 Rounders 3:15 - 4:15

#### Thursday 4th May

Butterflies Parent Road Safety Workshop 9:00  
Kingfishers Road Safety Day  
Year 4 Reading Zone 9:00  
Year 1 Football 3:10 - 4:10  
Year 2 Football 3:10 - 4:10

#### Friday 5th May

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](http://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 George's**