



23rd June 2023



#### Reflection on the week:

What a busy week we have had! It was wonderful to see so many families at the Summer Fete and Picnic, enjoying the fun activities in the sunshine. We have had the pleasure of welcoming Potter Street Primary School to a Year 2 music festival today and it was amazing to watch the children make new friends and play, sing and dance together with such joy. I was very proud of our children and the warm welcome that they gave to our visitors. Our Year 3 children visited Harlow Museum and found out lots of information about the history of how Harlow has developed into the large modern town it is today. I have also been visiting RE lessons and I am delighted to share with parents and carers that I am very pleased with the excellent standard of RE teaching at Holy Cross. Our teachers work very hard to ensure that they deliver meaningful and memorable RE teaching to the children.

In the Gospel this week we heard from St Mathew and he listed many of the names of Jesus's Disciples. I was very impressed when I visited our 2 Reception classes, that they knew many of the names and could also tell me why they were special friends of Jesus.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his Disciples that, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest" **Matthew 9:37-38**. This made me reflect on the importance of us working in partnership together, as school and parents, to help our children to become their best selves. Whilst achieving well academically, our priority as a Catholic school, is to guide our pupils, along with your support, to becoming strong Catholic Christians who make the world a better place.

Have a wonderful weekend,

*Mrs Kerrell*

Headteacher

#### Fete and picnic

A huge thank you to Kate Cater and Bernie Cundins for working together with Karen Slater to organise and deliver the wonderful Summer Fete and Picnic. So much hard work went in to planning the event. My thanks also to parents who came along on the day and helped to set up the stalls, or clear away at the end and to the parents who manned the stalls. A final word of thanks to you our parents and carers for all of the tickets and activities you purchased and if you bought raffle tickets. We still have some prizes to be collected from the office.

#### Water Bottles

It is very important that the children have a water bottle in school in this hot weather. The bottle should contain only water and must not contain juice or be the Prime drink that is currently on the market.

We are also noticing an increase in the number of the very expensive Air Up water bottles. We would prefer children not to have these as if they get lost, children will be very upset. If your child does have one of these bottles, please ensure that their name is on it so that we can quickly identify who it belongs to.



## Catholic Social Teaching

We have been learning about the importance of Catholic Social Teaching in our lives. Our 9 Gospel Values are the bedrock of our school and what we would like the children to show to others. There are 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching and these underpin our Gospel Values. The Gospel values are the golden threads that weave through all that we do at Holy Cross and the Catholic Social Teaching principles are the silver threads that run from the Gospel Values. Our first board as everyone comes through into our school, shows this.

Human Dignity is the cornerstone of these principles and the children have been learning about this, this week. We want our pupils to think about others and the dignity of human life as we are all made in the likeness of God and should therefore reflect this to others through our words and actions.

We would like parents to support our work on Catholic Social Teaching at home and to find out more please follow this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching> . There is also a helpful video if you follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNcBCPVbYDU>



### Jungle Book Production for Key Stage 1

We were very lucky that the M&M Theatre Company had a cancellation this week and delivered a performance of The Jungle Book to Reception and Key Stage 1. The children had a brilliant experience and we hope to see them again.







## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Dragonflies and Squirrels, achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits and Eagles, 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.

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.

Butterflies	95%
Ladybirds	93%
 Dragonflies	99%
Grasshoppers	91%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	99% 
Badgers	92%
Foxes	97%
Hares	97%
 Rabbits	98%
Kingfishers	97%
Robins	91%
Eagles	95%
Owls	98% 





# *Family Picnic and Fete*







### Year 3 Trip to Harlow Museum

This week Foxes and Badgers went to Harlow Museum to find out more about how Harlow was designed as a New Town. The children took part in a range of activities including; designing their own New Town, using maps to see how this area has changed over the years, exploring old and new objects and bikes and creating paper sculptures using geometric shapes. In the afternoon the children had time to look around the museum and learn more about Sir Fredrick Gibberd. The children all really enjoyed their day and their behaviour was fantastic!







### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Thea Dixon

Badgers: Axel Brooks

Hares: Jeremy Cox

Kingfishers: Zoe Staines

Eagles: Cosmas Eze

Squirrels: Aoife Boland

Foxes: Isabella Tyson

Rabbits: Marshall Pavelin

Robins: Bryan Udeagha

Owls: Isla Marsh-Gray

### **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: Alexandra Sirghe

Dragonflies: Lottie Peters

Hedgehogs: Nicole-Marie Kazamia

Badgers: Zachary Timbrell

Hares: Albert Edwards

Kingfishers: Kayla Umaru

Eagles: Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba

Ladybirds: Tobi Ojo

Grasshoppers: Elaeh Robson

Squirrels: Tadhg Hanifin-Flynn

Foxes: Nathaniel Obinna

Rabbits: Victoria Banjo

Robins: Darcie Bethell

Owls: Shauden Sesay





# Save THE Date

## FEAST OF HOLY CROSS FESTIVAL



SAT | **SEPT**  
**16** |  
**2023**

**3pm**  
till  
**9pm**



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FOR ALL THE FAMILY



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HOLY CROSS SCHOOL  
OFFICE







Based on the gospel for Sunday 25 June, Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time: Matthew 10:26-33

**"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body."**

"Do not be afraid", Jesus reassured his disciples three times in this passage, as he prepared them to face trials and persecutions that would come when they proclaimed the Gospel.

In today's troubled times, fear is a common emotion as we grapple with the impact of the rising cost of living at home and witness the ever more frequent devastating effects of climate change and of conflict on our sisters and brothers in so many countries.

Fear can make us feel helpless, perhaps struggling to understand God's plan for us or to see what we can do to make things better. Is there anything we can do about high food, energy and housing costs, drought, flooding and the horrors of war?

At a prayer vigil for Italian teenagers last year, Pope Francis had a message that is relevant to us all. He encouraged us to bring our fears - which dwell in darkness - into the light by naming them and sharing them with others.

We are not alone. Each of us is precious to Jesus, who is always accompanying us on our journey to do what is right.

Risen Lord,  
as we contemplate the gift of being your missionary disciples, lift up our spirit,  
take away all of our fears and give us joy and peace.  
Amen.



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

Jesus is the hand of the Father who never abandons us, the strong and faithful hand of the Father who always and only wants our good.



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,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is sending out his disciples to heal and to preach the good news. Even if they are met with hostility and persecution, they must be true to Jesus.

Jesus himself was fearless in proclaiming truth and exposing falsehood. Now his disciples must courageously do the same.

Most of us require courage at some time in our lives, so it's good and helpful to nurture courage in our children.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023

As our children mature, it's essential for them to be brave and have the courage to say 'no' when necessary, even if it means going against the crowd or speaking up for truth.

Enjoy a special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COURAGE**.

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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023



Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: "Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; think more about God who has power over both body and soul. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven.

*Adapted from Matthew 10:26-33*

The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

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

"Let us learn to face moments of difficulty with courage, certain that Jesus never fails to give his support." Pope Francis



WORD CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL



It takes courage to stand up for the truth. This Gospel reminds us not to be afraid to speak out for what is right and true. Courage helps us to do many great things: to resist temptations, to overcome obstacles and to face our fears when we have followed what is good.

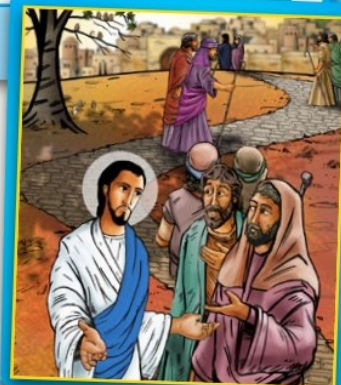


# 1 Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid. What is now hidden will be made known. What you have heard said in whispers, I want you to tell out loud to everyone. And do not be afraid of people; they cannot harm your soul. Think more about God who has power over both body and soul. Aren't two sparrows cheap to buy – sold only for a penny? Yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father knowing about it. So do not be afraid. You are worth much more than lots of sparrows. If anyone speaks up for me in front of other people, then I will speak up for that person in front of my Father in heaven."

**Why did the disciples need courage?** Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



## 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

## COURAGE



## 3 Loving God & Each Other

"To have courage for whatever comes in life – everything lies in that." *St Teresa of Avila*

Ask your child what the word 'courage' means to them. When was the last time they needed courage? Have they ever needed the courage to: go somewhere new or try something new; tell the truth; admit a mistake; stand up for someone; speak up for something that was right; resist peer pressure or go against the crowd and say that something was wrong? Is there anything they are afraid of right now? Who do they know who has shown or shows 'courage'?

"In joining yourself to God's will, you take on new life and gather great courage." *St Paul of the Cross*

The word 'courage' comes from the Latin word for 'heart' and it basically means that you are brave. Courage is a gift of the Holy Spirit – it makes us strong. Putting our faith in Jesus and his teachings gives us the courage to do the right thing. How can we have more courage? Perhaps we can: develop our friendship with God through prayer; ask God for more courage; put our faith in Jesus and his teachings; support and encourage each other always to do what we know to be right – even if we are afraid.



Dear Lord Jesus, please give us the **courage** always to do and say what is right and help us to remember that we can always put our faith in you. Amen.

## Gospel Gallery

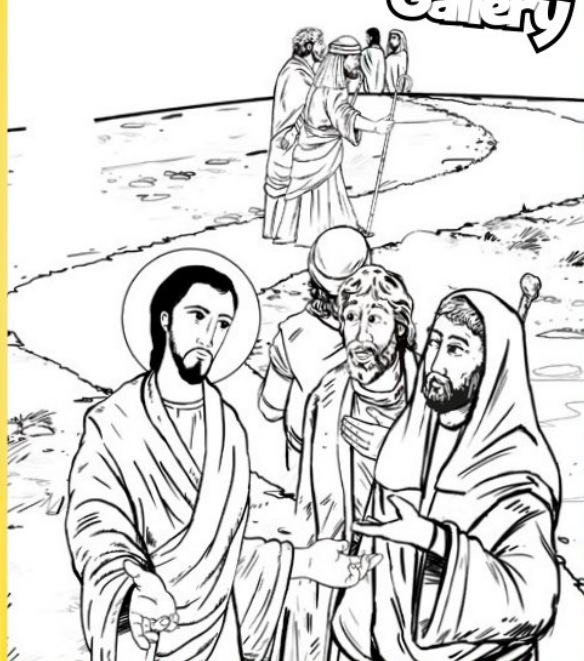
D H E G A R U O C N A  
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F E V C S P E A K N A  
H F N R N L L E T O G  
A K A E P S L G N T E

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- ☒ NOT AFRAID
- ☐ TELL EVERYONE
- ☐ COURAGE SPEAK
- ☐ FATHER HEAVEN

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 **k v z** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**spavrrzowsk kafvrazid zakrev movkrez**

So do not be \_\_\_\_\_. You \_\_\_\_\_ worth  
much \_\_\_\_\_ than lots of \_\_\_\_\_.

When we stay close to Jesus, we will always have the courage to do the right thing. We are all precious to God. Let Jesus' words in this Sunday's Gospel fill us with courage to live by his teaching.



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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - The Twelfth 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 Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - The Mission of the Apostles (Matthew 10:26-33)**

Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. 'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one, who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'



## 3 Reflect

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

*This whole chapter of Matthew brings together and sums up what Jesus has to say to his apostles about declaring his teaching in the face of hostility and persecution. Jesus himself was fearless in proclaiming his message. He 'taught with authority', as the gospel constantly tells us. His disciples are sent out to do the same. We do not often meet with real persecution, although it may yet happen. The martyrs of communist Russia or Vietnam lived many years of peaceful Christianity before unexpectedly facing martyrdom. The monk martyrs of Algeria did not reckon on martyrdom when they went to Algeria. The only preparation for martyrdom can be fidelity and prayer. More often we face mockery for holding to Christian principles, and that too can be difficult to bear. We can be accused of narrow mindedness, lack of appreciation of human values, blind obedience, sentimentality, naivety, and a host of other hurtful slurs. Jesus did not promise that the Father would prevent the sparrows falling to the ground! Neither is it always easy to respond to such slurs with the patience and generosity as well as the truthfulness which Jesus would have shown. 'A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar', said St Francis de Sales.*

**Do I fearlessly proclaim the Gospel? What situations in the coming week might require courage? How can I grow in courage?**

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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023



## First Reading: *The Persecuted Prophet*

### Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side!" Denounce him! Let us denounce him! All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!' But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

Jeremiah was the last prophet in Jerusalem before the Babylonians sacked the city and took most of the inhabitants into exile as slaves in 586 BC. He was sent as a final warning, to tell them all, from the king downwards, that disaster was impending if they did not amend their ways and turn back to the Lord. The authorities didn't like it, and accused him of sabotaging the morale of the citizens. He was arrested and dumped in an empty water storage pit to keep him quiet. He himself was a gentle soul and hated delivering this fierce message, complaining to the Lord about his tough and unpalatable task, and the persecution he suffered. But he stuck to his guns, and when the king tore up the threatening message he sent, Jeremiah merely repeated it – with more besides. He also had a message of hope, that eventually the Lord would give them a new covenant, with a new heart and a new spirit, so that they would again be the People of God. This reading is chosen to show in the Old Testament the courage and perseverance in proclaiming the message that, in the gospels, Jesus asks from his disciples.

**When is it most difficult to take a stand and announce that I hold Christian principles? Do I manage to do this?**

## Second Reading: *Christ, the Second Adam*

### St Paul to the Romans 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

Christ is the saviour, but how does he save? The Letter to the Romans is Paul's fullest explanation, and the heart of that teaching is that Christ is the Second Adam. Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, as described in Genesis, is not a simple historical story of one particular sin. It is the paradigm of all sin, the paradigm or analysis of all human failure, the process of turning away from God's commandments in pride and independence: 'I know better than God what is good for me.' We are children of Adam in so far as we have sinned, and Adam's sin sums up that of all humanity. At the same time, Adam is not only the type, but also the founder of all humanity. Christ, by way of contrast, is the second founder of all humanity. His act of perfect obedience to his Father on the cross transcends and heals this act of disobedience committed by the first Adam. Only Christ's act of loving obedience could be great enough to do this. It had to be an act of a man, but not of a mere man. We are members of this new humanity in so far as we join ourselves to Christ, put all our trust and hope in him.

**Can you see any similarity between the sin of Adam and our own sins?**

“Only Christ's act of loving obedience could be great enough to do this.”

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...

Caliyah Aboagye-Manu, Ohemaa Prempeh, Stanley Chambers,  
Kyren Laidley, Will Bannister-How, Abigail Olagunju,  
Hannah Mahalik-Berec & Medeina Kucinskaite



## Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Amelia Chapska, for a lovely retelling of a story about a holiday
- Ladybirds: ThankGod Oregbhemhe, for excellent recall of doubles to 5
- Dragonflies: Flynn Williams, for working hard with his phonics
- Grasshoppers: Naomi Dawadu, for her fantastic effort with her phonics
- Hedgehogs: Freddie Wink, for an amazing knowledge of animals and their habitats
- Squirrels: Christabel Nyarko-Mensah, for fantastic work on texture in art
- Badgers: Parker Loughran-Ricketts, for showing excellent enthusiasm when learning about the Sacrament of Confession
- Foxes: Jalyn Muigai, for a great attitude towards her learning
- Hares: Dylan Cater, for his amazing Shakespeare acting
- Rabbits: Ilinca Branisteanu, for her confidence when performing Romeo and Juliet
- Kingfishers: Olivia Jarczewska, for always having a fantastic attitude to learning
- Robins: Harvey Driscoll, for amazing effort with his work presentation in all subjects
- Eagles: Adjoa Kwakye, for always working hard and trying her best
- Owls: Aidan Cater, for fantastic enthusiasm in the Leavers' Play

## House Points

**Congratulations to the  
winning house St Andrew's**

## Menu week 2

## Diary Dates

<u>Monday 26th June</u>	<u>Tuesday 27th June</u>	<u>Wednesday 28th June</u>	<u>Thursday 29th June</u>	<u>Friday 30th June</u>
Kingfishers Swimming	Choir Music Festival 1:30	Year 3 Eucharistic Service 9:00	Year 1 Football 3:10 - 4:10	Reception Southend Trip
Years 1 & 2 Drawing 3:10 - 4:10	Year 3 & 4 Football 3:15 - 4:15	KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10	Year 2 Football 3:10 - 4:10	Year 4 Kentwell Trip
Years 1 & 2 Cosmic Yoga 3:10 - 4:10	Year 5 & 6 Football 3:15 - 4:15	Year 2 and 3 Gardening Club 3:15 - 4:15	KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15	KS2 Assembly 9:00
Years 3 & 4 Cosmic Yoga 3:15 - 4:15		KS2 Rounders 3:15 - 4:15		KS1 Assembly 2:30
Year 3 International Club 3:15 - 4:15		New Reception Parent Induction Evening 6:00		KS2 Dodgeball 3:15 - 4:15
KS2 Basketball 3:15 - 4:15				

*Mrs A Kerrell* *Mr S Kelliher*

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelliher

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)