



8th September 2023



### Weekly Reflection

We heard in the Gospel, in our New School Year Mass today about being a shining light to everyone around us. We remember our school mission statement and that Jesus is the shining example to us all.

*'Jesus is the centre of our lives, our learning and friendships.  
in a safe, happy and caring community where all are welcome.'*

We ask that God gives us the strength and wisdom to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead of our school community this year and the Holy Spirit to guide us on our paths.

### Welcome to the new school year

The children have made a wonderful start to the new school year and I am very proud of how well they have coped with the soaring temperatures. They have been very positive and happy in their attitudes to school and pleased to be back together. We have spent the week settling in and getting used to new teachers, adults, classrooms and routines. We have finished our week with a very uplifting Mass to begin our new school year.

### Welcome to our new children

We have lots of children, who have started with us across the school and we wish them a warm welcome. We are especially excited to welcome our brand new Reception children on Monday as they begin their Holy Cross journey.

### Clubs

We will be starting clubs on Monday 18th September. Emails to confirm your child's place will be sent out next week or when you book, using Book When. Please do not send your child to a club if you have not had the confirmation email from the school or Book When.

Please note Karate club start next week.

### Mary's Spiritual Garden

We are delighted to have a beautiful new prayer space at the front of the church dedicated to Mary our Mother. This is a precious and peaceful space and we ask that parents and pupils treat this space with respect by not walking in it or picking up the stones. We encourage parents to sit a while and pray with Mary.





### **End of Day Lining Up**

We are getting used to our pick-up arrangements at the end of the day and I think that we have now all got into a good routine. Please wait behind the cones for your child's class teacher to see you and then release your child to you. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Healthy Snack**

As parents and Carers know, we have a healthy snack policy at Holy Cross. Children may bring fruit and or vegetables to school for their snack and we would encourage parents to get reluctant fruit or vegetable eaters to enjoy these foods at home. This is in line with the Essex Healthy Schools guidance. If your child does not have the correct snack they may be hungry in the middle of the morning.

### **Uniform**

This has been a tricky week for uniform as it has been incredibly hot. Next week the temperature is to return to a warm more manageable level. Parents may choose summer or winter uniform but not a combination of the two. The length of girls' skirts must be to the knee and if your child is wearing a shirt they must have a school tie. For further information please visit our school website:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=101>

### **Hats and Water Bottles**

Whilst we still have sunny weather we ask that children have a hat in school as they will be outside a lot in the daytime. It is very important that your child stays hydrated throughout the day so they must have a refillable water bottle in school only with water in. No juice or Prime Drinks please. If your child has an expensive Air Up bottle, please name it as there are many in school and your child will need to identify theirs easily.

### **Helping Hands**

Our sincere thanks to Kaci in Year 3's parents who came along just at the right time yesterday when we were trying to sort out a problem with the school gate. They very kindly then came back early and Kaci's dad used his expertise to fix the problem. This was much appreciated by us all.

### **Seesaw and Tapestry**

Children have all had their new log ins and we encourage parents to try and log on to the platform, to check if there are any problems.

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

As part of starting the new year we ask staff to sign a Code of Conduct and as parents are part of our school community, we will be sharing a Parent and Carers Code of Conduct with you. We ask that everyone in our school community follows this please.

### **Gardening Club**

Gardening club were very excited to return to school to discover our flourishing vegetables.



## Gospel Value Awards



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

Dragonflies:	Gray	Grasshoppers:	Alexandra
Hedgehogs:	Luca	Squirrels:	Amelia
Badgers:	Tawana	Foxes:	Keziah
Hares:	Gracie	Rabbits:	Livia
Kingfishers:	Ella	Robins:	Praise
Eagles:	Mason	Owls:	Samuel

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers, achieving a fantastic 100% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Robins, 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.

Butterflies	
Ladybirds	
Dragonflies	92%
Grasshoppers	100%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	98%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	98%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	99%
Eagles	91%
Owls	98%

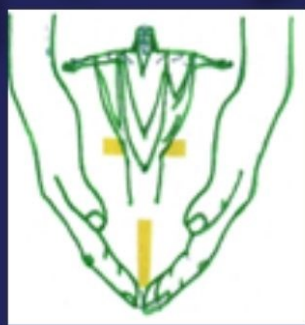


## SPOT THE ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR GOING

# BACK TO SCHOOL







# THE FEAST OF HOLY CROSS FESTIVAL



FAMILY FUN DAY



SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER  
2023

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT



Gates open 2.30pm  
3pm to 9pm  
Family mass at 5.30pm

On Holy Cross field, bring a picnic  
and chairs/ gazebo



# **Festival Events**

**Live Band Triple X**

**African Dancing**

**Ballroom Dancing Demo and free sessions**

**Karate Demo**

**Irish Dancing**

**All the children from Holy Cross will be performing!**

**Choir**

**Festival Face Painting**

**Bouncy Castles**

**Panna Pitch**

**Prize Raffle**

**Licenced Bar**

**Barbeque**

**Refreshments**

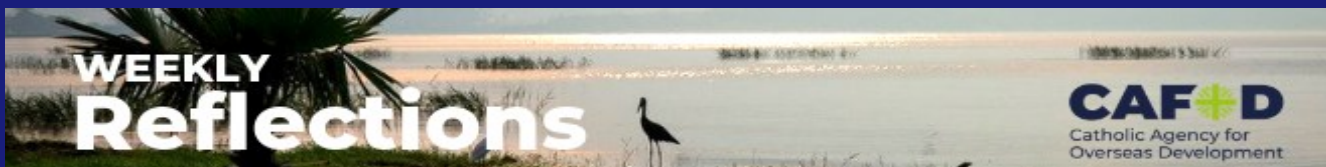


GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

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

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





Based on the gospel for Sunday 10 September, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 18:15-20

**"If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves."**

In a world afflicted by conflict and division, Jesus calls us to the challenging path of courageous conversation and reconciliation.

When trust is fractured or a relationship broken, it can be difficult not to nurture our resentment or air our grievances in gossip. But Jesus calls us to model to our divided world a different way of handling disagreement and hurt.

The path is not easy. It demands vulnerability, love and patience. We are called to help one another to see our common sinfulness and to move to repentance and renewal. As Pope Francis has written, "Unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine." (Fratelli Tutti #198)

In this challenge, we can find help in the final words of the gospel passage: "For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be with them." Jesus has opened the way of reconciliation, restoring our relationship with God, and continues to be present and at work among us now. Let's pray for grace to open our hearts to participate in his work of healing and reconciliation.

Loving God,  
Give us hearts full of courage and hope  
so, guided by your grace,  
we may join your work of reconciliation.  
Amen.



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

The Word always brings us back to what is essential to faith: allowing God to love us so as to make our lives an offering of love. For love alone truly quenches our thirst.



**Wednesday**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September**

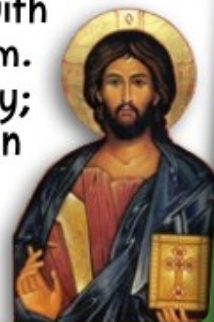


**Good News  
for Families**

**1**

**Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel**

Jesus said to his disciples, "If your brother does something against you, point out his fault to him when the two of you are alone together. If he listens to you, then you have won your brother back. But if he does not listen to you, then you should take one or two others along with you, so that every word you say may be confirmed by them. If he still refuses to listen, tell the whole church community; and if he even refuses to listen to the Church, treat him as an outcast. I tell you truly, if two of you on earth agree what to ask for, then my Father in heaven will grant it. If two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Matt. 18:15-20 (the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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 **RECONCILIATION**







**"Let us all become people of reconciliation and peace!"** Pope Francis

What does Jesus say is the first thing that we should do if someone upsets us? Sometimes we make mistakes and occasionally upset one another. The important thing is to overcome such upsets in a loving way and become friends again. This is also known as reconciliation. This Sunday's Gospel suggests ways of doing this peacefully and calmly. Ask your child who have been their special friends over the years, even if they have had misunderstandings. Tell your children about the special friendships you have had over the years. Each say what you think makes a lasting friendship?

**"Do I take the Gospel message of reconciliation and love into the places where I live and work?"** Pope Francis

In the Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we should always try hard to be reconciled - to heal relationships and to try to make friends again. Prayer is an important part of reconciliation. We can ask Jesus, anytime, to bring peace to a situation, and to guide us back to friendship. We can't always undo mistakes if we have done something wrong and upset someone, but we can always learn from our mistakes and try to make amends. As a family, share ideas about how to be reconciled with someone if things go wrong. Perhaps we can; say sorry if we have done wrong; ask an adult to help us make friends again. Can you think of other ways?



Dear Lord Jesus, help us always to be ready to make peace and to be **reconciled** with our friends, neighbours and with you - to live together in harmony and happiness. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



Cross out the letters **c d m** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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

☒  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

**JESUS  
DISCIPLES**

**BROTHER  
FAULT**

**ALONE  
TOGETHER**

**WIN  
BACK**

☒  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

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

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

brocthedrm mycourd thcemnd cwodnm

If \_\_\_\_\_ brother listens to you, \_\_\_\_\_  
you have \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ back.

**Write** a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

**This week I will try my best to...**

.....  
.....



**DID YOU KNOW?** This Sunday we celebrate 'Education Sunday': a national day of prayer when we especially remember all those involved in the education and the care of our children: [catholiceducation.org.uk](http://catholiceducation.org.uk)





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - The Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 1 Relax & Remember

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



## 2 Read

**Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 - Reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-20)**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'



## 3 Reflect

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

*The Church has had to be selective as we work through the Gospel of Matthew for this year's readings. In this eighteenth chapter of Matthew on relationships within the community it is striking that the Church has chosen this passage to put before us. The first part is all about sorting out disputes and about forgiveness. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every church and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process to do this. Just after today's passage, Jesus underlines his teaching here when he says that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit. Christ also reminds us that he is present always in his community. The same promise is given at the beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and at the end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the decisions of the community will be considered binding in the sight of God. It is especially striking that the same pledge (of binding and loosing) is made with the Church here as had earlier been made with Peter himself; Peter on his own exercises the authority of the Church.*

**How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice?**

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 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023



## First Reading: *Repentance for Sin*

### Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man, "Wicked wretch, you are to die", and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

*Why did the church choose this passage, about the prophet warning sinners, to pair with the gospel-reading about reconciliation? Partly because every person's sin or failure affects the whole Church. If I fail in my duty to my brother or sister or spouse or child or other dependent, this harms the holiness of the whole Church. I can't shrug it off as no concern of mine, saying, 'I can't be bothered', 'too busy', 'nothing to do with me, anyway'. Of course it is all very well for the prophet Ezekiel to point out other people's faults: that is the job of a prophet, to show others how God sees them. Heaven forbid that I should go round telling people their faults! On the other hand, just occasionally I can learn some home-truths about myself when someone flies off the handle; that is the time to listen and learn! Jesus did not denounce sinners: he dined with them. For myself, there are countless people and occasions where a healing word, a healing touch, can begin the process of growth over the scar-tissue. But it must be a healing in love, and, unless there is real, overflowing love, keep clear!*

*How may we best tell the truth in love?*

## Second Reading: *The Debt of Mutual Love*

### Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

“The only debt I owe to anyone is love.”

*Paul has described the process of salvation, won for us by Christ's loving obedience to his Father. Now he gives his instructions about how we should live as Christians and he simply summarises the basic command of Judaism: love your neighbour as yourself. Each of these negative commandments he mentions contains a clutch of positive values. If I really love and bond with my spouse, it will never come to adultery. 'You shall not kill' implies also that we should further life in all the ways we can. 'You shall not steal' involves respect for the property and well-being of others. The only debt I owe to anyone is love. It is easy to kid ourselves that we are practising love, when in fact we are demonstrating self-interest, self-justification. It is easy enough to be loving to our friends (most of the time!), but that is not what Paul means. In his earlier letter to the Corinthians he gave us that searching test for true love, 'Love is always patient, never jealous, not boastful or conceited, never rude, never seeks its own advantage,' and so on. It is hard to read St Paul's teaching about these qualities of love without some embarrassment.*

*What does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself?*

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...

Justin, Riley, Blake, Olivia, Charlie,  
Vienna-Baye, Arthur, Sofia, Gracie and  
Clara



### Golden Awards:

Dragonflies:	Yohanna, for working hard and settling well into Year 1
Grasshoppers:	Kweku, for his fantastic start to Year 1
Hedgehogs:	Cristina, for working hard and trying her best
Squirrels:	Jonny, for making a fantastic start to Year 2
Badgers:	Blousey, for her fantastic contribution to our class discussions
Foxes:	Roman, for great participation in class discussions
Hares:	Jackson, for his amazing attitude in maths
Rabbits:	Blake, for working hard and showing a mature attitude to Year 4
Kingfishers:	Zion, for settling in well to Kingfishers and Holy Cross
Robins:	Aroha, for making fantastic contributions to our class discussions
Eagles:	Mollie, for settling in so well at Holy Cross
Owls:	Kayla Umaru, for a fantastic start to Year 6

### Menu week 2

## Diary Dates

<u>Monday 11th September</u>	<u>Tuesday 12th September</u>	<u>Wednesday 13th September</u>	<u>Thursday 14th September</u>	<u>Friday 15th September</u>
Eagles swimming		Year 6 visit to St Marks Year 6 parent meeting with St Marks 14:30 at Holy Cross KS1 Karate 3:15 - 4:15	KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15	KS2 Assembly 9:00 KS1 Assembly 14:30

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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)