

GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value this coming week is Forgiveness. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

#### Weekly Reflection

In last Sunday's Gospel **Matthew 21: 28-32** we heard about the man with two sons whom he asked to go and work in the vineyard. I talked to the children about the choices that the sons made, as one was reluctant to go but then changed his mind and then went and did a good job. The second however, said he would go and made himself favourable in his father's eyes but then did not bother going.

The important lesson that we can take from this is that when we turn away from God we can be brought back to him but we must remember the importance of keeping our word and showing integrity.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

#### Remembering Miss McGuigan

This weekend marks the second anniversary of Miss McGuigan passing away. We have remembered her today and her wonderful legacy, in a special whole school assembly. We still miss her greatly and we ask that you remember her and her family in your prayers.

> Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. ~Amen~

#### PE Kit

I wrote to parents last week regarding your child having their PE kit, including trainers, in school every day. Many children do not have the correct football kit which is part of school uniform. If your child does not have their kit in school they will still go to the lesson but will not be able to take part and may get cold as the weather turns more autumnal. It is very important that pupils access the full curriculum.

#### Car Park safety

We have had several concerns raised about children wandering unsupervised in the carpark. If you are dropping off your child for Breakfast Club, or school, please bear in mind that this is a busy time. School staff arrive for work and we ask that you keep your child with you at all times to avoid a serious accident.

#### **First Communion**

The First Communion registration form is now on the parish website which needs to be completed by 17th November.







#### Commissioning of the Chaplains and Mini Vinnies

We were delighted to commission our Key Stage 2 Chaplains and Mini Vinnies this week at Mass last Tuesday. The Chaplains will play a key role in school in sharing the good news from the Bible with everyone in the school through writing prayers, sharing favourite pieces of scripture, leading collective acts of worship and supporting with whole school assemblies.

Our Mini Vinnies will support with local fundraising to help people who are in need. We were very proud of them for supporting the school with the MacMillan coffee morning and raising a phenomenal £600!

Our Cafod Club pupils will be commissioned at mass next Tuesday. All of the children will receive a special badge to represent the extra contribution they are making to life at Holy Cross.

Cafod club raised £168 from their Bring and Buy sale this money will be donated to Cafod.





#### Year 5 and 6 Football Tournament

This afternoon pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in a Harlow district football tournament at Passmores School. They finished the afternoon unbeaten, but just missed out on the final.



#### Harlow Museum

This week Year 3 visited Harlow Museum to consolidate their learning about the History of Harlow. They spent the morning taking part in a range of different activities such as; designing a new town, creating small abstract sculptures, comparing old and new objects and looking at map and photos of Harlow in the past. After lunch, the children were able to spend time looking around the museum and gardens which they thoroughly enjoyed doing. The children all had a great day and their behaviour was fantastic!



#### **Burwell Residential Trip**

This week, Robins have enjoyed spending three days on a residential trip at Burwell House in Cambridgeshire. The house and grounds offer a fabulous opportunity to explore lots of Geography skills and fieldwork through games and activities. At the end of the three days, the children were confident in navigating using a map and compass and enjoyed the competitive orienteering games, both on site and wider afield in the village of Burwell itself. They completed traffic surveys and sound maps in Burwell, the neighbouring hamlet of Reach and walked along a stretch of the historic Devil's Dyke. The children also made clay sculptures, which were inspired by our Anglo-Saxons topic.

Mrs. Guna, Mr Clarke and Mrs. McCombes were really proud of all of the children for their behaviour and manners and for how they fully embraced the activities and experiences. They showed great resilience in being away from their families and in trying new and delicious foods. It was wonderful to see the children playing and enjoying spending time outdoors.

# #HelloYellow

Come to school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October in something yellow and donate £1.50 for Young Minds Mental Health Charity







# <u>Times Tables Rockstars</u>

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

Hedgehogs: Badgers: Medeina Hares: Joshua Kingfishers: Hector Eagles: Squirrels: Kayla Foxes: Maya Rabbits: Naya Robins: Cristiana Owls: Vicky

# Gospel Value Awards

# **Compassion** -

optimism, newness, resilience, perseverance

"May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you...' Ephesians 1:3-6



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

Dragonflies:	Amelia	Grasshoppers:	Nellie
Hedgehogs:	Zara	Squirrels:	Kaci
Badgers:	Eddie	Foxes:	Tadhg
Hares:	Barry	Rabbits:	Freya
Kingfishers:	Mahayla	Robins:	Julia
Eagles:	Ava	Owls:	Vicky

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Squirrels, achieving 99% 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.

E	Butterflies	95%
	Ladybirds	99%
۵	ragonflies	94%
Gr	rasshoppers	97%
P	ledgehogs	96%
	Squirrels	99%
	Badgers	98%
	Foxes	98%
	Hares	98%
	Rabbits	90%
K	Cingfishers	97%
	Robins	99%
	Eagles	97%
	Owls	93%

# 10 tips for parents and carers D BE GREEN WITH YOU HOW TO E

Right now, humans aren't living sustainably: we're taking too many resources and not leaving the world in a fit state for future generations. Old tech products are a clear example: if we throw them away, the poisonous lead and mercury inside can get into the food chain through the soil. Recycling tech, though, has its own issues: it's often exported to countries where the law doesn't protect people from hazards. Whole villages (including children) sort through discarded devices to remove useful parts and substances like gold, silver and copper - often putting their health at risk. Finding ways to re-use tech is the greenest option.

# So what can we do with those cupboards and drawers full of old phones and unwanted computers? Reuse, recycle, donate or sell them!

## DONATE THEM TO CHARITY

# (2) REMEMBER THE BATTERIES 🌑 🔍 (3) USE YOUR ONLINE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

## 4) REUSE THEM

1:00

# 5 TURN IT INTO SOMETHING NEW



# 6 RETURN THEM

# (8) SELL THEM

# Meet Our Expert

Neil Atkin teaches scientific literacy throu organisation, Rubbish Science, which eng

# 7) SUPPORT SCIENCE

# RESEARCH DISPOSAL METHODS (10) KEEP THINKING



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Based on the gospel for Sunday 8 October, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 21:33-43

"He will ... lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives. "

The tenants in this week's gospel reading claim the vineyard and its harvest as their own. They will not hear otherwise from anyone. Not the landowner's servants or even his son.

We are all tenants - here on earth a short while, taking care of God's wonderful gift of creation. God has prepared this beautiful place for us all to live. We are called not only to take care of it, but also to share the fruits of our harvest. Making sure that we do not keep it all for ourselves, but that we give glory to God and share with one another.

Like the tenants, there may be messengers in our lives that we do not want to hear. Who are they?

Is it those who tell us about the climate emergency? Is it our sisters and brothers, like Meera in Pakistan, who are already facing the effects of flooding?

So, let us reflect on how we can produce the fruits of God's kingdom in our world today. Fruits of peace, justice and plenty for all people. Let us stand together with others as we face these global challenges and care for the world and all who share it with us.

Creator God, open our hearts to hear those you send to us and lead us to produce the fruits of your kingdom here on earth. Amen.



# The Words of Pope Francis

Saint Francis of Assisi, in a time of great struggles and divisions, did not criticize or lash out at anyone. He took up solely the weapons of the Gospel: humility and unity, prayer and charity. Let us do the same!

# THE Wednesday **SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL** WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

### Dear Parents and Carers,

It's easy to get caught up in the daily busyness of life and forget what life's really all about. However, to assist us on our path through life, God sends messengers to help us remember what is most important.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the servants represent God's messengers (the Prophets) and the tenants of the vineyard represent the leaders of Israel at that time. Jesus told this story because some of the leaders were not listening to God's messengers.

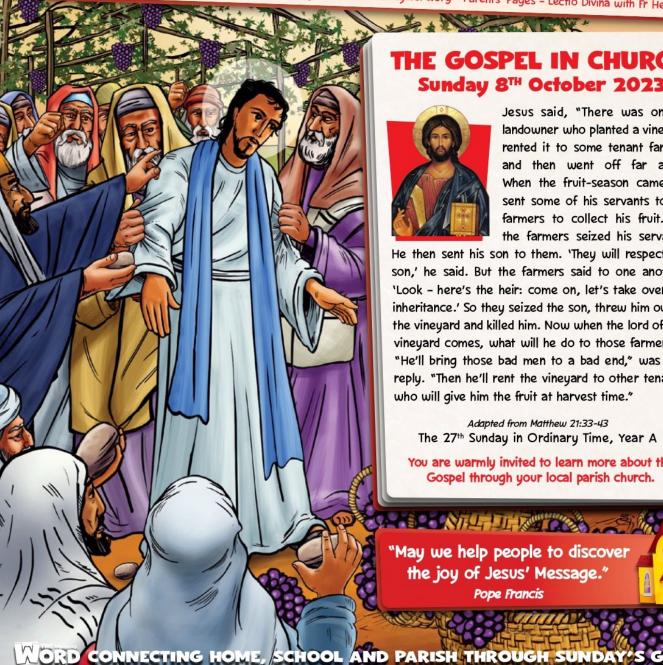
# Wednesday 4th October 2023

In many ways we are like 'tenants' in this world. The messengers that God sends today remind us that God has a great plan for our lives. We are created for everlasting life and, for now, we are here to share, enjoy and develop what God gives to us in this life.

Pope Francis reminds us, "May you always be messengers of peace and goodwill." Enjoy your week and help spread the message of God's love.



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



# THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 8<sup>™</sup> October 2023



Jesus said, "There was once a landowner who planted a vineyard, rented it to some tenant farmers and then went off far away. When the fruit-season came, he sent some of his servants to the farmers to collect his fruit. But the farmers seized his servants.

He then sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But the farmers said to one another, 'Look - here's the heir: come on, let's take over his inheritance.' So they seized the son, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?" "He'll bring those bad men to a bad end," was the reply. "Then he'll rent the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruit at harvest time."

Adapted from Matthew 21:33-43 The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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

"May we help people to discover the joy of Jesus' Message." Pope Francis



Our schools and parishes continue to share Jesus' message today, so that all people can live in a right relationship with God. Through our words and especially through our actions we too can be God's messengers, sharing God's joy and love at home, at school and in the community.

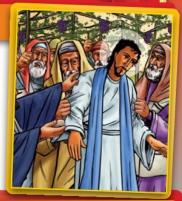


# Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus said, "There was once a landowner who planted a vineyard, rented it to some tenant farmers and then went off far away. When the fruit-season came, he sent servants to collect the fruit which he was owed. But the farmers seized his servants. Finally, the landowner sent his son, but they treated him like the other servants so that they could have the vineyard for themselves." Then Jesus said, "When the landowner returns to the vineyard he'll remove those tenants and give the vineyard to good tenants instead."

Did the tenant farmers listen to the servants sent by the landowner? Which words stood out for you, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?





"Let the message of Christ live in you." st Paul

Word is ...

Ask your child what the word 'messenger' means to them. Who do they think are God's messengers today? Who brings the message of Jesus to them? Which of Jesus' messages does your child like best, and which is your favourite? You may want to tell your child which messengers brought the good news about Jesus to you when you were younger (e.g. a family member, a teacher, a priest, a friend), through what they said and how they lived.

#### "How wonderful it is to proclaim to everyone the love of God which gives meaning to our lives!" Pope Francis

What do we think are the best ways that we can be God's messengers in these coming weeks? Perhaps we can: demonstrate our faith in God through being peacemakers showing God's love and kindness to those around us; remember to start our day with a quiet time of prayer, just listening to God in our hearts before moving into action; talk with others about why we believe in God. Let's help God's messengers throughout the world by offering this week's Family Time prayer below for priests, missionaries and for all those who share the message of God's love.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for all your messengers who help us to know you. Help us to be your faithful messengers, so that others will come to know the joy of loving you. Amen.

STRENWODNALT WEDNESDAY	M.
R V M S E R T O S O N D SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT	
V I O F T D F V S N D F WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN	
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Cross out the letters 💥 🗱 Z in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.	
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and the colour one. Then draw them in b	efore colouring.
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Find out how you can make a difference, and spread the message to others about	

# Wednesday 4th October 2023 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



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



# Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 8th October 2023 - The Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

# 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.



# Read

#### Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 8th October 2023 - True Justice (Matthew 21:33-43)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance". So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see!" I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

# Reflect

# +

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

Jesus' understanding of the sovereignty of God brought him violent opposition from some of the Jewish leaders. Were they corrupt, or just closed to any new way of thinking, so closed that they could not see that Jesus was the promised Messiah? Anyway, Jesus used this story about the tenants of a vineyard to show that the religious authorities were not leading the people as they should. Everyone would immediately understand the image of the vineyard. The prophet Isaiah had used this image in a well-known poem eight centuries earlier to show that the vineyard of Israel refused to yield a good harvest to God, whatever care God lavished on it. God expected fairness of judgment from the people and all he found was a shriek of agony (the same word is used in Hebrew for 'fair-judgment' and for 'shriek' apart from one letter). What does this mean for us? Not that we have to follow every new idea. But it does mean that we must be open to the idea that we may be wrong, that our service of the Lord may be faulty, that people we find tiresome or unacceptable may have more good in them than we credited. God's ways are not our ways. Life may not be mapped out how we think, so we need to watch out for the bend in the road. **What is God asking of you?** 

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

# 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 8th October 2023

# First Reading: The Song of the Vineyard

#### Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower; he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed; integrity, but only a cry of distress.

A vineyard needs a lot of devoted care, pruning, manuring and tying back. In the rocky soil of Israel even more special care is needed, such as gathering the stones to form retaining walls to keep the soil from eroding, building a lookout tower against thieves and a vine-press for crushing the grapes. Then the right fruiting-vine has to be grafted onto the sturdy stock, as here the vinedresser grafts on fine grapes. Imagine his disappointment when all he gets for his pains is inedible wild grapes! After this haunting parable of Isaiah, the vineyard became a stock image of Israel, swathed in God's loving care, and all the dwellers in the rich vines of the hill-country of Israel would be aware that it was an image of the love lavished on his people. So when Israel goes into Exile, Psalm 80 laments, 'You brought a vine out of Egypt. Why have you broken down its fences? Every passer-by plucks its grapes. Wild beasts feed on it.' The prophets also, especially Ezekiel, used the image of the vineyard. Jesus' hearers would immediately recognise what he meant when he told his parable about a vineyard.

Why was the image of the vineyard so powerful for the people of Israel?

# Second Reading: Advice for the Community

#### Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>66</sup>Be cheerful in the Lord.

This warm and affectionate little passage was probably originally the end of a letter from Paul to the community at Philippi, which he loved so well. It is a lovely conclusion to a letter. Paul encourages them in every way to be cheerful in the Lord, but especially to be grateful. If we really appreciate that the Lord is near, we cannot worry and the peace of God will rest upon us. Then also gratitude and thanksgiving will be our mode of thought, penetrating all our thoughts on every subject. The Greek word Paul uses for 'thanksgiving' is 'Eucharist', which is the name we use in the Church for the great prayer of thanksgiving, offered by Christ to the Father in the name of us all. It is the summing up of all prayer, petition, gratitude and admiration. No doubt Paul is thinking of it as the high point of all prayer.

How does St Paul encourage us to live and grow together as the Church community?

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

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## Happy Birthday this week to...

Aimee, Joshua, Oskar, Zoe, Julia, Hadassar, Alexandra, Obalowuwa, Lexi, Elissa, Amelia, Amelia, Aoife, Brielle, Diale, Luna, Zoe, Dominica, Victoria & Eva



### Golden Awards:

Dragonflies:	Hudson, for working super hard in all of his learning	
Grasshoppers:	Elissa, for her amazing RE work this week	
Hedgehogs:	Hanley, for always having a 'can do' attitude in all of his learning	
Squirrels:	Emilia, for always putting a lot of effort into all her work	
Badgers:	Enoch, for some amazing descriptive writing in literacy	
Foxes:	Aoife, for having a fantastic attitude towards everything she does	
Hares:	Margaret, for her amazing maths work on place value	
Rabbits:	Liana, for being a kind, caring and patient learning partner	
Kingfishers:	Hector, for writing an amazing character description in English	
Robins:	Catherine, for her excellent attitude to learning in all subjects	
Eagles:	Emilia, for her excellent effort in producing outstanding homework	
Owls:	Araibella, for great work in numeracy	

## <u>House Points</u>

Congratulations to the winning house St Andrew's

Friday 13th October

KS2 Assembly 9:00

KS1 Assembly 14:30

Years 3 to 6 Dodgeball

Sponsored walk

## Menu week 2

# **Diary Dates**

### All clubs are 3:15 to 4:15

<u>Wednesday 11th October</u> Year 5 Reading Zone KS1 Karate Year 5 & 6 Football Team training <u>Thursday 12th October</u> Year 5 Reading Zone Hares library visit 10:00 Rabbits library visit 11:00 Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy lunchtime KS2 Karate Years 3 and 4 Football Years 5 and 6 Football

Year 1 Storytelling club, lunchtime

Year 2 Storytelling club, lunchtime

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

Ausonteretto

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at <u>www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk</u>

Monday 9th OctoberTuesday 10th OctoberHarvest CollectionWear Yellow DayEagles swimmingYear 5 Reading ZoneYears 3 toYears 3 to 6 Basketball club6 ChaplaincyYears 3 to 6 Geography clubYear 1 FootballYears 3 to 6 Spanish club

Year 2 Football <sup>year</sup> Years 5 & 6 Computing club

Years 1 & 2 Gymnastics

Years 3 to 6 International club

Years 3 to 6 French club

Years 3 & 4 Space club

Years 1 & 2 Scrapbook club

Years 3 to 6 CAFOD Enterprise club

Years 3 to 6 Boccia