



3rd November 2023



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

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday and these are reflected in our Gospel Value this week, Simplicity. When Jesus is asked by the Pharisees, which one of the 10 Commandments is the most important, he gives an answer which summarises all of the commandments into 2 gloriously simple but remarkable teachings, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind.' And 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.' We live out these teachings every day when we follow our school mission statement and try to show our Gospel Values to everyone.

We have had a good week with lots of fantastic activities going on. I was delighted to see some great examples of work in the RE books this week and the children are leading their classes in some well thought out Classroom Acts of Worship. I was also very pleased to see a brilliant example of performance poetry in Year 5 Kingfishers this week and some excellent maths work on money in Squirrel class.

I hope that you all have a great and safe weekend if you are attending fireworks displays.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Firework Disco

A big thank you to our PTA (Friends of Holy Cross) and helpers for all of their hard work organising the Firework Disco for the children this evening. Everyone had a fantastic time!

Poppy Appeal

We will be selling Poppy Appeal Merchandise next week.

We have the following for sale:

Zip pulls 50p
Reflector poppies 50p
Wristband £1
Snap bands £1.50

Supplies are very limited, so buy early to avoid disappointment. We will be selling them **after school** on Monday (not before).





Holy Cross Family Mass

We would like to invite Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors
To a special Family Mass lead by the children of Holy Cross primary School.
(all of our families are very welcome)

On Saturday 11th November at 5.30pm.

We would like all of the children attending to come in their school uniform.

Pupils will be asked in advance to take part in the Mass including readings, Prayers of the Faithful
and the Offertory Procession.

RSVP: Please let the office know if you and your child can attend by Monday 5th November



Holy Cross School Council will be collecting
parcels for Operation Christmas Child from
6th – 20th November 2023

A leaflet will be sent home with your child
via class which will provide all instructions
of what you can put in a shoe box and
labels for the age and gender of the child.
Additional labels will be in the School office



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to 'please be careful'. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents

DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: <http://www.omegle.com>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.03.2020

Gospel Value Awards

Hope

- resilience, perseverance

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." (24:52)



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

Dragonflies:	Chloe	Grasshoppers:	Mina
Hedgehogs:	Olivia	Squirrels:	Elliot
Badgers:	Luka	Foxes:	River
Hares:	Jalynn	Rabbits:	Sid
Kingfishers:	Toby	Robins:	Jeremy
Eagles:	Nathan	Owls:	Pola



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Brielle	Foxes:	Roman
Badgers:	Afi	Rabbits:	Luke
Hares:	Nathaniel	Owls:	Rhea
Eagles:	Faith		

Laudato Si-Eco Monitors News

It has been a busy start to the term. Our Eco Council team have been making plans and getting feedback from each Year Group. We are working hard on making our school more eco friendly and looking after our planet. The week we have been getting our Eco calendar underway and all pupils have until next Thursday to get their entries in! Try your best guys! . Please follow the instructions sent out and put your work Landscape on an A4 piece of paper. Remember to put your name and your class on the back.

The Eco Council will be choosing the best entries and we will announce the winners next Thursday afternoon. You will be able to purchase the calendars very soon in time for Christmas.

Keep being Eco Friendly! Your Eco Council members Erin and Violet (Year 5)

Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy Calendar Competition 2023

Our Eco Council are running a Calendar Competition. Each class will have an Eco theme and we are asking the children to do a piece of art work in the style of the Artist given to each year group. (Please let the artwork be done by the children)

All winning art work will feature in this year's school calendar, a winner will be selected from each class.

Year Group	Topic	In the style of (Artist)
Ladybirds and Butterflies	Sea/ under the sea	Kerry Darlington
Dragonflies and Grasshoppers	Water is precious	Katsushika Hokusai
Squirrels and Hedgehogs	Antarctica	Vincent Van Gogh
Badgers and Foxes	Local environment and community	Laurence Stephen Lowry
Hares and Rabbits	The Rain Forest	Andy Warhol
Robins and Kingfishers	The Ozone and Space	Wassily Kandinsky
Eagle and Owls	Rivers	Claude Monet

Art work needs to be sent in to school by Thursday 9th November.

Calendars can be ordered from the office, at a cost of 4.50 each or 2 for £8.00, by cash or card.

The calendars will be available to collect from Monday 5th December.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds, achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits, attaining 97% 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	93%
Ladybirds	98%
Dragonflies	97%
Grasshoppers	96%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	90%
Badgers	94%
Foxes	94%
Hares	92%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	95%
Robins	96%
Eagles	96%
Owls	95%



*Mother of God and our Mother,
we seek refuge in your Immaculate Heart.
Mother of mercy, we appeal for mercy!
Queen of Peace, we appeal for peace!
Touch the hearts of those imprisoned by hatred;
convert those who fuel and foment conflict.
Dry the tears of children,
be present to those who are elderly and alone;
strengthen the wounded and the sick;
protect those forced to leave their lands;
console the crestfallen; awaken new hope.*

Francis





Based on the gospel for Sunday 5 November, Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 23:1-12

"Everything they do is done to attract attention."

Jesus warns the people and the disciples to listen to what the scribes and Pharisees say, but not to be guided by what they do: "Everything they do is done to attract attention."

We are called to be people of integrity and humility. Is our Christianity just skin-deep or are we imbued with Jesus' values to our very core? Do we go to Mass every Sunday, and then carry on as normal the rest of the week?

One way in which we are being called to act today is in our response to the environment. Climate change has been in the news with alarming rises in world temperatures being recorded. The consequences of this are being felt around the globe with an increase in droughts, wildfires and flooding impacting disproportionately on the poorest people.

In response to this our parish is currently striving to obtain the LiveSimply award. We have screened the film "The Letter" and we have attended talks about climate change.

However, are we prepared to take the next step and make real changes in our lives, changes that will impact upon our lifestyle? The call for us is to "practise what we preach."

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Teacher,
may we listen attentively to your gospel
and respond in humility
in the way we live our daily lives.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

At the side of every person is a protector the Lord gives us, to nudge us to get up when we have stumbled, to show us the way when we have chosen the wrong path. Let us listen to the voice of our Guardian Angels!



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 12th November 2023 - The Thirty Second 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 12th November 2023 - The Ten Wedding-Attendants (Matthew 25:1-13)

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

3 Reflect

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

Of course they weren't bridesmaids! According to the custom of the time the girls were attendant on the bridegroom, to greet him with their lamps as he arrived at the wedding-reception. Anyway, half of them weren't ready, let him down, and then found themselves shut out. There is a subtle difference between the parables given in Mark's and Matthew's gospels. In Mark they are all about the sudden coming of God's Kingship in history, at the time of Jesus. Jesus proclaimed that the crisis was now. In him God's reign had arrived: it was time to take drastic action. Matthew's parables take a longer-term view: there will be a final judgment at the end of time, for which we, in the Church and in the course of history, must prepare. Some will and some won't. Some will be found to be wheat, others to be weeds. When the catch of fish comes in, some fish will be thrown away, some kept. Some will be sheep and others goats. Each year, as the liturgical year draws to a close, the Church reminds us of this. And the End will be sudden and unpredictable, like a burglar on the one night I forgot to lock the door, or like a mouse-trap snapping shut, or like the unpredictable moment of birth pangs.

Am I ready for the coming of Christ? What does it mean to be like the wise bridesmaids and have oil in my lamp?

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 12th November 2023



First Reading: *The Search for Wisdom*

Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

For the Bible, Wisdom is not knowledge, such as scientific or philosophical knowledge acquired by study and learning, or even the sound judgment acquired by experience and maturity. It is the reflection of God's own Wisdom, the Wisdom by which God creates the world and guides humanity. Wisdom is therefore divine, a reflection or image of God, 'the reflection of the eternal light and the image of his power'. Everything created is good in so far as it expresses this Wisdom of God. In the New Testament Jesus is seen as the incarnation of God's own Wisdom as well as the incarnation of the 'Word' of God, for Jesus is both the first-born and the summit of God's creative purpose. In Greek 'Wisdom' is a feminine noun, and therefore divine Wisdom is often represented as a female character, a hostess inviting to her banquet all who desire true Wisdom. We need to seek out this Wisdom. It can be granted only by God, but God is eager to share divine Wisdom with those who truly search for 'her'. This reading is given here to pair with the gospel-reading because of the image it uses of keeping awake, watching early for the coming of Wisdom/the bridegroom.

Is my skill at cookery or car-maintenance the same as me or a part of me? Is God's Wisdom the same as God?

Second Reading: *The Last Trumpet*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The first Christians were unclear about many things in their faith. The Thessalonians were obviously worried about the fate of Christians who had died. Had not Paul taught them that Christ had conquered death? What was this talk about an imminent final coming of Christ to bring history to its end? How soon would it occur? Paul gives an answer in terms of a familiar image, a Roman triumphal procession. After a great victory in battle a Roman general could be granted a 'triumph', marching through the streets of Rome with his victorious army amid cheering crowds, like a successful football team or local regiment coming home. There was no need to worry about Christian friends and relations who had died, for they would come with Christ in his triumphal procession, and the rest of us would join him on the way. All this, of course, is imagery. Neither Paul nor anyone else had any idea when it would occur. But he teaches with firm confidence that it would occur. The timing is irrelevant. We don't mind waiting a bit, so long as we can be sure that we will all be re-united in the joyful triumph of Christ's victory over death.

Do we need to know any more about the end of the world than this?

“We will all be re-united in the joyful triumph of Christ's victory over death.”

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Enoch, Oliwier & Oliwier



Golden Awards:

Dragonflies:	Tobi, for always trying his best in everything he does, with a positive attitude
Grasshoppers:	Alice, for writing a lovely Harvest poem
Hedgehogs:	Diona, for creating an amazing Harvester pledge
Squirrels:	Flynn, for trying his best in all his work and his positive attitude
Badgers:	Viktor, for producing some excellent and creative homework
Foxes:	Charlotte, for always trying her best and having great ideas during class discussions
Hares:	Parker, for his excellent R.E. work about how God changes lives
Kingfishers:	Layla, for being amazing on the trip to Burwell
Robins:	Eliana, for being a fantastic role model for all and for working hard in everything she does
Eagles:	Nicholas, for excellent effort during English and sharing fantastic ideas
Owls:	Samuel, for an enthusiastic performance in our Harvest poem

New menu week 2

Diary Dates

All clubs are 3:15 to 4:15

<u>Monday 6th November</u>	<u>Tuesday 7th November</u>	<u>Wednesday 8th November</u>	<u>Thursday 9th November</u>	<u>Friday 10th November</u>
Owls swimming	Year 2 Reading Zone	Year 2 Reading Zone	Year 2 Reading Zone	KS2 assembly 9:00
Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy Lunchtime	Years 3 to 6 Geography club, lunchtime	KS1 Karate	Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy lunchtime	Year 6 walk to the war memorial
Year 1 Football	Parents evening 2:30 - 5:00	Flu vaccinations	KS2 Karate	KS1 assembly 2:30
Year 2 Football	Years 3 to 6 Basketball club		Year 1 Storytelling club, lunchtime	Years 3 to 6 Dodgeball
Years 5 & 6 Computing club			Year 2 Storytelling club, lunchtime	
Years 1 & 2 Gymnastics			Years 3 and 4 Football	
Years 3 to 6 International club			Years 5 and 6 Football	
Years 3 to 6 French club			Parents evening 4:00 - 7:00	
Years 1 & 2 Scrapbook club				
Years 3 to 6 CAFOD Enterprise club				
Years 3 to 6 Boccia				

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick's

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