



1st December 2023



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

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday, which was the Feast Day of Christ the King. This is the final Sunday in the Liturgical year and we think of Jesus as our King and light of the world. In the Gospel we hear the words that underpin all of our Gospel Values and our School Mission statement, *For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; Naked, and you covered me; sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.*

And

And the king answering, shall say to them: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me. Matthew 25: 35-36 and 40

We were very excited to put up the school decorations as we enter the season of Advent. This is a magical time in our school and the children have been practising very hard in Reception and Year 1 for their Nativity play and in Years 2 and 3 for their Carol Concerts. We are really looking forward to all the special activities that we have planned over the next 2 weeks. Please see the list of events below so that you don't miss anything!

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher



Holy Cross Christmas Tree of Peace

Many thanks to our PTA for sourcing us our beautiful Christmas Tree which has pride of place outside the front entrance! **We are very grateful to Van Haag Garden centre in Ware for donating the tree and the stand for free.** You will see lots of special decorations appear on the tree and on the shrubs on the walkway to the playground over the next few days. Each child will make a special Christmas bauble of peace with a message on them for peace in our world.

Christmas cards

This year each Year group will have its own special North Pole post bag where the children can put any Christmas cards that they have written to their friends. These will be given out every few days in class.



Straight in-Low Temperatures

If it is extremely cold in the morning we will bring the children straight in to school. This will be decided every morning so please still plan to arrive on the playground on time and remain with your child from Years Reception to Year 5, until the whistle blows at 8.40am. It is very important that your child has a (named) school coat, hat, scarf and gloves as they will be outside at some point in the day also girls should wear grey tights

Premier League Trophy

We were thrilled to have a special visit from the Premier League Trophy on Wednesday this week. The children (and staff) were ecstatic and we had a very lively assembly with the coaches who accompanied the trophy. We were complimented on the children's enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.

Very special thanks to Mr Clarke who entered us for this competition and it is thanks to him that our school had this wonderful opportunity. We are the first school in Harlow to host the trophy and we even made the local paper: <https://www.yourharlow.com/2023/11/30/footballs-premier-league-trophy-arrives-at-holy-cross-school/>



After School Club pick up

To improve the end of day collection We now have a new mobile phone for the After-School Club. We ask that parents ring 07938 703319 on arrival at the front gate (not before) and we will then buzz to let you in. Please remember that the After-School closes at 5.30pm. It is very important that children are collected by 5.30pm and that parents make sure that they are leaving enough time to arrive at school to collect their child. We may need to charge an additional late fee if children are not collected on time, on more than one occasion.

Boccia Tournament

On Friday 17th November, we attended two boccia tournaments at Mark Hall. In the year 3 and 4 event, Jackson, Lucas, Isabella and April showed amazing teamwork and won most of their matches vs St James and Church Langley. In the year 5/6 event Luisa, Isaac, Luna and Joshua played great, defeated Purford Green and were edged out 2-1 by overall winners Jerounds.

Well done everyone, the hard work every Monday has paid off! Super skills.



Calendar competition winners

Congratulations to the winners of the calendar competition:

Butterflies- Seedivya
Ladybirds- Aleah
Dragonflies- Chloe
Grasshoppers- Oliwier
Hedgehogs- Edie
Squirrels- Viktoria
Badgers- Keira
Foxes- Ivy
Hares- Hendrix
Rabbits- Keaton
Kingfishers- Hayley
Robins- Justin
Eagles- Darrelle
Owls- Josie



Calendars can be ordered from the school office from Monday 4th December, they can be collected from 10th December. You can purchase a calendar for the price of £4.50 each or 2 for £8.00.

A preview paper copy is in the school office.

This academic year our Laudato Si Eco Council have been very busy.

In August we had our new clothes bin delivered. This can be found in the outside carpark, so if you have any unwanted clothes, pairs of shoes or items you are getting rid of, please put them in our clothes bin, as when this is emptied and the school is given money.

Just inside the school office is our battery and ink cartridge recycling boxes, if you have any used batteries or cartridge's please put them in our recycling boxes, when the boxes are filled we have them collected and disposed of in the correct way. and not sent to landfill.

New this year!! Our school will be taking part in the Christmas Card Recycling Challenge. Approximately 1 billion Christmas cards are thrown away each year - that's around 33 million trees worth!

We would love to encourage our children, parents, staff and friends of our families to help us with our challenge and bring in all your Christmas cards after Christmas. We are working in conjunction with UK Waste Direct.

The card collection box will be in the school entrance.

Thank you
From Laudato Si Eco Council





Christmas Card Recycling Bin FAQ's



FAQ

What can go in the bin?

Any cards – Christmas cards, Birthday cards, Thank you cards, big cards, small cards, bright cards, muted cards – we don't mind! We are also happy for **white** envelopes to go in the bin too.



What cannot go in the bin?

Anything that is not a card such as food wrappers, tissues, pencil sharpening's, food, plastics.

Do you count the cards?

Unfortunately our elves are super busy so we weigh the recycling bin when we pick them up so we know how much you have recycled. We will let you know how much you have recycled with a certificate and there will be a prize pack for the school with the most recycling!

What happens to our cards?

The cards will be baled up and sent to a recycling facility where they go through various processes. Your cards will be 'washed' to remove glues and inks, before being mixed with water to create a 'slurry'. This slurry is then mixed with other materials so that different products can be created, such as newspaper, cardboard and office papers. The slurry is then spread and rolled into large thin sheets, left to dry and then rolled up ready to be made into new products.

Do you offer anything else?

We partner with many schools supplying them with wheellie bins, sanitary/happy bin collections, skips, confidential waste destruction and cleaning services to name a few! Last Christmas we trailed our card recycling scheme with those we already partner with to involve Pupils with recycling and it was a great success! We believe that educating the next generation about recycling and sustainability is important, which is why we have expanded our scheme this year to include all schools across the County. We also run a confidential paper recycling incentives for school – ask us for more information!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers and Hedgehogs achieving 95% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Foxes, attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

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

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Pupil Asset report absence option on every day of absence. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

Butterflies	93%
Ladybirds	88%
Dragonflies	87%
Grasshoppers	95%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	89%
Badgers	88%
Foxes	99%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	94%
Robins	96%
Eagles	95%
Owls	97%

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

AGE RATING
PEGI
7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODERs. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has genuine friends who they play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with others safely in the digital world.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/2020/07/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parades-forbids>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

Holy Cross

CHRISTMAS

programme

5th December at 2pm
Reception and Year 1 Nativity

6th December at 2pm and 6pm
Reception and Year 1 Nativity

7th December
Christmas Jumper day and Panto

8th December at 9am
KS2 Festival of Light

8th December at 2pm
KS1 Festival of Light

12th December
KS1 Christmas lunch

12th December at 6pm
Year 2 and Choir Christmas Concert

13th December at 6pm
Year 3 Christmas Concert

14th December
KS2 Christmas Lunch

18th December
Class Christmas Parties



The Barringtons Jingle Bell Sleigh

**HARLOW &
OLD HARLOW
ROUTE 2023**

Saturday 9th December 2023 - From 4.30pm

OLD HARLOW

- 4.30pm** Green Man, Mulberry Green, Old Harlow, towards Old Road
- 4.45pm** Turn left onto Priory Avenue
- 4.50pm** Turn left onto Manor Road, then right onto The Hill
- 4.55pm** Turn right at Wayre Street (passing High St Car Park), then left at Station Road
- 5.05pm** Continue past Fawbert and Barnard School
- 5.10pm** Turn right at roundabout, go past Mark Hall School
Go straight over next roundabout along First Avenue

MARK HALL MOORS

- Turn right onto Muskham Road (go past Harlow Museum)
- Turn left onto Mark Hall Moor, and then left onto Mowbray Road

- 5.15pm** Tanys Dell School, continue along Mowbray Road

TOWARDS HARLOW TOWN CENTRE / THE STOW

- Continue along Mowbray Road

- 5.25pm** Turn left onto Howard Way, Our Lady of Fatima Church
Turn right at roundabout towards St Albans School
Turn left onto Hailing Hill,
- 5.40pm** Head towards Heart and Club, past Jack & Jill's Nursery
Turn left onto Maddox Road and then right onto Howard Way
- 5.50pm** Past Harlow Rugby Club, then straight over roundabout towards the Phoenix

BUSH FAIR / POTTER STREET

- 5.55pm** Turn left at the Phoenix onto Great Brays
- 6.00pm** Follow the road past the Manor Hatch Co-op
- 6.05pm** Turn left onto Traceys Road towards Passmores & Holy Cross School
- 6.15pm** Turn left and head past the Park Inn Hotel
- 6.20pm** Straight over at the traffic lights towards Potter Street Shops
Turn left at shops along Potter Street

CHURCH LANGLEY LOOP/ NEWHALL

- 6.35pm** At Clock Tower Roundabout turn right towards Church Langley
Turn right at roundabout towards Tesco
- 6.40pm** At Tesco roundabout go straight over along Church Langley Way
- 6.55pm** Turn right at mini roundabout onto Lane End
- 7.05pm** Turn right onto Kiln Lane, past Kiddi Caru
Head back to Church Langley roundabout
- 7.15pm** Turn left at Church Langley roundabout
At next roundabout take 4th exit and come back on yourself
Turn left onto London Road
- 7.25pm** Turn right onto The Chase, Newhall
- 7.30pm** ARRIVE AT NEW GROUND COFFEE SHOP, NEWHALL TO JOIN THE CHRISTMAS FUN

At New Ground Cafe in Newhall, Santa will be staying for a free photo opportunity in his 'Grotto' before heading back to The North Pole

****FREE EVENT****

**FESTIVE FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT NEW GROUND
PLEASE WRAP UP WARM AND ENJOY**



LIVE SINGER
On the green outside Green Man Pub from 4.15pm

COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR

St Clare Hospice
Please have £££ ready for Santa's helpers

Thank You

PLEASE

Do not approach Santa's horse & carriage (reindeers)

NEW FOR 2023

CHILDRENS DISCO at New Ground 8pm - 9pm

Father Christmas arriving at 7.30pm

NEW

GROUND CAFE

Lots of fun to be had from 5.30pm ahead of Santa's arrival!

Merry Christmas

from Nikki, Lisa & all at Barringtons Funeral Directors, Bishop's Stortford



Full updates can be found on Facebook @barringtonsfuneraldirectors
Email: info@barringtonsfuneraldirectors.co.uk | Telephone: 01279 860055

Gospel Value Awards

Integrity

- honesty, truth-telling

"You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify." (21: 12-13)

"Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup" (11:39)



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

Dragonflies: Elisa

Grasshoppers: Malachi

Hedgehogs: Oba

Squirrels: Gabriella

Badgers: Kodie

Foxes: Christabel

Hares: Luna

Rabbits: Axel

Kingfishers: Ella

Robins: Brayan

Eagles: Darrelle

Owls: Blanka



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Cristina

Squirrels: Amelia

Badgers: Adam

Foxes: River

Hares: Axel

Rabbits: Priscilla

Kingfishers: Aria

Robins: Stanislaw

Eagles: Isaac

Owls: Heather



"Think of the fig tree...as soon as you see them bud, you know that summer is now near." (Luke 21:29)

In these last days of the Church's year, just before the season of Advent begins, we are invited to be alert and watchful. Just as the emerging buds of the fig tree indicate that summer is on the way, so we too can look for signs of the kingdom.

Jesus has just described the kinds of events that will take place before the end time: a world in crisis, disasters both natural and human-made. These images of turmoil and distress speak to the realities of our present time. We know that the world is not as it should be.

However, we are reminded that Jesus' call is not to anxiety and fear, but to attentiveness and faith. When we see these things, Jesus tells us, the kingdom of God is near. Even in the midst of suffering, we can work for God's realm of justice and peace, which will be fully realised when Jesus returns in glory.

In this time of quiet, winter darkness, as we prepare to enter the season of Advent, let's nurture the seeds of the Kingdom and watch for a glimpse of the new buds of summer.

Prayer
Loving God,
be with us in shadows of suffering, anxiety and grief.
Open our eyes to the signs of your coming reign,
and our hearts to your life-giving presence.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Jesus identifies with those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, sick and prisoners. He tells us that we are "blessed" when we respond to these poverties with love—not turning away but drawing near to those in need. #GospelOfTheDay (Mt 25:31-46)

Praying with Sunday's Gospel

*Prayerfully preparing for the Sunday Mass
& praying in particular for our school families*

2 Read

The Gospel for Sunday 3rd December 2023
The Watcher at the Door

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I am saying to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Taken from Mark 13:33-37. The First Sunday in Advent, Year B

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering the Gospel, continue by reading this reflection.

This brief parable of the master returning unexpectedly is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. The message is typical, too, because Jesus was constantly stressing that there is no time to lose. When he came in his earthly ministry he again and again challenged his hearers to make up their minds NOW, to change their ways NOW. He challenges us to do the same. We can hear the rattle of the returning Master's key in the lock. There is no time to hide the contraband, to pull our uniforms straight before greeting the Master at his entry. Even if we do not think that the world's end is imminent, even if death is not threatening, every moment counts, every decision is for or against Jesus. Saints are rumoured to have said that, if they received the news that they were to die that night, they would carry on doing what they were doing anyway. Saints can do this, because they are ready for the coming of the Lord. But what about us? If we need to put things a bit more in order to prepare for the Lord's coming, is there any valid reason to delay? The four weeks of Advent are a good time to clean things up for the Lord's coming. What would you like to change about your life in preparation for the coming of the Lord?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

1 Relax

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.



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. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy or something else.

5 Remember

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as: St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**The Wednesday Word is under
the patronage of St Joseph.**

Within the tradition of the Catholic Church,
each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph
wednesdayword.org



Art:
Bee
Still
Studio

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 3rd December 2023



1

First Reading:

A Thrill of Hope

Isaiah 63:16-17: 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean; all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

.....

Each Advent Sunday begins with a reading from Isaiah, for Isaiah is the great prophet of the Messiah. This reading is taken from the latest part of the Book of Isaiah. After the return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, the Jews were passionately awaiting the coming of the Messiah. They were conscious that they had sinned and deserved their punishment, but still longed for the liberation from foreign interference which the Messiah would bring. After the coming of Christ we too are waiting - waiting for the fulfilment of the sovereignty or kingship of God. Jesus brought the pledge of this kingship by his miracles of healing, his welcome to sinners, his teaching about the Kingdom, and above all by his Resurrection from the dead. We no longer have any reason to fear death, but we are conscious of our own failings, of our co-operation with evil and long for the strength and fidelity which wholehearted membership of God's Kingdom would bring us.

How do I need to change to become a fully committed member of God's Kingdom and to welcome the Messiah into my life?

2

Second Reading:

Waiting for the Lord

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

.....

This reading from the opening of Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians is full of the excitement of the Spirit. The young community of Christians at Corinth flourished in the activity of the Holy Spirit, not just by extraordinary things like speaking in tongues, but by healing and teaching and guidance. Even being a good member of a family (husband, wife, parent, child) is an activity guided by the Spirit. All this is preparing for the final coming of Christ, for all Christian activity, no matter how humdrum, is given life and vitality by the Spirit of Christ. In Paul's day there was a freshness and enthusiasm which is sometimes lacking in our Church today. Let us ask at Christmas for a new infusion of the Spirit which will help us to burst the bonds which keep us back from full service to the Lord.

How do you see the Spirit at work in your own life?

**All Christian activity,
no matter how
humdrum, is given
life and vitality by
the Spirit of Christ.**

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!'.

Wednesday 29th November 2023

A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this - to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. Prayer brings us not only closer to God but also closer to one another.

Make a great start to Advent, enjoying a special *Wednesday Word Prayer & Share* time together, discussing this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **PRAYER**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from
Pope Francis

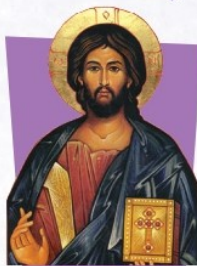
"Dear Parents, teach your children to pray.
Pray with them. Prayer strengthens family life."

"The Lord is coming.
May we await him
with open hearts!"

Pope Francis



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 3rd December 2023



Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know when the end time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own task, and orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you still sleeping. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake!"

Adapted from Mark 13:33-37
The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in church: all are very warmly invited

The
Year
of
Prayer

The Wednesday Word - it's Good News for Families

As Advent begins, Pope Francis invites us to observe the upcoming year as a 'Year of Prayer', in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year - learn more at cbcww.org.

Enhance the joy of Advent and enrich your family's Christmas preparations by joining in with the *Wednesday Word Prayer & Share*. Experience a very special togetherness which comes from this weekly tradition of *Family Time* prayer.

**PRAYER
& SHARE
OVERLEAF**



Wednesday Word Prayer & Share



1 Listening & Learning Together

Jesus said, "Where two or three gather in my name, I shall be there with them"

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake. When a rich man travels abroad, he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge and orders the doorkeeper to keep a good watch. So, always be ready - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you unready for him. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake - be ready!"

When will the Master of the house return? 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 ... PRAYER

"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers." *St Thomas Aquinas*

Ask your child what the word 'prayer' means to them. Does your child like to pray aloud or quietly, alone or with others? What is their favourite prayer? It may be a well-known prayer or one that they have made up by themselves. You might like to share one of your favourite prayers with your child. Each of you name your favourite Christmas carol. Why not come along to church to join in this Advent? All are warmly invited.

3 Loving & Growing Together

"Dear young people, Christ asks you to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter." *Pope Francis*

Advent is a time to get ready to welcome Jesus - to draw closer to God. Prayer helps us to do this. We can pray anywhere, at any time. Each say where you like to pray. Maybe at home, in bed, at church, at school, outside or elsewhere? What would you like to pray and ask God for this Advent? Who will you pray for? It could be your family, a friend, a teacher, your priest, or maybe someone in need, near or far. Besides praying, how else might you help them?



Can you complete 'The Lord's Prayer': Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day ... ?

Gospel Gallery

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	THIS SUNDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADVENT BEGINS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	AWAKE READY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS RETURNS	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 **u b c** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

usacybing bevecryonue cawaukeb wuchabt

"_____ I am _____ to you now,
I say to _____: Stay _____!"

Prayer is spending time with God, talking and listening, sharing your life with God.

This Advent, try adding an extra prayer each day and become more awake to the joy of being closer to Jesus.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

.....



SHARE the PRAYER

Print and complete the leaflet with your children & **SHARE A DIGITAL COPY** with your friends ...

A Free Weekly Gift for Everyone



Happy Birthday this week to...

Tilly, Flynn, Godswill, Chloe, Memphis, Elliott,
Aimee, Hanley & Evan



Golden Awards:

Dragonflies:	Basil, for trying his best in his R.E. and English work
Grasshoppers:	Arthur, for working hard in read comprehension
Hedgehogs:	Luca, for super writing and reflection during our R.E. lesson
Squirrels:	Viktoria, for working hard in R.E.
Badgers:	Eliora, for trying so hard and having a great attitude to learning
Foxes:	Evan, for always having a great attitude to towards his learning
Hares:	Ciaran, for his excellent answers in R.E.
Rabbits:	Diale, for being a star pupil and always setting an amazing example
Kingfishers:	Oliwier, for his effort in all lessons this week
Robins:	Annaliesa, for always trying her very best and having an excellent attitude to learning
Eagles:	Aurora, for always producing fantastic artwork and for supporting others
Owls:	Pola, for producing a beautiful advent picture

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 4th December

Owls swimming
Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy
Lunchtime
Space club
Year 1 Football
Year 2 Football
Years 5 & 6 Computing club
Years 3 to 6
International club
Years 3 to 6 French club
Years 1 & 2 Scrapbook club
Years 3 to 6 CAFOD
Enterprise club
Years 3 to 6 Boccia

Tuesday 5th December

Years 3 to 6 Geography
club, lunchtime
Reception and Year 1
Nativity 14:00
Years 3 to 6 Basketball
club
Years 3 to 6 Spanish club

Wednesday 6th December

KS1 Karate
Reception and Year 1
Nativity 14:00
Rabbits parents evening
Reception and Year 1
Nativity 18:00

Thursday 5th December

Christmas jumper day
Panto
Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy
lunchtime
KS2 Karate
Year 1 Storytelling club,
lunchtime
Year 2 Storytelling club,
lunchtime
Years 3 and 4 Football
Years 5 and 6 Football

Friday 7th December

KS2 Festival of Light 9:00
KS1 Festival of Light 14:30
Years 3 to 6 Dodgeball

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St David'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