

8th December 2023



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent. We are reminded that Advent is a time of waiting for good things to happen; for Jesus to come into our lives. We remember that Advent is a time of preparation and that we must be ready to welcome the light of Jesus into our lives; for us to come out of the darkness into his light,

'Take ye heed, watch and pray. For ye know not when the time is.' **Mark 13: 33**

We have begun our Advent preparations this week with our wonderful Reception and Year 1 Nativity play, *A King is Born*. The children took us on a wonderful journey through the story of The Nativity which as Johanna (Yr 1 Dragonflies) told us, it is a story that is to be passed from generation to generation. We also remember the important message that Zuriel (Reception Ladybirds) told us, that *God is Love*. We look forward to next week with the 2 beautiful carol concerts that Year 2 and Year 3 will perform for us in the church and our delicious Christmas Dinner. Please refer to the events list which is attached to the newsletter.

For many Christmas is a magical time of joy and happiness but for some, Christmas can be a very stressful and difficult time of the year with added worries and pressures. I ask that all members of our school family please show kindness, patience and understanding towards each other and awareness that we can't always see the challenges that others may be facing.

Thank you.

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

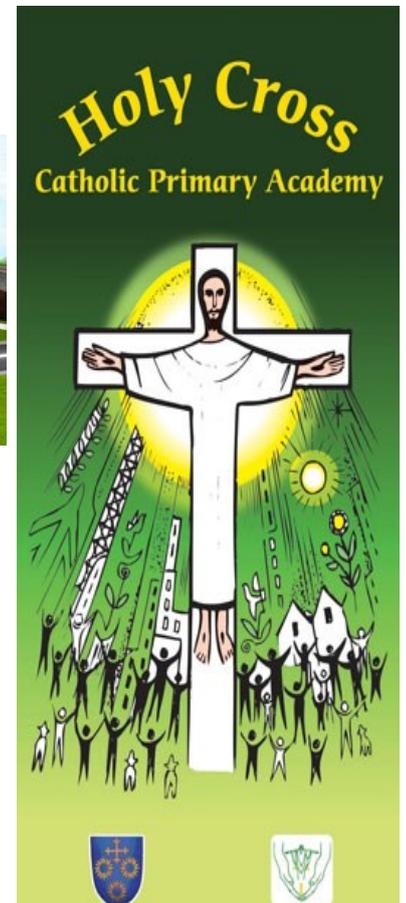


Nativity plays

Our 3 Nativity performances were completely charming and raised lots of smiles as we watched our youngest children, navigate the stage, the microphones and their costumes. Their singing was tremendous! The children gave us wonderful performances and we could not be prouder of them! My sincerest thanks to our director Mrs Peters and to Ms Kelly, Miss Cargill and Mrs Danacica for all their determination and hard work preparing the children. Thank you also to all of our amazing support staff for holding everything together and making sure that everyone was where they were supposed to be with everything they needed. A real challenge with 120, 4 and 5-year olds!

Parishioners lunch

We were very pleased to host our annual Christmas lunch for members of our Parish community and galvanise our strong Parish links. Our guests enjoyed a delicious traditional Christmas lunch cooked by Denise and her wonderful kitchen team. They were served by our Mini Vinnies and our Choir sang Christmas Carols which kept everyone entertained. A wonderful time was had by all!



Christmas cards

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

Choir

We were very proud of the Choir who gave up last Saturday afternoon to go and sing for the residents of Alexandra House Care Home. The residents were delighted to hear the children sing and it brought a lot of joy to them at this special time of Advent. My sincere thanks to Mrs Slater for organising the event and to Mrs Cater and Mrs Doyle for their support and all who give up their time.



Term dates

A reminder that our last day of this term will be Tuesday 19th December and that we will finish at 1.30pm on this day. There is no After School club on this day. We return to school on Thursday 4th January. Next term, we will have an INSET day on Friday 16th February. All of the term dates are available by following this link to the school website: <https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+dates&pid=134>

After School Club

We have plans underway to relaunch our After-School Club provision, in January. We are working on the details at the moment and we look forward to sharing these with parents next week. Watch this space!

Parents in the school building

A reminder that parents must not enter the school building unless they are accompanied by a member of school staff. This is for safeguarding reasons. We have noticed an increasing number of parents in the cloakrooms and hallways at the start and end of the day and after clubs looking for lost property. Please do not do this. We are happy to look for items which may have gone missing and ask that you come to the school office if you require assistance with this.

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) coat, hat, scarf and gloves as they will be outside at some point in the day also girls should wear grey tights please.

Lost property

Please check the Lost Property box in the entrance hall for anything your child may have mislaid. We will be putting any unnamed and unclaimed school uniform into the Uniform Shop if not collected, on the last day of term.

Parking

I would like to remind parents and families that they are not permitted to park in the staff carpark at drop off and pick up. Please do not access this carpark via the barrier unless there is an agreement with the office. Please park at Nicholls Field and walk the short distance along the path. Also, please park with consideration for others and for residents.

Uniform

Several parents have raised concerns that items of uniform, especially school coats, are going missing. I have heard that even if named, items are not being returned to the correct owner. Please check carefully that your child has brought home the correct uniform, coat and PE Kit. We would advise parents to use a Sharpie pen to write their child's name onto each item of uniform and on the school coat in a place and in a way where it cannot be removed or crossed out e.g.; inside the collar. We hope that this will alleviate the problems of missing items.

Please remember that in line with our school uniform policy that all children must wear the Holy Cross school uniform, complete with correct school tie for their key Stage, PE kit and footwear. Trainers are not part of school uniform. All pupils must wear the Holy Cross Coat.

Jewellery and in particular earrings are not permitted at Holy Cross for Health and Safety reasons.

We have many high-quality items of second-hand clothing available on Mondays after school in the Uniform Hut on the playground. If you can't make it on Mondays please contact the office and we will look through our stock to try to get you what your child needs. If parents would like to donate any items of uniform which are in good condition we would be very grateful. Please bring these to the office.



The Festival of Light

Thank you for sending in the Christingles and to all those who attended the Festival of Light that took place on Friday.



Panto

On Thursday we had a theatre company visit the school to give us a special panto performance of 'Gnome Alone'. The focus of the performance was on friendship and the children all had a fun time.



Fostering for Essex County Council

"Every child deserves the magic of Christmas!"

As families decorate their tree and prepare for Father Christmas to visit, it's hard to believe there are children of all ages across Essex who have never experienced Christmas before. Foster carers Sheila and her husband are bringing the magic of Christmas to vulnerable children in care. [Watch her video](#) to hear her heart-warming story of how they are restoring the childhood magic of Christmas time.



We carefully match children to your family and support you every step of the way. Could you consider fostering and transform a child's life? Visit www.essex.gov.uk/foster or call 0800 801 530 to find out more.

Year 6 Football Match

On Wednesday the Year 6 football team played a match against Pear Tree Mead. They put in a strong performance, gaining them a convincing win. Well done team!



Year 4 Egyptian Day

On Friday 1st December Year 4 held their Egyptian day. They dressed in fantastic costumes, ate Egyptian food, made pyramids and other artefacts.





Monday 11th December.

CAFOD club sale.

Donations needed.

*toiletries sets or individual.

*unopened toys

Children can buy items, these will be
priced between £1-£5

Decorate a decoration 50p

Stock limited- maximum 1 item per
child.

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Holy Cross

CHRISTMAS

programme

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**

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



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



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



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Hedgehogs achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits, 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.

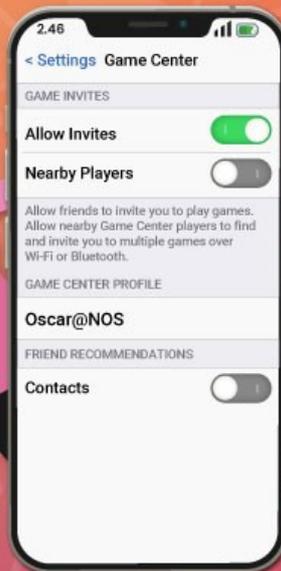
Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

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

Butterflies	96%
Ladybirds	98%
Dragonflies	87%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	99%
Squirrels	91%
Badgers	90%
Foxes	98%
Hares	94%
Rabbits	99%
Kingfishers	95%
Robins	98%
Eagles	92%
Owls	92%

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

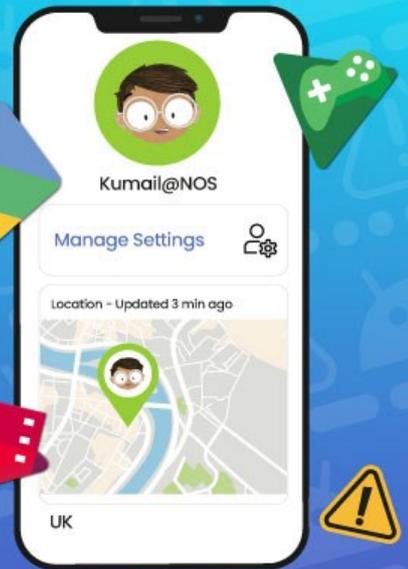
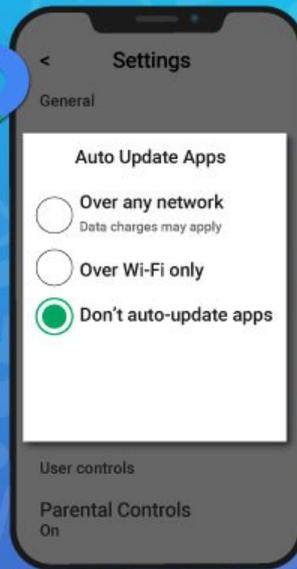
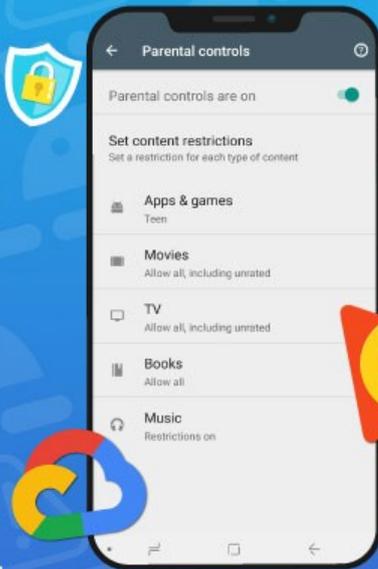
- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going onto Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authentications relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those, too.



How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases):

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
- 5 Toggle 'Parental controls are off' to 'Parental controls are on'
- 6 Create a PIN and tap OK
- 7 Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
- 8 Tap Apps & Games
- 9 Set the age limit you wish to set (18+)
- 10 Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Tap Auto-Update Apps
- 5 Select 'Don't auto-update apps' and then tap Done

Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

- 1 Open Google Play Family Link for parents
- 2 Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
- 3 Select your child's account
- 4 Tap Manage
- 5 Tap Controls on Google Play
- 6 Tap Apps & Games
- 7 Select the age limit you wish to set (18+)



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:	Zora	Grasshoppers:	Samuel
Hedgehogs:	Grace	Squirrels:	Layla
Badgers:	Rosie	Foxes:	Joel
Hares:	Isabella	Rabbits:	Vivienne
Kingfishers:	Amy	Robins:	Evie
Eagles:	Isaac	Owls:	William



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Squirrels:	Stephanie	Foxes:	Mayah
Badgers:	Isla	Rabbits:	Rose
Hares:	Eryk	Robins:	Eliana
Kingfishers:	Leah	Owls:	Kayla



“The man replied, ‘It was the woman you put with me; she gave me fruit and I ate it.’” (Genesis 3:12)

Today's feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary opens with the Genesis story of humanity's fall into sin. Following the eating of the forbidden fruit, the first humans fall at once into evasion and blame.

As we read how Adam places the blame on Eve, we may perhaps think of women throughout the world who are abused or marginalised. Globally, women are less likely than men to be involved in decision making, to own land or property, or to have access to education, technology and employment.

In Afghanistan, since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, one of the great harms is to the status and life chances of women and young girls. 80% of Afghan school-aged girls are out of school and only a handful of women are still able to work.

Mary, whose immaculate conception we celebrate today, stands before us as a reminder of the dignity of all women. This young Jewish woman of humble status, whose openness to the spirit led to her saying 'yes' to God's saving plan, is an example of the response each of us is invited to make to God.

As we mark today's feast, let us hold in our prayers all our sisters throughout the world who are oppressed or marginalised. Together with our mother Mary, let us declare our own 'yes' to taking part in God's mission of hope, healing and liberation.

Loving God,
Inspire us, through the example of Mary, to have the courage to say 'yes' to your call. May we work tirelessly for a world where the rights and the dignity of all women are respected and supported.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Let us choose life! Let us choose the future! May we be attentive to the cry of the earth, may we hear the plea of the poor, may we be sensitive to the hopes of the young and the dreams of children! We have a grave responsibility: to ensure that they not be denied their future.

Praying with Sunday's Gospel

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

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.

2 Read

The Gospel for Sunday 10th December 2023
Baptism for Conversion

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Taken from Mark 1:1-8. The Second Sunday in Advent, Year B



3 Reflect

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

Each Advent has two 'John the Baptist' Sundays: the first when we see John preparing a community for the Messiah, the second when he points out Jesus as the Lamb of God. Today is the first of these. John chose a point where the busy road from Jerusalem to the East crossed the Jordan River. There he button-holed all the busy financiers, merchants and other travellers and tourists, warning them to change their ways - and to change them now, before it was too late. 'I am too busy,' no doubt they said. 'I have other things to worry about; I have a wife and family to feed.' John was forming a community of repentance; but not so much a community which wept 'Boo-hoo!' about their sins, as a community of people determined to set their scale of values right. He meant them to stop going in one direction, to turn round and go in a different direction - towards God. Do we give ourselves a moment to pause and ask whether we have our priorities right? Where on that list of priorities does the entry of Christ into our lives come?

John expected Jesus to baptise with fire. Does that mean burning something away? Or warming something up? Or a shining light? What does your baptism mean to you?

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. 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 10th December 2023



1 First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11* **'Console my People, Console them'**

'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.



The reading from the Old Testament for today is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile Israel is looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the desert at the Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. For Christians the excitement is that John the Baptist picks up this message as he prepares the people for the coming of Christ. The coming of the Lord to Jerusalem was never wholly fulfilled, and we can see that the great fulfilment of this passage is in the coming of Christ to his own. He brought the beginning of the kingship of God, and it is for us Christians to show Him, the glory and the love and the generosity of God, to a world which has not yet seen the splendour of his coming. This is the daunting responsibility of those who bear the name of 'Christian', who see in Jesus the manifestation of God's reign.

How may we best prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas and when he comes again in glory?

2 Second Reading: *2 Peter 3:8-14* **The Lord Comes in the Night**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.



The Second Letter of Peter, probably the last of all the writings of the New Testament to be written, here sets out to comfort Christians who were disappointed that the 'Big Bang' at the end of the world had not yet happened. The first generations of Christians had expected the world to come rapidly to an end - and yet it still goes on. Our task, says the author, is to live holy lives in peace, and to wait in patience. From this point of view, the annual cycle of Church feasts and festivals, even of Christmas, is a reminder that God is in control of his universe.

How do we live "holy and saintly lives"?

Our task... is to live holy lives in peace, and to wait in patience.

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

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent is the season of hope, culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, which brings us the good news that we are loved unconditionally by God.

This Sunday's Gospel is also filled with hope. John the Baptist points away from himself towards Jesus. John makes it clear that it is Jesus that the people should follow: the hope of the world.

Wednesday 6th December 2023

This season of hope is a great opportunity to be spiritually refreshed, to get rid of everything negative in life and make it altogether positive: to look forward knowing that God is with us. Let's use this special time to make a fresh start and to be filled with hope.

Enjoy a special time together this evening exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HOPE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough

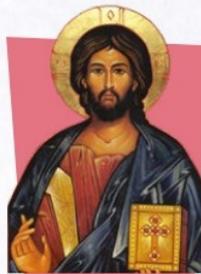


A **Word** from
Pope Francis

"Hope is a strength, a grace and a gift from God. Advent increases our hope."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 10th December 2023



The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Look! I am sending my messenger ahead - he will prepare your way. A voice cries out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People from the land of Judaea and the city of Jerusalem came to him and, as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. But John said, "There is someone else to come - someone who is more powerful than I am. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Adapted from Mark 1:1-8
The 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

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

Good News for Everyone

It's a blessing to have hope. Hope is a virtue which can sustain us through life's greatest difficulties. When we spend time learning about and listening to Jesus, we are filled with hope and strengthened, and so are able to bring great hope and good news to others.

Connecting Home, School & Parish through Sunday's Gospel wednesdayword.org



GOOD NEWS FOR FAMILIES

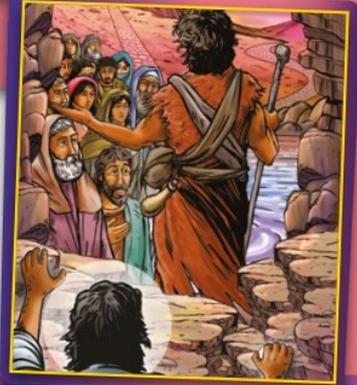


1 Listening & Learning Together

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

It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Look! I am sending my messenger ahead - he will prepare your way." John the Baptist was a prophet who lived in the desert. People from all around came to him and John told them to change their ways and prepare to welcome the Lord. As they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, the people confessed their sins. John told them, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am, and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Who did John tell the people to welcome? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

HOPE



3 Loving & Growing Together

"Advent is the spiritual season of hope."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

John the Baptist brought a message of hope to the people. His message is for us too. Hope is a wonderful gift. Ask your child what the word 'hope' means to them. Can they remember a time when they faced a difficult situation and someone (or maybe their faith) gave them hope? Each of you say who or what gives you hope when times are tough. Can you remember a time when you gave hope to someone?

"Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!"

Pope Francis

We can grow in hope through praying and learning about Jesus. As part of our Advent preparations for Christmas, let's consider if there is anyone we know who is sad or troubled and needs hope. In what ways can we bring hope to that person or those people? Perhaps we can: be a good friend and a patient listener, offer support and encouragement where needed; tell others about the hope that Jesus brings into our lives; let them know we are praying for them.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the hope you bring to our lives. Please help us to bring hope to others as we journey through Advent. Amen.

FINDING FIVE

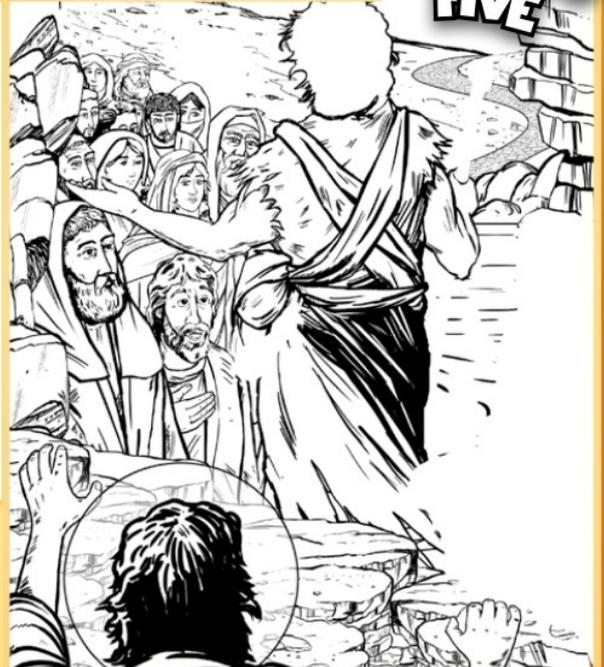
N P T B T R E S E D S T
 S E R B A P T I S E D S
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- JOHN PROPHET
- LIVED DESERT
- PEOPLE BAPTISED
- CONFESSED SINS

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Search for at least five differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **ilf** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

prelpatrie witaly melsisengert lamit

"Look! I ___ sending my ___ ahead - he will ___ your ___."

For ideas about what you can do to bring hope to others this Christmas, see MISSION TOGETHER'S 2023 Advent Calendar at: missiontogether.org.uk

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

.....



Share the Good News

Print and complete the leaflet with your child & SHARE A DIGITAL COPY with your friends

A Free Weekly Gift for Everyone



Happy Birthday this week to...

Kaci, Dovydas, Kenna-Kah, Sarah, Amelia, Mina, Elijah,
Khalisa & Zachary



Golden Awards:

- Dragonflies: Olivia, for having a fantastic attitude to learning
Grasshoppers: Gwenda, for showing good progress in maths and excellent contributions to class learning
Hedgehogs: Gerald, for his excellent effort to complete his maths work
Squirrels: Declan, for helping Mrs Mills settle into Squirrels
Badgers: Eddie, for displaying excellent dance skills in our P.E. module
Foxes: Tilly, for great attitude and participation in all lessons especially maths
Hares: The whole class, for their super football skills with the West Ham coaches
Rabbits: Godswill, for his fantastic effort on Egyptian day
Kingfishers: Ohemaa Yaa, for always being an amazing role model, working hard and a pleasure to teach
Robins: Ellis, for developing his confidence and making more contributions to our class discussions
Eagles: Dominica, for always being focused and ready to learn
Owls: Amelia, for working hard in all lessons

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs are finished. New clubs will be sent out in January

Monday 11th December

Owls swimming

Tuesday 12th December

Eagles library visit 9:00

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2
Christmas lunch

KS2 bring in a packed
lunch

Wednesday 13th December

Thursday 14th December

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Christmas lunch

KS1 bring in a packed lunch

Friday 15th December

Year 2 Polar Express day

KS2 Assembly 9:00

KS1 Assembly 14:30

House Points

Congratulations to the
winning house St Andrew'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