



28th March 2024



Newsletter

GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value the first week after the break is Simplicity. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection

This week our focus has been on the final steps of Jesus' painful journey to the end of his life and the crucifixion. The Year 4 and 5 children presented us with a moving and emotional service of The Passion of Christ and our Year 6 pupils shared the Stations of the Cross along with pupils from St Lukes primary school. We had an Easter assembly on Wednesday where I shared the Gospel of the Passion of our Lord with all the children and they sang our Easter hymns beautifully. We remembered that we are all following in the footsteps of Jesus through the desert to freedom.



This has been a very busy and successful term for the school with lots to celebrate following our Catholic School Inspection in February. The children are working incredibly hard and they are an absolute joy. As always, we thank you for your support for our Holy Cross family. We have so much to look forward to and be excited about for the summer term. We just need the warmer weather!

I would like to wish all of our children, staff, governors and families a joyous Easter in the glorious light of our risen lord.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on the 15th April.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Pick up arrangements

We will be having new pick up arrangements after the Easter break and will send everyone a letter to explain how this will change.

Clubs

Look out for the new term's clubs, that will be sent out over the Easter holidays, for you to book onto.

Summer Uniform

We hope that the better weather will mean that we can enjoy more time outside. You may decide to put your child into their summer uniform. Please see the website for guidance on this. Please remember that it is either summer or winter uniform and not a mixture of the 2. Also, children must have school shoes and not trainers, sandals or crocs for school.

Earrings

This is a reminder that strictly no earrings are permitted to be worn in school.

PE Kit Reminder

Please remember after the East break, all children, with the exception of Year 6, must have the new P.E. kit (introduced September 2023).

Click on the link below for the full uniform list. <https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/attachments/>

ATTENDANCE MATTERS


Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies and Ladybirds achieving 97% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Foxes attaining an amazing **100%** 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 | 97% |
| Ladybirds | 97% |
| Dragonflies | 95% |
| Grasshoppers | 94% |
| Hedgehogs | 96% |
| Squirrels | 94% |
| Badgers | 94% |
| Foxes | 100% |
| Hares | 98% |
| Rabbits | 99% |
| Kingfishers | 98% |
| Robins | 98% |
| Eagles | 99% |
| Owls | 97% |



| September — Easter Break | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Percentage Attendance | Hours of education lost | Weeks missed at school | School days missed |
| 100% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 97% | 20 | 0 | 4 |
| 95% | 30 | 1wk 1dy | 6 |
| 90% | 65 | 2wks 3dys | 13 |
| 86% | 90 | 3wks 3dys | 18 |
| 80% | 125 | 5wks | 25 |
| 75% | 160 | 6wks 2dys | 32 |
| 70% | 190 | 7wks 3dys | 38 |
| 60% | 257 1/2 | 10wks 1.5 dys | 51.5 |
| 50% | 322 1/2 | 12wks 4.5 dys | 64.5 |

Lost Hours of Education

Maintaining a high school attendance percentage is such an important factor in your child's success in learning. Your child's attendance percentage is available to view on Pupil Asset and your child's report. The table above shows you what this means in terms of lost hours of learning, this term.



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

ADVENTURE ISLAND ***SOUTHEND ON SEA***

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



THE Wednesday WORD



Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



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.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, 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.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 31st March 2024

THE EMPTY TOMB

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she said, "and we don't know where they have put him." So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Taken from John 20:1-9 Easter Sunday, Year B

2

Reflect

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

There are several accounts in the various gospels of the discovery of the empty tomb. The slight variations between them show all the marks of oral tradition, for in genuine oral tradition each 'performance' is different. Different people tell the story slightly differently, stressing different aspects. This story stresses the proof that the tomb really was empty, for the apostles examine the evidence carefully. Other accounts concentrate less on the evidence and more on the message, that they will meet the Risen Lord in Galilee. It was important to establish that the tomb was empty, to prevent the charge that the meetings with the Risen Christ were simply ghost-appearances. Apart from the proof that this was a real, living and bodily person, these meetings emphasise two factors, the power of the Risen Christ and the commission given to the disciples. The disciples are to go out into the whole world and spread the message, always accompanied and strengthened by Christ himself. In this account Simon Peter is clearly the senior, authority figure, to whom the Beloved Disciple defers. But it is the love of the Beloved Disciple which brings him to faith.

What aspects of the gospel accounts of the resurrection help to strengthen your own faith?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

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, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy, forgiveness, hope or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is EASTER!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, 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.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 31st March 2024**



1

1st Reading: Acts 10:34. 37-43

Peter Instructs Cornelius

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: "You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name."

Peter was speaking to Cornelius. Cornelius was the Roman centurion who already revered God and had had a vision that he should invite Peter to come and instruct him. Peter shows that Jesus was a real human being. He went about bringing God's peace to everyone he could meet. Nevertheless, he was executed as a criminal. But then he was raised from death to a life that was totally new. This was the fulfilment of all the promises made to Israel, bringing to completion God's plan in creation. Life moved into a new gear. Peter expresses this when he says that God has appointed the Risen Jesus to judge the living and the dead. The Jews expected that at the end of time, at the completion of all things, God would come to set everything to rights, to judge things according to their true worth. Now Peter says that Jesus is the one who will be this judge. Jesus is the Lord who will bring all things to completion and to judgment. By his rising from the dead Jesus has supreme authority over the whole world. Paul put it in this way: he said that Jesus was 'constituted Son of God in power' by the resurrection.

How can we be more effective witnesses to the Risen Lord?

2

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

New Life in Christ

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

This reading is the visible tip of an iceberg, of which much more lies below the surface! Paul here tells us that all our interest must be in heavenly things, the things of Christ, because we share Christ's life. What is more, that life is no ordinary life. What does all this mean? We share Christ's life because faith in Christ means that we put all our trust and hope in him. We have been baptised into Christ; that is, by baptism we have been dipped into Christ as into a river, and come up soaked with or dripping with Christ. I am growing into Christ; I share in his inheritance, his status as Son of God. The wellspring of my life is no longer the ordinary, natural life which enables me to live, breathe, digest, feel, see, sing and play, love and hate. It is the Spirit of Christ which spurs me to generosity, service, kindness, self-control, peace and openness. This life, says Paul, is still hidden, and will be fully manifested only at the coming of Christ. But if I am to be true to my profession of faith in baptism, the principles on which I operate must be those of this risen life of Christ.

How can we be most true to our profession of faith at baptism?

"I am growing into Christ; I share his inheritance."

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

**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
27th March 2024



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Before sunrise on Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance and that the tomb was empty. Mary ran to Peter and another disciple (John) and said, "Someone has taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have put him." The disciples ran together to the tomb. But John, running faster than Peter, arrived first and looked into the tomb but did not go in. Peter, however, went into the tomb and he saw Jesus' linen burial cloths lying on the ground. He also saw the cloth that had been over Jesus' head; this was rolled up in a place by itself. Then John also went into the tomb; he saw and he believed. Until this moment they had failed to understand that Jesus must rise from the dead.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 31st March 2024. John 20:1-9 (Easter Sunday)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **EASTER**.

2

"Let us prepare to celebrate Easter in the joy of God! Christ is risen! Christ is alive!" Pope Francis

Why wasn't Jesus in the tomb? As a family, look at the pictures on the front cover of this booklet. What do they remind you of or make you think about? This week is Holy Week and this coming Sunday is Easter Sunday. This is the day when the Church throughout the world especially remembers and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus - his rising in glory. Ask your child what they have been learning at school about Easter Sunday. It may help your child if you tell them something else that you know, or have experienced, about Easter.

3

Easter Sunday is the greatest day in the Church's calendar. This day reminds us that Jesus, the Son of God, offers each one of us a share in his everlasting life and eternal happiness. All are warmly invited to come and join with the Church community this Sunday and celebrate the hope that Jesus' resurrection brings to our lives. As a family, share ideas about what you might also do to celebrate Easter Sunday and make it special. For ideas and lots more about Easter, please see: cbcew.org.uk. Who can you help to have a happy Easter?



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for this Sunday's wonderful celebration of your resurrection. Please bless my family with new life throughout the great Season of **Easter**. Amen.

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

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....



Wednesday
3rd April 2024



**Good News
for Families**

1

Enjoy reading the Gospel

The disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" He showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there when Jesus came and he refused to believe what had happened. One week later they were in the room again and, this time, Thomas was also there. Jesus came and stood among them again and said to Thomas, "Here, touch the marks on my hands and feel the wound in my side. Doubt no longer, but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe!"



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 7th April 2024. John 20:19-31 (the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **ENCOURAGE**.

2

"Jesus is always ready to encourage and support us."

Pope Francis

After Jesus had died, the disciples were afraid that the people who had crucified him would now be looking for them too. Jesus' resurrection and miraculous appearance would have encouraged the disciples. When we listen to Jesus, we are filled with words of encouragement. Ask your child what the word 'encourage' means to them. Who encourages them and keeps them going when they find things difficult? How does it feel to be encouraged? Has your child ever encouraged anyone? What did they do?

3

There are times when we all need encouraging: that is, to be inspired with courage and to have our hope renewed, especially when we are afraid or going through difficult times. Do you know anyone who may need your encouragement? Each of you choose a way to encourage someone during this Easter season. Perhaps you can: offer words of support; let someone know when they are doing something well; tell someone about the good news of Jesus' resurrection; give someone a helping hand if they are struggling. What else could you do?



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to strengthen and **encourage** us. Help us to be more like you - to be an **encouragement** to those around us. Amen.

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

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....



Happy Birthday this week to...

Iris, Sophia, Samuel, Praise, David, Alice, Zedekiah, Anashe,
Mahayla, Leas, Filip & Indie

Happy Birthday over the Easter holiday to...

Antoni, Ellie, Hugo, Tharani, Kweku, River, Bali, Jermaine,
Lucas, Sian, Hayley, Ella & Jemie



Easter Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday 8pm

Children's stations of the Cross

Good Friday 12 noon

Passion Liturgy

Good Friday 3 pm

Stations of the Cross

Good Friday at 6 pm

Easter Vigil

Saturday 8.30 pm

Easter Sunday

9 am and 11 am



New menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs and boosters are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 15th April

Tuesday 16th April

Wednesday 17th April

Thursday 18th April

Friday 19th April

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy
lunchtime

KS1 Karate

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy
lunchtime

Robins swimming

KS2 Karate

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

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Kerrell'.

House Points

Congratulations to the winning
house this week, St George