



17th January 2025



GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value for next week is Justice. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection

This Sunday in the church's calendar, is always PEACE Sunday. It is an opportunity to pray for Peace in our lives, in our community and Peace in our world. It can be difficult to feel a sense of calm and peace in our busy lives and to allow Jesus to be present and with us. He is always near and ready to help us in times of trouble. As we think about on the wider troubles of the world, let us pray for those who are trapped in war-torn countries and who feel helpless and hopeless as war unfolds around them.



Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Curriculum Maps

We will be sending out the Year Group Spring Curriculum maps on Seesaw and Tapestry next week and we will also save them on the school website. We hope that you can take a few moments to look at what your child will be learning over this term.

Parking

A reminder that parents are not permitted to park in the school carpark unless they have a prior arrangement with the school office. Deacon Tony has also requested that we remind parents, who are permitted to use the school carpark, that they must not park in the designated church parking spaces. Additionally, please do not block Father Bernard's garage as he may need to attend an emergency.

Careers Fair

We are very excited to be holding our first Careers Fair on Wednesday 26th March. If you would like to take part and share with the children what you do as your job, please get in touch with Mrs Slater. We are looking forward to sharing more information about this with you in the coming weeks.



Jubilee Year-Pilgrims of Hope.

We have been talking to the children this week about the forthcoming Jubilee Year: Pilgrimage of Hope. We will have the launch date on the 24th January and we are going to embrace this special year as an opportunity to do all we can to help our neighbour and make our world a better place. For more information please follow this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools>. There will be a special school assembly next Friday morning and therefore we will not have our usual Celebration assemblies.



Autism Experience Bus

You may have noticed that we had an Autism experience bus parked in the car park on Thursday this week. Members of staff were able to experience what an autistic child deals with on a daily basis and this has given us a deeper insight into the challenges that they face. It will be coming to school again on the 30th January.

What is the Autism Reality Experience?

The Autism Reality Experience is an innovative, immersive, and hands on training experience which has been developed to give people an experience of the differences and challenges that autistic people may experience themselves. Not only will the experience give people a unique, first-hand perspective on how people may experience the world that builds a huge amount of empathy and understanding, but it will empower everyone to make some incredibly simple yet transformative changes which can make the world a more inclusive place for everyone.

Arbor In App Messages Reminder

We are still getting queries from parents as to why they didn't know their child was getting a certificate. Please read the below and turn on push notifications on Arbor.

Within our new Arbor app we have a facility to send In App messages. In many cases (although not all) this will replace sending a text message.

At least one parent from each family should have the Arbor app downloaded. In app push notifications need to be switched on, so that you will see that a message has been sent. For more details on in app messages and push notifications, please click on the link below:

<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360002598038-Parents-not-receiving-push-notifications>



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Squirrels:	Thankgod	
Badgers:	Filip	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Jayden	Rabbits:	Mariella
Kingfishers:	Anayah	Robins:	Diale
Eagles:	Eliana	Owls:	Ella



Holy Cross Primary Academy

HISTORY DAY



Tuesday 4th February 2025

Parent workshops

Years 3 to 6 9am to 10am

Years 1 and 2 10.30am to 11.30am

COME AND
HAVE SOME
FUN WITH
YOUR CHILD



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Dragonflies and Grasshoppers achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Badgers 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	97%
Ladybirds	94%
Dragonflies	98%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	95%
Badgers	99%
Foxes	95%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	93%
Kingfishers	94%
Robins	91%
Eagles	93%
Owls	94%

Gospel Value Awards

Simplicity

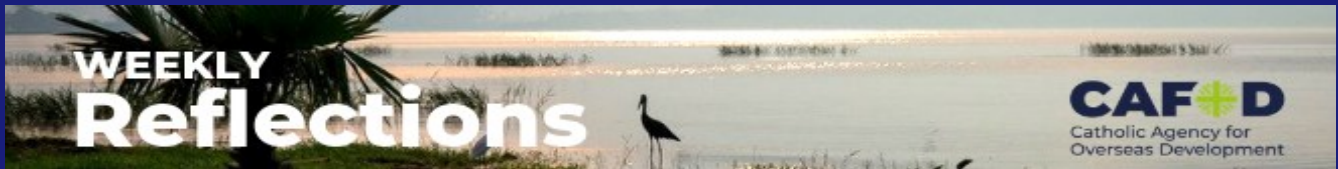
calm, uncomplicated, trust

"And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in Her heart." Luke 2:18-19



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

Butterflies:	Isabel	Ladybirds:	P.J.
Dragonflies:	Justin	Grasshoppers:	Sofia
Hedgehogs:	Oluwatobiloba	Squirrels:	Salem
Badgers:	Edie	Foxes:	Daniel
Hares:	Luka	Rabbits:	Gabriel
Kingfishers:	Nathaniel	Robins:	Hillary
Eagles:	Julia	Owls:	Amy



Based on the gospel for Sunday 19 January, *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*: John 2:1-11

"On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there."

Today's gospel story tells us something about Mary which may help us.

William Barclay once said that, even when Mary did not understand what Jesus was going to do, and it seemed that he had refused her request, she still believed in him so much that she told the serving folk to do whatever Jesus said to them. Mary had a faith which could trust, even when she did not understand or know what Jesus was going to do.

In everyone's life come times when we do not understand why something is happening, when we cannot find any meaning in it, or know what to do.

Like Mary, may we put our trust in Jesus bringing before him the needs of the world confident in his abundant generosity. And may each of us "do whatever he tells you" sharing our gifts and God's love with our global family.

Prayer

God of all people,

Jesus, shared in the joy of a wedding, help us to find peace and joy in the events of each day.

May we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help spread love and peace throughout the world.

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Jesus invite us not to be drawn by worldly logic. We must rather listen to the least and the poor, because God loves to speak to us through them.

Wednesday 15th January 2025

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 19th January 2025

THE WEDDING-FEAST AT CANA

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said, "Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. "Draw some out now," he told them, "and take it to the steward." They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, "People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now." This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Taken from John 2:1-11 The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

2

Reflect

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

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

Year C is the year of Luke's gospel, but we start with this reading from John which recounts the symbolic beginning of Jesus' ministry. It is full of riches. After the first reading from Isaiah it is impossible not to see this 'sign' (as John calls it) as a sign of that final wedding-feast of God and his people. Furthermore, in Jewish thought, water represents the Law: in an arid land water is the sign of life and is precious – just so, the Law of God is precious and gives life. Jesus transforms this water of the Law into the wine of the New Covenant – and in such generous quantities: over one hundred gallons of wine! Then there is Mary's part: Jesus says his Hour has not yet come (and the reader knows that the Hour of Jesus will be the moment of his exaltation at the Cross and Resurrection), but Mary's confident plea is a reminder to us of the power of her intercession. She will be mentioned no more in this gospel till she is present at the Cross, sharing the passion of her Son and joined to the Beloved Disciple to form the first Christian community.

Why did Jesus choose to do this as his first miracle?

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, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is **JOY**!

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.

**The Jubilee
Year of Hope**

Share the Prayer: Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 19th January 2025**



1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The Wedding-Feast of the Lord

About Zion I will not be silent; about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.



The marriage relationship is perhaps the most intimate of the personal relationships we know, designed to become ever deeper and more absorbing. Even the relationship of mother to child cannot equal it. So in the Bible the relationship of the Lord to his people is likened to the relationship in marriage. But, like many human marriage relationships, it went through bad patches. Israel was so persistently unfaithful to the Lord that eventually it seemed that the Lord abandoned her to those with whom she had 'prostituted' herself. This could not be permanent; Israel could not go on being called 'Abandoned' and 'Forsaken'; the past would be forgotten. After the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, Isaiah prophesies the final wedding in terms of the unalloyed joy of a freshly wedded couple. So in the gospels, Jesus uses the figure of the final wedding-feast, and the image of himself as the bridegroom in the joy of the festival. The Lord always gives us another chance, an unalloyed welcome to his feast.

What does it mean to liken our relationship with God to the relationship between a couple in marriage?

I can rejoice in gifts which God has given to me, but only if simultaneously I think of all the gifts which others have and I lack.



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gifts of the Spirit

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.



At the beginning of each year the Church gives us some six Sundays of readings from Paul's first letter to that troubled community, the Corinthians. Corinth was a thriving port-town of southern Greece, with a very varied community, rich and poor, academics and dockers. There were no clear human leaders in the Church community, and reliance on the Spirit for guidance in the problems of living as Christians did not always seem to provide a solution. The readings on these three Sundays show Paul trying to help. Yes, the Spirit is at work in the community in many different ways. There are many different gifts, all necessary for this varied community. The trouble seems to have been that each person valued their own contribution so much that the gifts of others seemed insignificant. Paul's stress on the variety of ways in which the Spirit works to build up a community gives us the occasion to reflect on the variety of gifts which the Spirit has poured out on our own Christian community, and on every individual member of it. I can rejoice in gifts which God has given to me, but only if simultaneously I think of all the gifts which others have and I lack.

What gifts do we need in a Christian community for its full flourishing under God? How do we help all in the community realise the diversity of gifts?

The Wednesday Word 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**



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel below, we read from the Gospel of John. John does not record many of Jesus' miracles, so why is this miracle of changing water into wine given so much importance?

It is important for us to know that, although divine, Jesus was also human and enjoyed human happiness. In the Gospel, Jesus helps out the unfortunate bridegroom whose wedding celebrations are on the verge of disaster because they're about to run out of wine. Jesus' miracle brings joy to his own mother and gives a joyful celebration to the whole village.

Wednesday 15th January 2025

This miracle also reminds us about the joy of heaven, which is often described as a wedding-feast to which we are all invited. Jesus came to bring joy to everyone in every age. Happiness comes and goes, but the joy that comes from close friendship with Jesus stays forever.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **JOY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"If we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 19th January 2025



There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there with Jesus and his disciples. When they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said, "Woman why turn to me? My hour has not come yet." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." There were six stone water jars standing there; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. "Draw some out now," he told them, "and take it to the steward." They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into the best wine. This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Adapted from John 2:1-11
The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

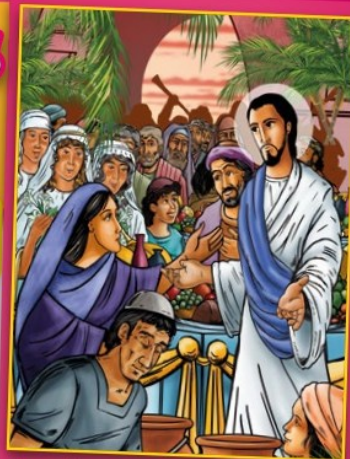
Having Hope
in our Families

God wants us to be filled with joy - Jesus came to make our joy complete. In the first of his many miracles, Jesus changed the water into wine and brought great joy to the wedding celebration. For us too, Jesus changes our lives when he enters into our hearts and homes; he makes the ordinary special and life more joyful.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus was celebrating at a wedding in Cana. Jesus' mother, Mary, noticed that the wine had run out. She told Jesus, knowing that he could help, and said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you". So Jesus told the servants to fill six stone jars with water. They did that, and when they tasted the water, they found the water had become the best wine.

What did Mary say to the servants?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Joy is very infectious; therefore, always be full of joy."

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

JOY



Joy is something we all desire. We don't have to search around for joy; it comes from within. This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings when we put our faith and trust in him. Ask your child what the word 'joy' means to them. Each of you say who or what makes you feel joyful. When do you feel joyful? When was the last time you brought joy to others and what did you do? Who is the most joyful person that you know?



A joyful heart is a sign of God's Spirit within us. When we follow Jesus by loving God and others, we are filled with joy. What can we do to help bring joy to our home, school or community in this coming week? Perhaps we can: give lots of smiles; give someone a gift or a 'thank-you' card; remind someone that they are loved by God; cheerfully do what our parents or teachers ask us to do; try to be like Jesus by helping someone who may be struggling.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share that joy with all those that we meet. Amen.

FINDING THREE

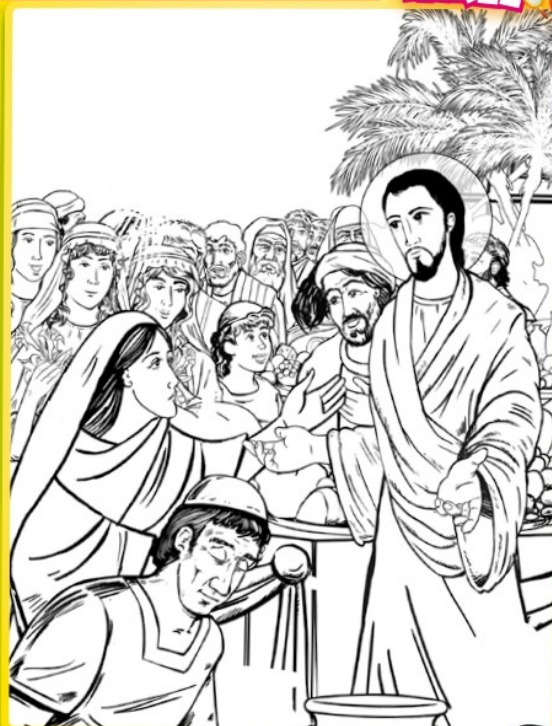
J W S T M J E S U S W
 E A C S U S E J S U B
 E N A L M I R A C L E
 L D N B M I R R W T S
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- WEDDING
- CANA
- JARS
- WATER
- JESUS
- MIRACLE
- BEST
- WINE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **o c d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

sedrovants tedolls crudno owdinec

Mary noticed the _____ had _____ out and said to the _____, "Do whatever Jesus _____ you".



This week, we have celebrated the Feast of the joyful St Hilary of Poitiers. Even St Hilary's name comes from the Latin word for happy or cheerful.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Gwenda, Filip, Leonardo, Anthonia & Anna



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Azari, for always being so kind, considerate and helpful to his peers.
Ladybirds: Camron, for making good choices.
Dragonflies: Bekah, for always being helpful in class.
Grasshoppers: Liam, for coming back to school with a positive attitude
Hedgehogs: Kezia, for an excellent start at Holy Cross and working really hard.
Squirrels: Elissa, for always looking out for her friends and offering help.
Badgers: Raysa, for always trying her best.
Foxes: Andreas, for great diligence to learning in all subjects.
Hares: Layla, for having a great attitude towards her learning and great participation in all lessons.
Rabbits: River, for his fantastic attitude towards his writing.
Kingfishers: Phoebe, for her fantastic contributions in all lessons this week.
Robins: Jayden, for his excellent enthusiasm and answers in our class discussions.
Eagles: Cristiana, for always having a fantastic attitude to learning.
Owls: Rohan, for great work in maths.

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house this week, St Patrick's

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

All clubs and boosters are run from 15:15 - 16:15

Monday 20th January

Boosters - All years

(Parents of children going will have received an email)

Tuesday 21st January

Boosters - Year 6

Karate - Years 2 & 3

Wednesday 22nd January

Booster - Year 6

Thursday 23rd January

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

CAFOD - Years 4 to 6

Friday 24th January

Jubilee launch assembly 9:00

Whole school

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '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