



24th January 2025



# Newsletter



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

## Weekly Reflection

We have had a wonderful launch assembly today for the church's Jubilee Year. This is a very special period in the church that happens once every 25 Years and Pope Francis is calling us all to be Pilgrims of Hope. Being a pilgrim means going on a journey of faith to get closer to God and we are going to do this by thinking of ways that we can show love, kindness and compassion to everyone we meet. We will journey on our pilgrimage together throughout this year and we would love all of our parents and families to join with us as we follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Each child will be receiving a special Jubilee Year Prayer card and we ask that you keep this safe.

Please follow these links for more information:

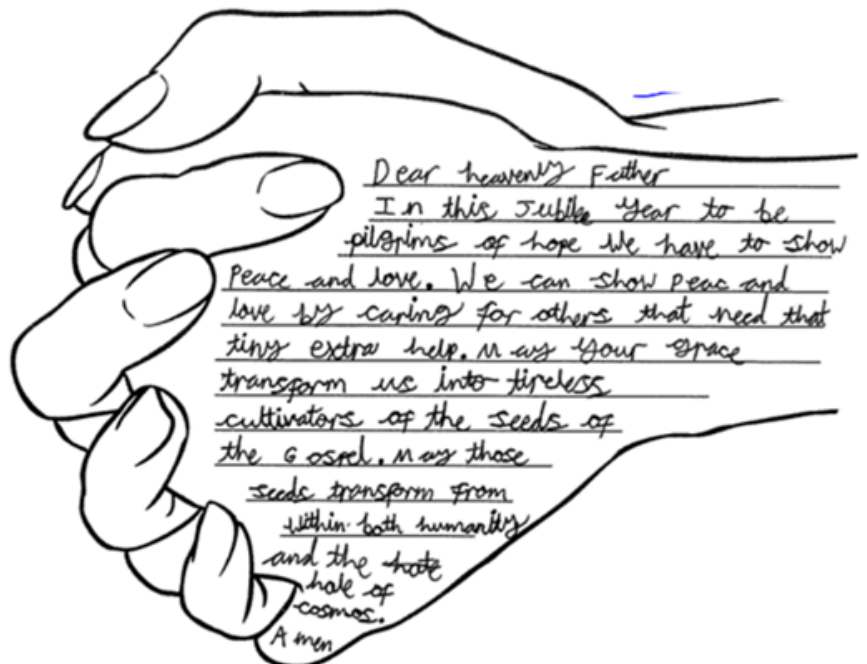
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yia25rOML2Q> and <https://cafod.org.uk/news/uk-news/why-is-2025-a-jubilee-year-in-the-catholic-church>



Jubilee Prayer of Hope from Jaxon in Year 4.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell  
Headteacher



# A prayer of hope

God, our loving Father,  
in this Jubilee Year,  
you remind us of our call to love creation.  
Help us to work together  
to replant, repair, and renew.

**Guide us on our journey  
as pilgrims of hope.**

Jesus, our light,  
In this Jubilee Year,  
you remind us of our call to love  
our neighbours  
and to set free those who suffer.  
Help us to treat everyone with dignity;  
to be fair, forgiving and kind.

**Guide us on our journey  
as pilgrims of hope.**

Holy Spirit, our inspiration,  
in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our  
call to grow in faith and love.  
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see  
Jesus in others,  
and to be united as God's global family.

**Guide us on our journey  
as pilgrims of hope.**

**Amen**

*Written in  
collaboration with Missio.*



## Curriculum Maps

We have sent out the Curriculum Maps for your child's Year Group on Tapestry or Seesaw. They are also available on the school website. Please follow the link and select your child's Year Group from the side bar:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=58>

## Parent Governor

Huge congratulations to Mr John Fennelly who has been chosen to be our new Parent Governor. I am looking forward to welcoming John to our Governing Body and I am certain that he will join with the rest of our excellent governor team, to strategically support moving our school community forwards.

## One-way System

At the last Parent Forum, the Year Group representatives requested that a Keep Left system be introduced on the path leaving school, by the church. The request was made, following requests from parents on the Class Whatsapp groups, as an attempt to try to ease the flow of people arriving and leaving at the same time. Over the last few weeks it has been noted that many parents and families are not following the system and parents have shared that they do not feel it is working. There is no other exit that can be safely used to leave the school site.

Therefore, I will be sending out an electronic survey to decide whether this is a system we keep or abandon. Please respond so that we can gather your view.

## 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.

## Arbor Notifications

Some parents appear to be experiencing a problem where the notifications of In-App messages are not coming through. While this is being investigated by the support team, we ask that parents check their Arbor In-App messages regularly to see if your child will be receiving a certificate.



## Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Arthur	Squirrels:	Nellie
Badgers:	Diona	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Lucas	Rabbits:	Maya
Kingfishers:	Kenna-Kah	Robins:	Dominik
Eagles:	Cristiana	Owls:	Ellie



**Let's Celebrate**

# **Valentine's Disco**

**We are holding a Valentines disco on  
Thursday 13th February**

**4pm to 5pm - Reception, Years 1 to 2**

**5.15pm to 6.30pm - Years 3 to 6**

**£3 per child includes snacks and  
unlimited juice or water**

**Have a favourite song, let us know by Friday 7th  
February and hopefully the DJ will be able to play it  
for you.**

**If your child would like to attend you can pay by  
card, cash or payment link.**

**Payments need to be made by  
Monday 10th February**



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





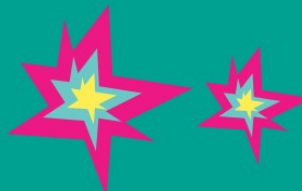
☀️ **Get Ready To Support Your Future Teen** ☀️  
with Our Free **Online** Courses!

Are you looking for ways to help your teen navigate the challenges of adolescence? Our free online courses are designed to provide parents and carers with the tools and knowledge to support their teens effectively.

From managing emotions to building resilience, our sessions offer valuable insights to help your teen thrive.

Sign up via our website [ACLEssex.com](https://ACLEssex.com) and search by course title or code

The Teenage Brain	(CODE: DOL2C45Y24)	11/02/2025
Understanding Teens	(CODE: DOL4C46Y24)	27/02/2025
Understanding Teenage Anxiety	(CODE: DOL4C47Y24)	27/03/2025



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Squirrels achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, for the second week running, 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	96%
Dragonflies	93%
Grasshoppers	97%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	99%
Foxes	96%
Hares	94%
Rabbits	92%
Kingfishers	94%
Robins	94%
Eagles	95%
Owls	98%

## Gospel Value Awards

### Gentleness

**Softness, beauty, serenity, peacefulness**

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29



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

Butterflies:	Million	Ladybirds:	Francesca
Dragonflies:	Sreekruthik	Grasshoppers:	Orlagh
Hedgehogs:	Braven	Squirrels:	Brody
Badgers:	Jemimah	Foxes:	Lyla
Hares:	Dominic	Rabbits:	Sophie
Kingfishers:	Kojo	Robins:	Lucas
Eagles:	Aroha	Owls:	Toby



Based on the gospel for Sunday 26 January, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 1:1-4, 14-21

**"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

In Luke's gospel, Jesus' first recorded public teaching is given in his hometown in Nazareth, soon after his forty days in the wilderness. He reads aloud from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and, in doing so, speaks words which will define his ministry.

Jesus, anointed by the Spirit, has come into the world to bring good news and freedom to those who are marginalised and oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. This is the language of Jubilee; a time of liberation where debts are cancelled, relationships restored and creation is renewed (see Leviticus 25).

Sitting down in the synagogue, Jesus gives a remarkable sermon in just one sentence: "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" The justice and joy of the Jubilee is fully revealed and present in him.

As we celebrate Word of God Sunday, may our engagement with Scripture strengthen and inspire us to proclaim and participate in the justice and generosity of the Jubilee. May we journey as pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year, seeking to come together to build a better world for all people and all creation.

#### Prayer

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth. Amen.

(Taken from Pope Francis' Jubilee prayer)



### The Words of Pope Francis

May the **#Jubilee2025** be for Christians and non-Christians alike an opportunity to rethink relationships that bind us as human being and political communities. Let us overcome the logic of confrontation and embrace the logic of encounter, in order to build a future of peace.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

##### JESUS PROCLAIMS HIS MESSAGE

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found a place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

**Taken from Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 The Third 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.

Today's gospel passage starts the series of readings from Luke which will continue throughout the ordinary Sundays of the Year. It is composed of two separate passages: first it gives Luke's introduction to his gospel, in which he explains how and why he wrote it. Then, jumping over the preparatory stories of Jesus' infancy, baptism and testing in the desert, it comes directly to his programmatic manifesto in the synagogue at Nazareth. The gospel is offered to Theophilus – a Greek name – and is written for gentile communities. So Luke stresses that Jesus' message is not just for Jews but for the peoples of the whole world. Twice in the second passage (Jesus' manifesto in Nazareth) Luke stresses that Jesus is moved by the Spirit of the Lord. As we see in the second reading, the Spirit was obviously at work in the early Christian communities. This was no more than a continuation of the Spirit's activity from the very beginning of the Christian movement. In Luke's stories of the annunciation, birth and infancy of Jesus the presence of the Spirit is constantly noted. In the earliest stories of the Church in the Acts of the Apostles the same guidance by the Spirit directs every move. **Why did Jesus choose to read this passage from the scriptures?**

*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 words for our school families are **GOOD NEWS!**

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](http://wednesdayword.org)

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 26th January 2025



**1st Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10**

## Ezra Reads from the Law

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, "Amen! Amen!"; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, "This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful; do not weep." For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, "Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold."

The Book of Nehemiah, from which today's reading is taken, is the latest historical book of the Hebrew Bible. It describes the re-establishment of the People of Israel, now the Jews, in and around Jerusalem, on their release from exile in Babylon. In the seventy years of exile they had developed a way of life based on the Law and marked by Sabbath, circumcision and ritual food; this distinguished them not only from the Babylonians, but also from those inhabitants of Judaea who had not been dragged into captivity. It was only those who were passionate for the Lord and this way of life who returned to the ruins of Jerusalem. Others stayed in more comfortable exile! Ezra, the expert in the Law, and Nehemiah, commissioned by the King of Persia (in whose empire Judaea lay), were at different times leaders of the community. In this scene Ezra reads out and so promulgates the Law in Jerusalem, to the acclaim of the people. What a contrast to the scene in the synagogue at Nazareth where Jesus reads out the passage from Isaiah (the clue to his way of life and that of his followers) - only to be rejected by his own people!

**What does this reading from Nehemiah have to say to us about the importance of God's word?**



**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. 27**

## The Body of Christ

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Following directly on from last Sunday's reading, Paul (in today's passage) shows just why the different gifts of the Spirit must be used for the common purpose of building up the community. He compares the community which lives with the life of the Spirit to a human body. For the effective functioning of the human body each highly diverse organ must play its part, contribute its own particular speciality. To prevent the individual Corinthians becoming proud and possessive of their own particular gifts, Paul stresses that, like parts of the body, none is more important than any other. Is it less serious if your liver fails or your kidneys? This comparison of a community to a human body is common in ancient literature, but nowhere else is the community as a body described as the body of a particular person in the way that Paul designates the Corinthian Christian community as the Body of Christ. The Body which lives by the life-principle of Christ's Spirit is Christ's own Body.

**What makes the Body of Christ so different from any other body?**

**Like parts of the body, none is more important than any other.**

**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**



Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel we are reminded that Jesus brings Good News to everyone.

We can all at times be blinded by selfishness or jealousy, be prisoners of guilt or worry, or be oppressed by bad habits. But Jesus has come to set us free, to help us renew our relationship with God and to enrich our relationships with each other.

Today, our schools and parishes continue Jesus' work, sharing the Good News of the Gospel so that people of the world can know God's love for them. This Good News is for you and me - Here! Now! We need only to be open to God's Spirit.

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's words, which are **GOOD NEWS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"Jesus was sent to bring the Good News, to enter the heart of each one of us."

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025



Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: 'The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom to prisoners and new sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.' He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, "This scripture is being fulfilled today even as you listen."

Adapted from Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

### Having Hope in our Families

The word 'Gospel' means 'Good News'. The Church provides us with both the Bible (which contains the four gospels about Jesus and his teachings) and the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church'. These are manuals for life which tell of the Good News which Jesus brings to all. To see the Catechism online, visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) - Parents' Pages.



Happy Birthday this week to...

Elaeh, Aleah, Emmanuella, Dominik, Livia,  
Lucas, Kodie, Amelia, Melisa & Ronan



### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Jude, for always making us smile with his imaginative stories.  
Ladybirds: Vinnie, for reading his phonics book fluently.  
Dragonflies: J.J., for working so hard in his learning and contributing excellent ideas.  
Grasshoppers: Jude, for showing great improvement in his writing.  
Hedgehogs: Zora, for amazing handwriting and great presentation.  
Squirrels: Oliwier, for trying so hard with his handwriting.  
Badgers: Grace, for coming to school with a smile and positive attitude.  
Foxes: Jan, for being a great role model to his peers.  
Hares: Nicole-Marie, for a good effort in English especially.  
Rabbits: Elsie, for amazing team work in D.T. when making bridges .  
Kingfishers: Archie, for his amazing writing this week—amazing work!  
Robins: Axel and Keaton, for making incredible pop-up books.  
Eagles: Luisa, for excellent work during comprehension.  
Owls: Hector, for a fantastic newspaper report.  
Middy: Tilly, for always eating all her dinner with such lovely table manners  
Abdul-Aleem, for being so kind and caring to his peers

### House Points

**Congratulations to the winning  
house this week, St Andrew's**

Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

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

Monday 27th January	Tuesday 28th January	Wednesday 29th January	Thursday 30th January	Friday 31st January
Kingfishers swimming	Reading Zone - Year 5	Reading Zone - Year 5	Reading Zone - Year 5	KS2 assembly 9:00
Boosters - All years	Year 5 to St Mark's	Booster - Year 6	Parent Forum - 14:00	KS1 assembly 14:30
	Boosters - Year 6		Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6	
	Karate - Years 2 & 3		CAFOD - Years 4 to 6	



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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)