



7th February 2025



# Newsletter

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

## Weekly Reflection

In the Gospel this weekend we hear the story of Jesus in conversation with Simon who has been fishing all night but has not caught anything. Jesus tells him to try again, to have faith and the next catch has plentiful amounts of fish. In the gospel this week we are reminded to have faith and to pray to Jesus that we will have good things in our lives so that we can share love and happiness with everyone around us. We can bring the Good News to others.

Next week is Kindness Week and we are asking everyone to remember the words of our Gospel Value Love, and to show generosity, friendship and love for everyone.



Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## FORMS

We will be using FORMS as a way to get your thoughts regarding some aspects of school life. Hopefully, parents and carers will find this a quick and easy system to use. Please just follow the link and complete. We appreciate your time to do this.

## History Day

We had a wonderful day on Tuesday this week with our History day. A big thank you to Mrs Hunt for organising the day and for all the staff for their efforts to make it a special experience for the children.

We would like to signpost you to the school website where you can see videos of some of the children sharing their thoughts on what they learn on History day. We have dragged Miss Hanifin and Ms Dodd back from the 60's to present day-they were very much embracing the groovy vibes!

## INSET Day

Just a reminder that Friday next week is a non-pupil day as we have staff training.

## Family Mass-Save the date

We would like to invite extended family members (**2 per family**) to come along to a special daytime Family mass. We would like to offer grandparents, god parents, aunties, uncles the opportunity to come and celebrate Mass together with the children on Thursday 20th March at 2:00pm for Reception and Key Stage One and on Thursday 27th March for Key Stage 2 pupils. We will be sending out an electronic Forms document for sign up, please only 2 per family to begin with and we will let you know if we have more spaces.

# FOOD BANK

Please help us collect non-perishable foods for our food bank. The food bank is located in the entrance hall and we hope will support many families within our school community.

## DROP-OFF LOCATION:

School Office



## Please could you provide New, unused and in date

**EYFS** - Baby supplies (nappies, wipes, baby bath, baby shampoo, creams and lotions)

**Year 1** - Pasta, rice and spaghetti

**Year 2** - Cereals, biscuits, crisps/snacks and UHT milk

**Year 3** - Tinned food (beans, soup, spaghetti, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables)

**Year 4** - Jarred food (cooking sauces, sauces, mayo, jam, honey and condiments)

**Year 5** - Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Squash

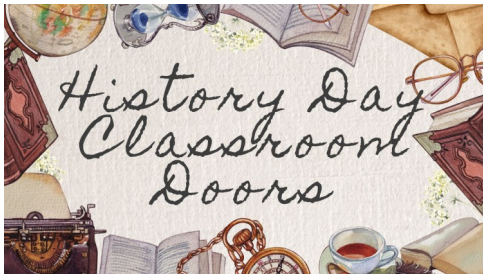
**Year 6** - Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, conditioner, deodorant, soap, flannels, toothpaste)



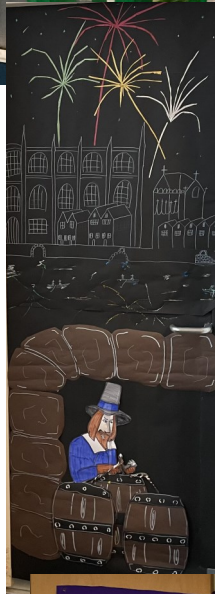
## Times Tables Rockstars

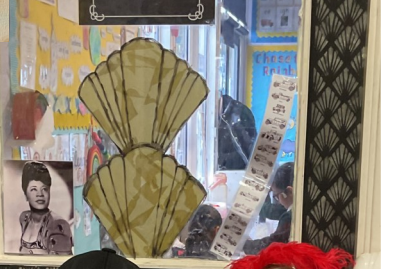
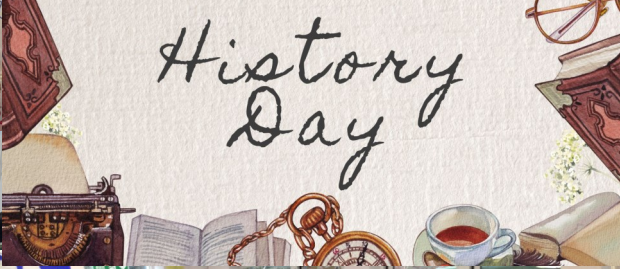
Congratulations to the following children for trying really hard with their times tables this week.

Hedgehogs:	Cali	Squirrels:	Stanley
Badgers:	Hermione	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Albie	Rabbits:	Bali
Kingfishers:	Joshua	Robins:	Lucas
Eagles:	Jeanette	Owls:	Mahayla



Congratulations to the winners of the classroom door competition. Key Stage 1, Grasshoppers - Dinosaurs and Key Stage 2, Badgers - 1960s.





The ACL logo is located in the top left corner, consisting of the letters 'ACL' in white on a dark blue background.

## **Nurturing Harmony: FREE Wellbeing Courses for Every Household**

Are you looking to strengthen your family bonds and enhance your overall wellbeing?

Perhaps you want to improve your own wellbeing?  
Our free wellbeing courses are designed just for you!

### **Sign Up!**

Scan the QR code, OR  
Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com)  
and type '**Family Wellbeing**' in to the  
'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY &  
FAMILY LEARNING**



Essex County Council



**FEBRUARY**  
*half term*  
**EVENTS**



**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT MUSEUM**

**SATURDAY 15TH - 10:30AM - 3:30PM**

**DROP IN SESSION - MAKING A FRIENDSHIP BRACELET  
(£3)**

**TUESDAY 18TH - 10:30AM - 3:30PM**

**DROP IN SESSION FLORAL FUN (£3)**

**WEDNESDAY 19TH - 10:30AM - 11:30AM & 2:30PM - 3:30PM**  
**BOOK IN ADVANCE TO CREATE HEART SUNCATCHERS OR A  
VALENTINES DAY CARD (£3)**

**FRIDAY 21ST 10:30AM - 11:30AM & 12PM - 1PM**

**BOOK IN ADVANCE FOR STORY-TELLING & DECORATING  
BISCUITS (£4)**

**SATURDAY 22ND - 10:30AM - 3:30PM**

**DROP IN SESSION MAKE A RECYCLED PAPER PET (£3)**



**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT MUSEUM TRUST CIO  
39 - 41 SUN STREET**

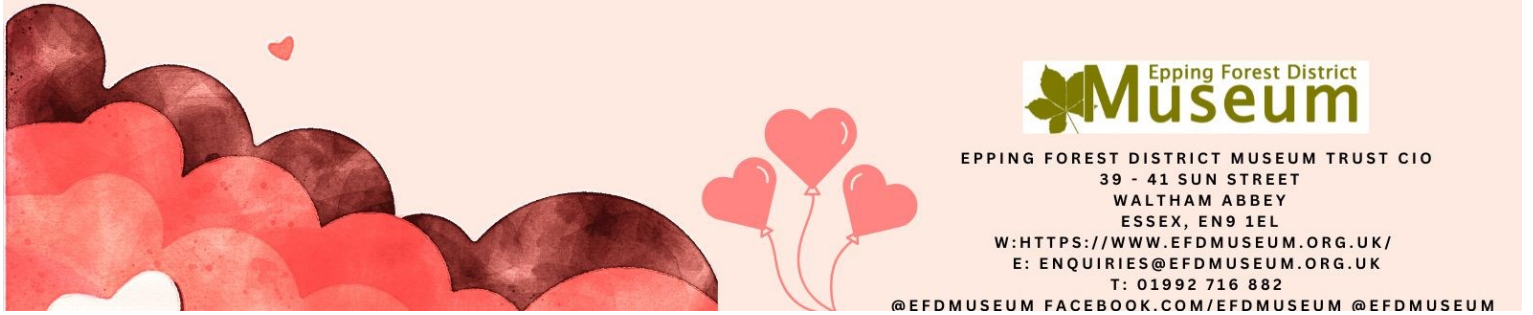
**WALTHAM ABBEY  
ESSEX, EN9 1EL**

**W: [HTTPS://WWW.EFDMUSEUM.ORG.UK/](https://www.efdmuseum.org.uk/)**

**E: [ENQUIRIES@EFDMUSEUM.ORG.UK](mailto:enquiries@efdmuseum.org.uk)**

**T: 01992 716 882**

**@EFDMUSEUM FACEBOOK.COM/EFDMUSEUM @EFDMUSEUM**





*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*

**Essex Library Service**

# Winter Reading Challenge



## The Dragons' Adventure!

Thursday 2 January to  
Saturday 22 February

**Help the dragons get home out of the cold by completing fun challenges!**

**Sign up at any Essex library.**



@essexlibraries

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

## Gospel Value Awards

### Integrity

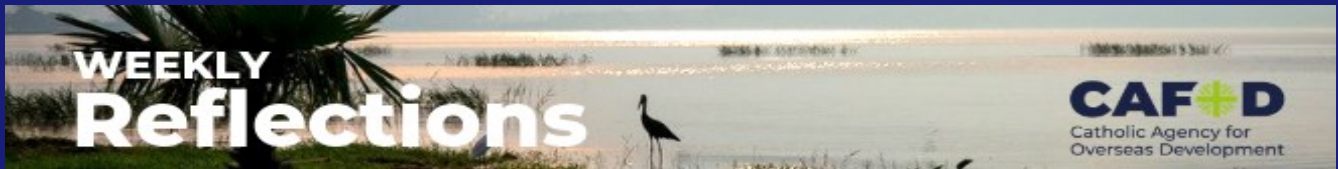
honesty, truth, honour, faithfulness

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Matthew 25: 14-3



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

Butterflies:	Ronan	Ladybirds:	Liora
Dragonflies:	Holly	Grasshoppers:	Piper-Willow
Hedgehogs:	Amelia	Squirrels:	Gwenda
Badgers:	Samantha	Foxes:	Kaci
Hares:	Isla	Rabbits:	Lucas
Kingfishers:	Isabella	Robins:	Luke
Eagles:	Annaliesa	Owls:	Emilie



Based on the gospel for Sunday 9 February, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 5 :1-11

**'Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.'**

In the Angelus on 6 February 2022, Pope Francis preached: 'God does not want a cruise ship: a poor "ramshackle" boat is enough for him, as long as we welcome him ... Do we make available to him the little we have?' Cruising is great fun, but in this passage the Pope uses the imagery of boating to suggest that it is not luxury that cuts it with God!

The disciples are told here that they will 'catch men'. They had very little, but what is miraculous about this incident is not so much the number of fish that were caught as the mission that was conferred on the disciples. Perhaps becoming more aware of the ways in which we are ourselves poor can open us up to the vital need to enrich others as we ourselves have been enriched by God.

It's challenging for me to think about how this applies to me. Cruising is a temporary escape from the real world, the messy world into which Jesus steps. Maybe I am being called to reflect on what messes I'm avoiding in my life and those of others around me.

Loving Lord, help us to put aside our fears and step courageously with you into the messes of our own and others' lives.  
Amen.



### **The Words of Pope Francis**

We must remember that young children observe, understand, and remember. They speak to us through their gazes and silences. Let us listen to them!

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

##### THE CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets." And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boats to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch." Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

**Taken from Luke 5:1-11 The Fifth 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.

There were obviously several different versions of the call of the first disciples circulating in the early Church. In the gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus is passing along the shore of the lake when he calls two pairs of disciples. In John it takes place where John the Baptist was preaching. The story in Luke has many similarities to the story at the end of John's gospel after the Resurrection, when the risen Christ commissions Peter: a night of failed fishing is followed by a huge catch as a consequence of obedience to Jesus' instructions, and so the Church has always seen this event as signifying the need for obedience to Christ. Luke's version combines the same play on words as in Mark and Matthew about fishing for people, but Luke sets the story a little later. In Mark the fishermen have never seen Jesus and follow him blindly; in Luke Peter and his friends have already got to know Jesus before they are commissioned. A special feature in Luke is Peter's cry that he is an unworthy sinner. Luke often teaches us that no one can be a disciple of Jesus without first admitting their sinfulness: Zacchaeus the tax-collector (Luke 19:1-10), and the woman who wept at Jesus' feet (Luke 7:36-50) are other examples.

What is significant about the Lord's call of his disciples according to Luke's account?

*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 FOLLOW !

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 9th February 2025**



**1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8**

## The Holy One of Israel

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out one to another in this way, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth." The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said, "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said, "See now, this has touched your lips; your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?" I answered, "Here I am; send me."



This passage recounts the first calling of the prophet Isaiah. For Isaiah God is primarily the Holy One of Israel. This vision of the Triple-Holy, seated on the throne of glory in the Temple, does all that is possible to convey in words the daunting otherness of the One whose glory fills the whole earth. The human reaction to this manifestation of God is acute awareness of uncleanness. Isaiah can only shrink away from God until his uncleanness has been purged by the burning fire of God's love upon his lips. No human being can see God and live. The glory seen by Isaiah (and by Moses on Mount Sinai) is only the outer fringe of the fullness of God's glory, but it leaves the human visionary stunned and aghast at the contrast between the divine holiness and human unworthiness. Throughout the Book that bears his name Isaiah will revert again and again to the awesome holiness of the Lord. God is our loving Father, but there can be no neglecting the distinction which lies between Creator and created. At the same time we are both attracted and daunted by the living God.

**What does it mean to describe God as "holy"? What does it mean when we describe a disciple of Christ as "holy"?**



**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. 11**

## The Earliest Gospel

In the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it. But what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.



The most precious element of this reading is the proclamation of the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection, which the earliest Christians already saw as fulfilling the Scriptures. We can tell that by Paul's time this recital of the Good News was already traditional. Firstly, Paul here uses the terms which were used by the rabbis for the handing on of tradition, 'I taught you what I had been taught myself'. Secondly, the language is not quite Paul's own; for instance: for scriptural fulfilment Paul always writes 'as it is written', whereas here we twice have 'in accordance with the scriptures', which Paul himself never says. To witness to the resurrection of Christ was the primary task of the apostles. For us, too, it is the primary task: not merely by our words, but by the way we behave, we need to live in the awareness that Christ's resurrection (after his endurance of humiliation and dreadful suffering) is the basic fact of life. The central factor in Christian faith and witness is not the empty tomb but the experience of the apostles in meeting the Risen Christ. This is what unbelievably transformed them from being a defeated and hopeless rabble, huddled in hiding, into courageous and enterprising witnesses. **What lies at the heart of our tradition which we hand on to others?**

**It is the primary task to witness to the resurrection of Christ, not merely by our words, but by the way we behave.**

**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, Peter (after a night of failed fishing) is finally successful and realises his true calling because he listens to and follows Jesus' instructions.

It's important to make the right choice about who or what we follow in life. Simply following our desires and feelings, which often change, can leave us feeling unsatisfied. Jesus invites each and every one of us to make following him our most important priority.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

We follow Jesus whenever we are kind, try to make peace, and make others feel welcome. Choosing to follow him is not always easy but it really does guide and help our families to keep growing in wisdom and love.

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 **FOLLOW**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"To follow Jesus means to share his love for every human being."

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025



When Jesus had finished teaching by the lakeside he said to Simon Peter, "Sail out into deep water and let down your nets." "Master," Simon Peter replied, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will let down the nets." And when he and his companions had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear and they filled their two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made. But Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch." Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Adapted from Luke 5:1-11  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

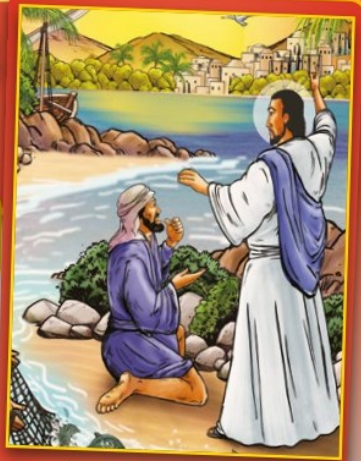
Having Hope  
in our Families

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus promised the fishermen that, if they followed him, they would bring home more than fish: they would bring people back to God. By following Jesus, we too can help others to know and love God - to find the happiness which comes from knowing and following Jesus.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

After working all night the fishermen had caught nothing. So Jesus said to Peter and his friends, "Sail out into deep water and let down your nets." They did as Jesus said and caught so many fish that their nets began to burst. Peter and his friends were amazed by the catch. Then Jesus said, "From now on you will be fishers of people." So Peter and the fishermen left everything and followed him.

**What did Peter and the fishermen leave everything to do?**

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...

Through the miraculous catch, Peter saw Jesus in a new light. Peter's humility made him fit to be a follower of Jesus and he went on to discover his true purpose in life.

## FOLLOW



Ask your child if they know what 'to follow someone' means. Who impresses them? Who sets them a good example which they would like to follow? How has that person made things better for them, for someone else or for a community? It may help your child if you can talk about a person whose example you follow, or have followed.



The Church has always understood this Sunday's Gospel to be a sign of our own need to follow Jesus. We can follow Jesus even in the simple things we do in our lives every day, and make life better for everyone around us. In this coming week, how can we follow Jesus, even in little ways? Perhaps we can: be a good listener if someone is sad and wants to share their problems with you; find regular time to pray for others; be kind and include others in our games.

### 3 + Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for calling us to follow you. Please help us to be your faithful followers - helping our world to become a better place. Amen. \*

## FINDING THREE

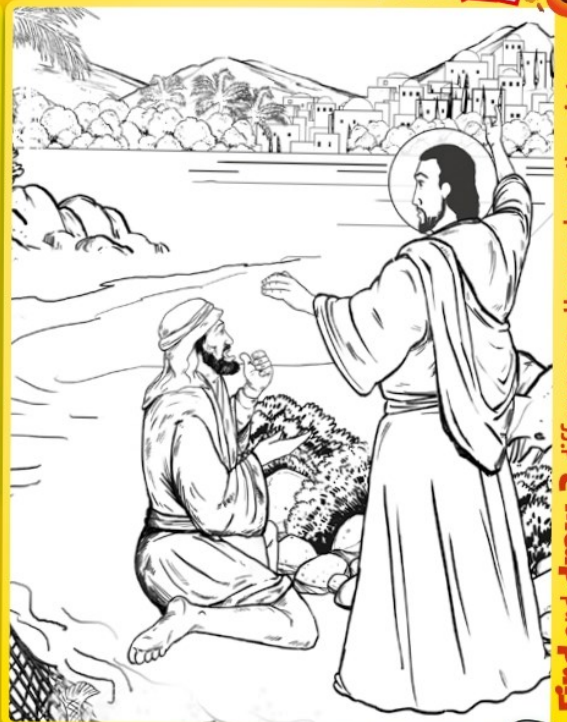
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E V E R Y T H I N G A  
T H G U A C H C T A C

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- CAUGHT
- NOTHING
- AMAZING CATCH
- LEFT EVERYTHING
- FOLLOWED JESUS

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **u k m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**maufrakid knomuw fiksherusm samkidu**

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_, "Do not be \_\_\_\_\_; from \_\_\_\_\_ on you will be \_\_\_\_\_ of people."

There may be times when we have to stop doing certain things to follow Jesus (rather than 'following the crowd'). Let's try to follow Jesus this week by leaving behind anything which we know is not right and then try to do all the good we can.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Ciaran, Lucas, Phoebe, Hendrix,  
Jemimah & Jackson



### Headteacher Award

Tehila and Jemie, for living out our Gospel Values when supporting their peers

### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Blake, for making a huge effort with his handwriting.  
Ladybirds: Anna, for painting a beautiful Chinese Blossom Tree .  
Dragonflies: Marco, for trying hard with his writing.  
Grasshoppers: Nojus, for amazing improvement in his independent writing.  
Hedgehogs: Zach, for always helping and being so good with electronics.  
Squirrels: Nellie, for having an excellent attitude to learning.  
Badgers: Hanley, for always having beautiful manners and being respectful.  
Foxes: Millie, for excellent detail, drawing and shading of a flower.  
Hares: Freddie, for always having a smile on his face and positive attitude towards his learning.  
Rabbits: James, for fantastic work using a saw to cut wood in preparation for his bridge.  
Kingfishers: Margaret, for her wonderful contributions and fantastic work in R.E.  
Robins: Diana, for her incredible attitude in all lessons.  
Eagles: Albert, for excellent effort with setting and character description.  
Owls: Stevie, for fantastic work this week.

### House Points

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

Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

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

Monday 10th February

Kingfishers swimming

Boosters - All years

Tuesday 11th February

Reading Zone - Year 4

Boosters - Year 6

Karate - Years 2 & 3

Wednesday 12th February

Reading Zone - Year 4

Booster - Year 6

Thursday 13th February

Reading Zone - Year 4

Parent Forum - 14:00

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

CAFOD - Years 4 to 6

♥ Valentines disco - ♥

Reception, Years 1 & 2 -  
16:00 - 17:00

Years 3 to 6 - 17:15 - 18:30

Friday 14th February

**INSET DAY - school closed  
for pupils**



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