



14th February 2025



Newsletter

GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value for the week after half term is Humility. Please reflect on this at home with your child. .

Weekly Reflection

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the Half Way point in the school year. The children thoroughly enjoyed the school discos last night and it was brilliant to hear the children singing at the tops of their voices and having so much fun! Sincere thanks to parents and families who helped out. You made it an extra special event.

In the Gospel this weekend we hear Jesus say to his Disciples, 'Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven.' I think that we all deserve to have a well-earned rest and reward ourselves with some time with our families.



I would like to wish everyone a wonderful week.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 24th February

God bless,

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Parent Consultations

We have sent out appointments for Parent Consultations through Arbor-please log on to book your appointment. These will be on the 4th March 9:00-12:00 and the 6th 3:30-7:00pm. Booking closes on the 28th February.

Policies

We have added some new policies and reviewed some others and we will be sending these to parents in a separate email. These include our Packed Lunch Policy, Arrears Policy and Vexatious Complaints Policy. All of our school policies can be found on our school website, please follow this link:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=23>

Jubilee Prayer Cards

All of the children have received a special Jubilee Prayer card this week. We have some spare cards if you would like one please ask the office. An example is on the office window.



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.

Uniform

At this half way point in the school year I would like to remind parents and families about the rules for our school uniform. Please read the separate letter sent out the newsletter.

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.

Cross Country

A group of children in Years 3 to 6 travelled to Hare Street school for a Harlow schools cross country competition. All of the children ran so well and did the school proud.

Congratulations to the following children, on placing in their year group race:

2nd Place

Keziah
Jan
Erin
Diana

1st Place

Oliwier
Blake
Ellie



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Keziah	Squirrels:	Zoe
Badgers:	Elaeh	Foxes:	Flynn
Hares:	Tawana	Rabbits:	River
Kingfishers:	Jackson	Robins:	Axel
Eagles:	Amber	Owls:	Hector

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP!

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR SCHOOL AND ECO COUNCIL AND OUR MINI
VINNIES BY KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL.
TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY - 1.30PM TO 3PM

SIGN UP WITH MRS GALLAGHER





Join Our Community – ADHD & ASD!

Become part of a community that understands and supports. Our FREE online ADHD, and ASD sessions are more than just learning opportunities—they're a chance to connect, grow, and thrive together.

- Understanding ASD in children (a bitesize, online, 1 week session)
- Understanding ADHD in children (a bitesize, online, 1 week session)
- Understanding ADHD & ASD In Girls (online, 4 sessions over 4 weeks)

Whatever your situation, our non judgemental sessions have got it covered.

Sign Up!
Scan the QR code, or
Visit our website acessex.com
and type **ASD** or **ADHD** in to the
'Find a course...' box



SCAN ME



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, Hedgehogs and Squirrels achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at 8:30am until 8.50am.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Pupil Asset report absence option on every day of absence. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

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

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

Butterflies	91%
Ladybirds	88%
Dragonflies	92%
Grasshoppers	94%
Hedgehogs	98%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	98%
Foxes	94%
Hares	86%
Rabbits	99%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	98%
Eagles	94%
Owls	96%

Gospel Value Awards

Compassion

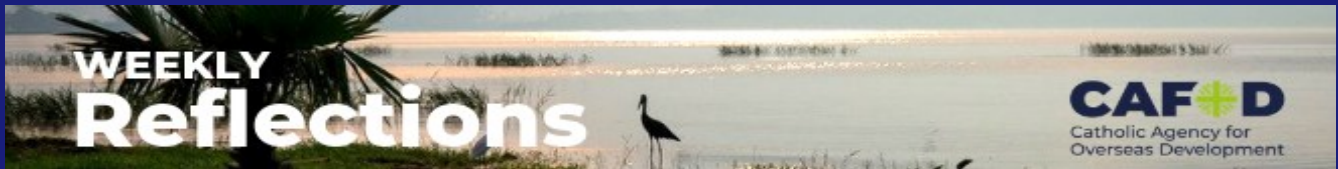
kindness, patience, empathy, helpfulness

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:1



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

Butterflies:	Oliver	Ladybirds:	Abdul-Aleem
Dragonflies:	Aleah	Grasshoppers:	Malique
Hedgehogs:	Nathan	Squirrels:	Olivier
Badgers:	Naomi	Foxes:	Ama
Hares:	Rufus	Rabbits:	Sarah
Kingfishers:	Gracie	Robins:	Filip
Eagles:	Jeremy	Owls:	Sophie



Based on the gospel for Sunday 16 February, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 6: 17, 20-26

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

"Many people would like poor people to keep on saying 'It is God's will that I live this way'. But it is not the will of God that some people have everything while others have nothing. That cannot be of God. God's will is that all his children should be happy".

St Oscar Romero condemned as an evil, as a sin, people lacking what is necessary for life. Material poverty is not the poverty sanctified by Jesus Christ in the Beatitudes

Romero spoke of the Beatitudes as a force for liberation. The Church must have a preferential option for those who are poor: converted and committed to those who hunger, suffer and weep. "A church that does not join with the poor and denounce with them the injustices visited upon them is not the true church of Jesus Christ".

For those standing in solidarity with those experiencing poverty in El Salvador, facing possible persecution, perhaps imprisonment or death, he had words of consolation. They would be blessed for receiving the insults, denouncement and hatred of others, rather than seeking the adulation and privileges of the world.

St Oscar contrasted material poverty with a spiritual poverty. It is spiritual poverty that liberates us from placing our trust in wealth and power. Freed from being distracted by the goods of the world and recognising the higher values of the kingdom, we become more open and receptive to the healing word of God, making us better liberators and more capable of transforming society.

Lord Jesus

May our world embrace a spiritual poverty;
for the good of our common home
to liberate our sisters and brothers
experiencing inequality and injustice,
so that all your children may be happy.
Amen



The Words of Pope Francis

When goodness is not reinvested, it is lost. The greatness of our lives is not measured by how much we save but by the fruit we bear.

Wednesday 12th 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 16th February 2025

THE BEATITUDES

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Taken from Luke 6:17. 20-26 The Sixth 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.

Matthew's Sermon on the Mount and Luke's Sermon on the Plain are both collections of sayings of Jesus about the basic conditions of Christian living. Each begins with a set of 'Beatitudes', announcing who is specially blessed by the Lord. One frisky modern translation renders them, 'Congratulations to you who are...!' Matthew's set of eight Beatitudes focuses more on spiritual qualities, poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice, whereas Luke's four are more directly on the circumstances of life. The stress is therefore on the reversal of values which Jesus brings. Jesus turns the world upside-down. His gospel or 'good news' comes to the poor, the neglected, the oppressed. True blessedness does not consist in wealth, fame or festivities. It is those who struggle now who will receive a lasting reward. Are the four negatives which follow too hard on the rich, the contented, the frivolous, the famous? Through this gospel runs a thread of warning about the dangers of contentment, and we seldom pay attention to warnings unless they are overstated! The worry of those who have plenty (about how they should use their advantages responsibly for others) must be at least as great as those who worry to survive. **Is money a positive bar to eternal happiness, or a challenge?**

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 **TRUST!**

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 16th February 2025**



1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

A Curse and a Blessing

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Actually, this passage is neither a curse nor a blessing. It is not invoking or wishing upon a person the blessing or the curse. Instead, the prophet is here saying that people who behave in these two ways are respectively blessed and accursed. There is no need to wish it on them, for their own behaviour merits it and brings it on themselves. Such statements of blessing and its opposite are frequent in the Bible; an example very similar to this is in Psalm One. In Jeremiah's prophecy here, unlike most of the instances in the Bible of 'beatitudes' in both Old and New Testaments, there is no list of ways of moral conduct; blessing is simply a matter of trust or faith. It is not a person's achievements which count, for we cannot earn blessedness; we can only trust in God. However, if God is the real centre of our trust and reliance, we will try to behave as we were created, in the image of God, imitating the divine generosity, forgiveness, attentiveness to human need, fostering life rather than restricting it. This will mean that our heart is truly turned to the Lord, and the Lord will care for us, as the stream does the tree.

How true is it that we bring blessing and curse on ourselves?



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

A People of the Resurrection

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

As he nears the end of his great letter to the Corinthians, which we have been reading for five Sundays, Paul teaches about the resurrection, the bedrock of Christian faith. Last Sunday he was rehearsing the most primitive proclamation, that Christ had truly risen from the dead and had encountered a host of witnesses. Now Paul tackles the resurrection of Christians, of which Christ's resurrection is the first fruits and the model. The importance of Christ's resurrection is not only that it places him in glory at his Father's right hand, but also that it is the forerunner of our own resurrection. We can know little about the transformation which will take place in us at the resurrection. We will be physical, but physical in a quite different way. The glorified body is a body, but not like any body which we know. The traditional Christian picture of clouds and harps is not to be taken too seriously. The only important thing is that we will be wrapped or rapt in the joy of the presence of God, enveloped in utter contentment. Nothing else will matter but the enjoyment of the most lovable of all beings.

Why will it not be possible to get bored in heaven?

« We will be wrapped in the joy of the presence of God. »

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
12th February

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME 

1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

When Jesus and his disciples came down from the mountain, a great crowd came from all over to hear him teach and to be cured. Jesus fixed his eyes on his friends, the disciples, and said, "Blessed are you who are poor now, God's kingdom belongs to you. Blessed are you who are hungry now, because later you will have all the food you need. Blessed are you who are sad now, because later you will laugh. Blessed are you if people hate you and ignore you, and insult and attack you just because you follow me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward will be great in heaven."



From the Gospel of Sunday 16th February 2025 Cf. Luke 6:17, 20-26 (the 6th Sunday in Ord Time, Year C)

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



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page. 



"Put your trust in God! The Beatitudes are Jesus' way of life." *Pope Francis*

What did Jesus say belongs to the poor? The blessings in this Sunday's Gospel, which are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (or Mount), are Luke's version of the 'Beatitudes'. This is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible and has encouraged people throughout the ages to trust in God. The Beatitudes remind us that, however bad things might look, those who serve and trust in God will have the reward of his everlasting love and blessings. It takes complete trust in God for us to live in this way. **Ask your child what the word 'trust' means to them.** Knowing who to trust is really important. Which people does your child really trust and why do they trust them?

"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's care." *St Augustine of Hippo*

Trusting in God's promises isn't always easy - but it's always rewarding. No amount of worrying will increase our safety or comfort; it's through trusting in God that we will find security and hope. Each of you say how, in the days ahead, you can show your trust in God. Perhaps you can: pray and offer any concerns to God if you are feeling worried; try to do your best without being afraid of making occasional mistakes; believe that God will bring good out of all that happens in life, even when things seem to be going wrong.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to **trust** in you, to share your love and be a blessing to each other and to all those in need. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- JESUS**
- CROWDS**
- DISCIPLES**
- BLESSED**
- REJOICE**
- GLAD**
- REWARD**
- HEAVEN**

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

E	Z	D	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
C	V	C	C	B	E	U	S	E	J	E	S
I	R	R	R	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	U
O	E	O	O	L	P	E	H	V	S	A	G
J	J	W	W	E	I	V	S	N	U	R	L
E	O	S	D	D	C	H	V	S	S	N	A
R	I	D	S	U	S	E	J	H	E	D	D
E	C	N	V	E	I	A	R	V	R	D	L
R	E	W	A	R	D	V	A	A	N	N	A
W	R	Z	W	A	D	E	W	O	W	N	D
A	S	E	L	B	H	E	A	V	E	N	A
D	N	G	W	Z	R	D	S	Z	A	L	G

Cross out the letters

u b t

in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

thebavenu tugblad rebjoticue brewtardu
 "Be _____ and _____, because your
 _____ will be great in _____."



Jesus wants us to trust in God. There can be many things that trouble our hearts, but following and trusting in God frees us from worrying in this life and assures us of life forever with God.

Happy Birthday this week to...

Jeanette, Rufus & Luca

Happy Birthday next week to...

Jayden, Isla, Ella, Leah, Ellis, Isabella,
Lucas, Harley, Tehilah, Malakai, Maliyah,
Keziah & Priscilla



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Samuel, for a great attitude, being ready to learn.
Ladybirds: Rebecca, for becoming more confident in phonics.
Dragonflies: River, for making a great effort during provision.
Grasshoppers: Riley, for excellent progress in writing.
Hedgehogs: Indila, for improved focus and concentration.
Squirrels: Noah, for working hard in all of his learning.
Badgers: Luca, for a great attitude to his learning.
Foxes: Ava, for writing an exciting story.
Hares: Hannah, for great effort in English writing, using persuasive features.
Rabbits: Autumn, for a fantastic effort with her handwriting.
Kingfishers: Erin, for always trying her best and for being a great role model.
Robins: Yannick, for his amazing drawing and writing about The Highwayman .
Eagles: Erin, for always working hard in all areas and being a great role model.
Owls: Layla, for excellent work in maths.

House Points

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

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

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

<u>Monday 24th February</u>	<u>Tuesday 25th February</u>	<u>Wednesday 26th February</u>	<u>Thursday 27th February</u>	<u>Friday 28th February</u>
Kingfishers swimming	Reading Zone - Year 2	Reading Zone - Year 2	Reading Zone - Year 2	KS2 assembly 9:00
Boosters - All years	Boosters - Year 6	Bikeability	Bikeability	KS1 assembly 14:30
		Booster - Year 6	Community Clean - 13:30	
		Karate - Years 2 & 3	Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6	
			CAFOD - Years 4 to 6	
			Years 3 to 6 - 17:15 - 18:30	



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