



4th April 2025



Newsletter



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

Easter Reflection:

As we come towards the end of our Lenten Journey, I would like to share a prayer and reflection from the Year 4 and 5 Passion Play. Year 6 have also led us through the Stations of the Cross this morning and at each of the Stations of the Cross, the children paused and reflected on what Jesus was experiencing as he made His painful journey, carrying the weight of the cross, to His crucifixion. The Stations of the Cross offer an opportunity for us all to pause and reflect on the suffering of Jesus, leading to the joy of His Resurrection.

Most Holy Cross

When we make the sign of the cross we should remember this cross which Jesus carried out of love for us.

Jesus,
Help me to be sorry when I have done something wrong.
Show me how to behave at home and at school
So that I try to follow your example of peace and love.
Teach me to follow you closely in everything I do.
Amen.



As we enter Holy Week, you may also like to follow the link to this short animation which takes children through each of the Stations <https://www.stpatricksmullinahoe.co.uk/news/stations-of-the-cross-/>

On behalf of all the staff and governors of Holy Cross school, I would like to wish you a restful and peaceful Easter break. It has felt like a long term, but together we are making the journey, following in the footsteps of Jesus from darkness to light.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher



Passion Play

Our Year 4 and 5 pupils were **OUTSTANDING** in their delivery of The Passion play this week. I could not have been prouder of them. They read very clearly and sang with such strength and skill; it was very moving.

Easter Bonnets

Huge thanks to all of the parents who helped to make a hat for our Easter Bonnet competition. This was an idea from Cafod Club and lots of the hats reflected our school, Easter and Laudato Si'. We had a big Easter Bonnet parade in assembly yesterday and everyone had an opportunity to show off their creations.

Easter Hampers

We had a wonderful response to our Easter Hampers. Thank you to everyone who made a donation and bought tickets. We were really pleased to raise £1500, through the hamper raffle and Mother's Day sale. Well done to all of the winners. The proceeds will go towards fundraising.

Parent Forum

The minutes of the recent parent Forum have been agreed and will be sent out by the parents who attended the meeting.

Summer Uniform

The children may wear summer uniform after the Easter Holiday. Please be mindful that we do not have a mixture of the summer and winter uniforms; please choose one or the other. Details of the summer uniform can be found on our school website at <https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=101>

Please do not have your child's ears pierced during the Easter break as they are not allowed to wear earrings to school. If they have them pierced during the holidays, they will have to remove the piercing studs and the holes will not have time to heal. Ears are best pierced at the beginning of the summer holidays.

Please remember that children are not permitted to have their hair coloured with colours other than that of Holy Cross colours. Also, I am noticing an increasing number of hair accessories that are not Holy Cross colours. If your child is wearing these they will be asked to take them out

It is important that parents support us with our uniform policy so that children look smart as they represent our school.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Jacob	Squirrels:	Arthur
Badgers:	Elaeh	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Leonardo	Rabbits:	Maya
Kingfishers:	Kenna-Kah	Robins:	Hillary
Eagles:	Ollie	Owls:	Hector

Year 4 Hampton Court Trip

On Friday 21st March 2025, Year 4 went on a school trip to Hampton Court Palace.

In the morning, the children took part in 2 activities; 'Investigating Henry' where we looked at a range of different sources to work out answers to questions about Henry VIII, and 'King Henry's Court' where we were guided around parts of the Palace and being told about what would happen there and who would be living or working in that area of the Palace.

After lunch we spent time exploring the grounds and gardens around the Palace before heading back to the coach to come home.

All of the children had a great time and had some really great questions for the activity leaders.



Reception Barleylands Trip

Reception had a lovely day at the farm last week and we were so lucky to have such lovely weather! After the coach journey there, we began our day by putting our things in our room for the day, having a snack, and listening to information about how to stay safe at the farm. We then collected some animal food and walked down to find the animals. We fed sheep and goats, and we saw the pigs, rabbits and baby lambs. We then went to see lots of birds of prey, owls, skunks, meerkats and lots of lizards, snakes, spiders, tortoises and insects. We even saw a crocodile! We looked at some of the old tractors and machinery and then went to have our lunch.

After lunch we had a little play, saw a few more animals, and then we went to meet the farmer for a bumpy tractor ride. We went through the Equestrian Centre next the farm and we saw lots of horses. After this we visited the wildlife area and saw different types of chickens.

We had a lovely play in the park afterwards and we took in turns to have a go on the bouncy pillow. On the way back to our room at the end of the day we walked through the Wallaby Walk. We saw some wallabies relaxing in the sun, and we were lucky enough to see a tiny baby inside the mummies pouch.



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 Eagles attaining 98% 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	92%
Ladybirds	91%
Dragonflies	95%
Grasshoppers	93%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	99%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	96%
Hares	95%
Rabbits	95%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	97%
Eagles	98%
Owls	92%

Gospel Value Awards

Simplicity

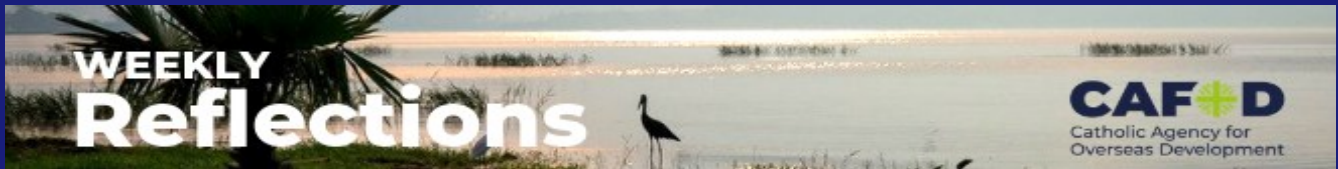
calm, uncomplicated, trust

"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:	Ethan	Ladybirds:	Juwon
Dragonflies:	Aminda	Grasshoppers:	Jax
Hedgehogs:	Cali	Squirrels:	Elissa
Badgers:	Edie	Foxes:	Caliyah
Hares:	Eliora	Rabbits:	Ivy
Kingfishers:	Parker	Robins:	Dylan
Eagles:	Aurora	Owls:	Sean



Based on the psalm for Sunday 6 April, Fifth Sunday of Lent: Psalm 126: 1-2b, 2c-3, 4-5, 6 R.3

**"He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him."**

"We left our houses due to the war, at the beginning of 2012," says Salim, a Syrian man displaced with his family. They were away from their home for many years.

Now Salim and his family have finally been able to return home, thanks to help from our local experts.

"We were so happy with the work [to restore the building]," he declares. "We dream that our neighbourhood will be back as it was. It was very beautiful. It was like a big park, with all its gardens, with its people. We have high hopes for the future."

Signs of hope are everywhere. As Pope Francis writes in the Bull of Indiction for this Jubilee Year, "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." (Spes non confundit, #1)

Can we dream of peace in a time of war? Can this Holy Year be a time for all of us to make a commitment to build peace?

"May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called 'children of God' (Mt 5:9). The need for peace challenges us all and demands that concrete steps be taken." (Spes non confundit, #8)

God of joy,
may we become builders of peace during this Holy Year of Jubilee. May we communicate the joy that comes with creating new paths of peace in the world.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Let us live Lent as a time of healing. I wholeheartedly thank all those who imitate the Saviour and heal their neighbours with their words, knowledge, affection, and prayer.

Wednesday 2nd April 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 6th April 2025

THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and, as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, "Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?" They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this, they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go away, and don't sin any more."

Taken from John 8:1-11 The Fifth Sunday of Lent, 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.

Why this reading from John in the middle of the Year of Luke? All the other gospels during this Lenten season have been from Luke. The answer is that it is an independent, floating story which does not even fit into the Gospel of John. In early manuscripts of the gospels this story moves around and is found in various places before it becomes anchored as an example of Jesus' teachings just after he says, 'Our Law does not allow us to pass judgement on anyone without first giving them a hearing' (John 7:51). It is appropriate for this Year of Luke because the tone of the story and the theme of welcome for the repentant sinner are both thoroughly Lukan, a theme which is constantly stressed in Luke's Gospel (for example, in the Parable of the Prodigal Son). What did Jesus write on the ground, or was it that he was just doodling to allow the accusers time to reflect on their self-righteousness? The latter is certainly one of the main concerns of St Luke's Gospel, where it is made clear that you cannot be a follower of Christ without first admitting your sinfulness: when Peter meets Jesus, he tells Jesus to go away, because he (Peter) is a sinner; Zacchaeus recognises that he is a sinner and promises to make multiple restitution for his embezzlements; the woman at the supper weeps for her sins at Jesus' feet. **Why do you think Jesus wrote on the ground? Do I find myself judging others too quickly and too often?**

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 NEW START !

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 6th April 2025**



1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

The New Exodus

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters, who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: "No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.



During Lent we have been working through the story of Israel preparing – or being prepared – for the coming of Christ: we have heard of Adam, Abraham, Moses, the monarchy, and now we hear of the promise of a new beginning. For that is what Easter is. This part of Isaiah was written during the Exile of the Jews in Babylon, a traumatic event which seemed to them to be the end of all their hopes; it seemed to be permanent condition of exile and slavery, far from their beloved Jerusalem - 'There we sat and wept,' says the Psalmist. But the prophet (whose work is attributed to Isaiah) set out to re-invigorate them with the promise that they would return to Jerusalem, and that the wonders of the Exodus from Egypt would be renewed. There would be a new road across the desert and miraculous supplies of water for the travellers. The desert would bloom afresh (for the slightest supply of water brings the withered plants to life in the spring), and the curious beasts of the desert, jackals and ostriches, would praise the Lord. There is a lesson for us too. Our trust in God teaches us – and our own experience eventually grudgingly reinforces this – that seemingly total disaster can become a source of strength and instruction.

In what way would you wish to be transformed by the new beginning of Easter?

All our power comes from the Resurrection of Christ.



2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Pushing Ahead for Olympic Gold

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.



As we prepare for the celebration of the Passion next week, we read of Paul's own struggle in this letter to his special friends at Philippi in Northern Greece. He is tired, probably already quite elderly, and longs to finish his race and be with Christ in tranquility. The games and athletic contests were the football tournaments of the ancient world. Corinth, where Paul spent so long, was the centre for the Isthmian Games (more important at the time than the Olympics) and Paul often uses imagery of running and even boxing. He knows the thrill of the contest, but at the same time he recognizes that all our power comes from the Resurrection of Christ. Christ endured and was raised by the Father. Often for us Christianity consists of also enduring – enduring slights, insults or neglect and replying with a cheerful word or gesture which dissolves the hurt and seeks to renew friendship and genuine relationship. There is no need aggressively to turn the other cheek; it needs more of the courage of Christ to reply with a positive advance. If I can bring myself to ask, 'What would Jesus have done?' I am already sharing in his strength. In this way, the aggression of the athlete is redirected!

Apart from his suffering and death, what do you find most inspiring about Jesus' life-story and his character as portrayed in the gospels?

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**



1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Living Lent 2025

Jesus was teaching in the Temple when the teachers of the Law brought a woman to him who had broken the Law. They said to Jesus, "Master, this woman has broken the Law and should be stoned to death. What have you to say?" Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." When they heard this they went away quietly, one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman. Then Jesus asked the woman, "Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I. Go, but do not sin any more," said Jesus.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 6th April 2025 Cf. John 8:1-11 (the 5th Sunday of Lent, 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 words, which are **NEW START**.



2

This Wednesday's Words are ...

NEW START



"Let us allow God's constant help to make us new people." Pope Francis

What did Jesus say to the woman? This Sunday's Gospel reveals the depths of God's mercy and compassion and the need for each one of us, in our own way, to make a new start with God. Regardless of our past, each day we are given an opportunity to make a new start. Jesus just waits for us with the gentleness and patience of God. Lent is traditionally a time for making a new start. Ask your child if they have made any new starts this Lent. If so, how's it going? How does their new start help them or others? It may help your child if you mention any new starts you have made recently - or especially for Lent - and tell them how it's going for you.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." St Teresa of Calcutta

God is always ready to help us to start afresh. As Easter approaches, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God? Perhaps we can: remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; follow Jesus' example in this Sunday's Gospel by being merciful to others. You may also like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be more understanding and always ready to make a **new start** with you and with each other. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE 8 WORDS EITHER **ACROSS OR DOWN**

JESUS
 WRITING
 TEACHERS
 LEFT
 STOP
 SINNING
 START
 ANEW

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY**

J	E	C	H	S	W	E	A	N	H	S
U	S	T	A	R	T	J	N	Z	G	C
S	S	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	J
T	T	C	O	A	N	G	W	S	E	E
I	O	A	W	P	C	H	C	S	U	T
R	P	G	R	E	C	H	E	T	S	S
W	W	R	I	T	T	F	E	L	J	G
G	N	I	T	I	R	W	G	R	E	W
N	G	S	I	N	N	I	N	G	S	R
A	W	E	N	A	L	E	F	T	U	I
W	I	N	G	N	I	N	N	I	S	C

creptlihed scitrh stahcid tocneh

"Has no ___ condemned you?" "No one, ___," she _____. "Neither do I," _____ Jesus.

Cross out the letters **c h f** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

We all sometimes do wrong things which upset others and can make us feel sad too. But God still loves us and will always give us the strength to make a new start with him and with each other.

This week I will try my best to ...

.....
.....



Happy Birthday this week to...

Zuzanna, Antoni, Ellie, Hugo,
Tharani, Kweku, Aoife
Bali & River



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Ksawery, for fantastic writing about our school trip to the farm.
Ladybirds: Isabella, for being a great independent learner.
Dragonflies: Justin, for being a kind friend to others.
Grasshoppers: Jayden, for a positive attitude and wonderful effort in all subjects.
Hedgehogs: Filip, for excellent effort with his handwriting.
Squirrels: Tilly, for an outstanding observational drawing in art.
Badgers: Arribella, for always trying her best at all times.
Foxes: Daniel, for his increased efforts, making great progress in maths.
Hares: Eva, for great effort in all lessons and beautiful presentation.
Rabbits: Charlotte, for great effort in all lessons and lovely manners.
Kingfishers: Jalynn, for her fantastic R.E. work this week.
Robins: Feodora, for her wonderful attitude in all lessons.
Eagles: Teodora, for being a kind and helpful member of Eagles.
Owls: Emilie, for working hard in all lessons.

House Points

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

New menu week 1

Diary Dates

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

Monday 21st April

Easter Monday -
school closed

Tuesday 22nd April

First day of Summer term
Boosters - Year 6

Wednesday 23rd April

Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 24th April

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 25th April

KS2 assembly 9:00
KS1 assembly 14:30



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