

25th April 2025



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

Rest in Peace Pope Francis

We have been deeply saddened by the passing of Pope Francis on Monday. The children have had lessons this week which have focused on his life, on his mission and on the difference that he made to our school life and to the world around us. He cared passionately about the poor, the marginalised and about the environment. He was a passionate campaigner for peace in the world. The children have learned about his humility and the humble life that he led in a simple apartment in the grounds of the Vatican rather than the stately apartments he was offered.

There have been some beautiful, moving tributes paid to Pope Francis this week and I felt this was very poignant:

His Holiness Pope Francis was unlike any who came before him. Pope Francis will be remembered as one of the most consequential leaders of our time and I am better for having known him. For decades, he served the most vulnerable across Argentina and his mission of serving the poor never ceased. As Pope, he was a loving pastor and challenging teacher who reached out to different faiths. He commanded us to fight for peace and protect our planet from a climate crisis. He advocated for the voiceless and powerless. He made all feel welcome and seen by the Church. He promoted equity and an end to poverty and suffering across the globe. And above all, he was a Pope for everyone. He was the People's Pope - a light of faith, hope, and love.



I have been very moved by the beautiful prayers and work that the children have written from their hearts this week. This will be a very special newsletter only containing the children's very precious thoughts and words about the Holy Father.

Eternal rest grant unto him Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace amen.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Science Workshops

Please do not bring younger siblings to the Science workshops, next week. Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate them and they can be distracting for the class, when being taught.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Tarling and her husband on the birth of their gorgeous twins, Theodore and Reuben, who made an early entrance into the world. They were born at just under 31 weeks at the start of the Easter holidays.

Both boys and parents are doing well, despite their hurry to be born!



**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY
PARENT, STAFF AND
CHILDREN**

**COMMUNITY
HELPERS DAY**

**SATURDAY 26TH APRIL
10AM TO 3PM**

Your help is needed with our outdoor areas



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Ollie	Squirrels:	Allison
Badgers:	Stephanie	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Dominic	Rabbits:	Sarah
Kingfishers:	Erin	Robins:	Miruna
Eagles:	Christiana	Owls:	Ella

22.4.25



Heavenly God,

We thank you for the life of Pope Francis, we thank you for everything you have done on his life. We remember the love, care and passion he showed to everyone and to the planet. We ask that you will bless him and that he will rest in peace.

We pray for the poor and those that were guided by Pope Francis' light. As we remember Pope Francis we ask for your guidance to continue to do good and pilgrims of hope. Let us aspire to be like him and never forget his legacy and everything he did for us. We pray for those deciding the new Pope. We ask that you will guide them. We ask that we will never forget the difference the pope made in our lives.

Amen

Dear POPE FRANCIS

Thank you for being

FORGIVING TO PEOPLE. THANK YOU FOR

SHOWING HUMILITY AND BEING VERY

GENTLE. THANK YOU FOR LIVING

A SIMPLE LIFE BY SHOWING SIMPLICITY.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE POOR EVERY

DAY. THANK YOU FOR #SHOWING

HUMILITY BY BEING VERY HUMBLE.

From HARCEY.T.C

Prayer for Pope Francis

Dear Heavenly God,
As I sit here I pray
that you help
Francis in heaven.

We should give up
sometime today to
reflect on him.

Help us to be kind
and strong just like
him. Please give

us world peace.
In Jesus' name.

Amen

x

Heavenly King,

We thank you for the life of Pope Francis.

We thank you for the messages of ~~love~~ compassion and love that you spread through him so that we can love each other.

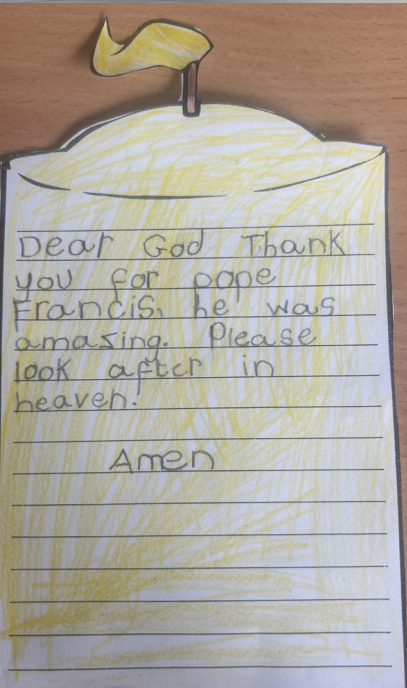
We pray that his soul shall rest in the love and care of you in the never-ending blessings he has ~~waited~~ waiting for him in the never-ending light of salvation.

May Pope Francis be joined forever to the holy pontiffs.

Hear our voice as we pray for the poor and those who are deeply saddened because of this tragic death. May they be comforted in your hands of care.

We pray that the Church will choose a kind and generous man just like Pope Francis. May he be guided in your light.

~Amen~



A prayer for Pope Francis

Pope Francis

Heavenly Father,

As we come together today, we thank and praise you for the life of Pope Francis.

We thank you for his long and meaningful life and for all the valid messages you have delivered through him.

We pray that his soul will now rest in peace with you in heaven.

We also pray that no one will forget the things he has achieved like the teaching of the Common Good and laudato si. Please ^{guide} light the way to the people who are choosing the future Pope.

Let us carry on being pilgrims of hope.

Amen

Let him rest in peace.

Theme: POPE FRANCIS

Dear loving God

thank you for letting Pope Francis

be part of this world he was

a reflection of you he followed

your foot steps he was so

generous and grateful

and now he has

inspired me to be humble

Please take care of him

Amen



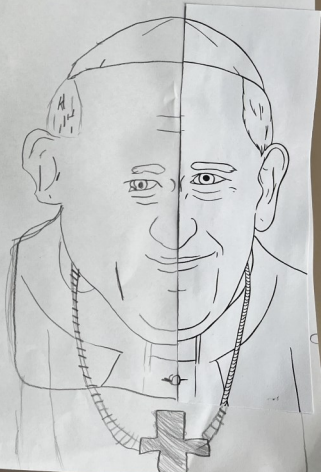
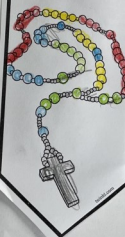
These are the initials of the Jesuit order which Pope Francis is a member of. The cross represents of Jesus' sacrifice for us. The star on the left represents Mary and the tube rose on the right represents St. Joseph.

Argentina

Pope Francis

17.12.1936 - 21.4.2025

The Life of Pope Francis



Holy Cross Academy

Science workshops



Tuesday 29th April

Reception, Years 1 and 2
9.10am to 10.10am

Years 3, 4 and 5
11am to 12pm



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Robins 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	92%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	95%
Grasshoppers	94%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	88%
Hares	95%
Rabbits	93%
Kingfishers	97%
Robins	99%
Eagles	95%
Owls	90%

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:	Jude	Ladybirds:	Lia
Dragonflies:	Micah	Grasshoppers:	Stefan
Hedgehogs:	Zach	Squirrels:	Noah
Badgers:	Lottie	Foxes:	Memphis
Hares:	Freddie	Rabbits:	Summer
Kingfishers:	Erin	Robins:	Jayden
Eagles:	Luisa	Owls:	Ella

Based on the gospel for Sunday 27 April, Second Sunday of Easter: John 20:19-31

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

This gospel invites us to reflect on how much of a blessing it is to believe.

In the risen Jesus' encounters with his friends, we see that even those who were close to Jesus, and had witnessed his miracles firsthand, had their doubts. The passage opens with most of the disciples hiding in fear behind closed doors. They could not believe until they saw Christ's wounds and Thomas could not believe until he touched them.

Perhaps we too can sympathise with the disciples' fear and doubt. Injustice and suffering can put our faith to the test. Sometimes, heartbreak, loss or abandonment can make us feel like hope is simply a lost cause.

As we reflect on the gospel, we can be encouraged by Jesus who meets each person exactly where they are. Jesus knows our pain as he carried the wounds of the whole world. As the risen Jesus shows Thomas his marks in his hand and side, we are assured that even the worst suffering and injustice can be transformed by God into new life.

This Eastertide let's open the door of our hearts to the new hope that the resurrection brings.

Loving God,
thank you for reminding us that we can place our hope and trust in you. Grant us the faith to say, with Thomas, "My Lord and my God".
Amen.

Holy Cross Excel at Cycling Festival

Eleven children from Years 3-6 travelled to Church Langley Primary School this morning to participate in a Cycling Festival.

This event consisted of many trials where the children had to use their skills of poise and balance while manoeuvring their bicycles, all the time competing, at speed, against other schools.

I'm delighted to report that Holy Cross were the first team to have all members successfully around the course and in doing so were triumphant as winners.

This event helped to build teamwork as well as determination within all. Well done to the children, who as always, did us proud.





1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

The disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" and he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there when Jesus came and he refused to believe what had happened. One week later, they were in the room again, and Thomas was also there. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Here, touch the marks on my hands and feel the wound in my side. Doubt no longer, but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe!"



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 27th April 2025 - John 20:19-31 (the 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year C)

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

2

"We all have in our hearts some areas of unbelief. Let us say to the Lord: I believe!" Pope Francis

What did Jesus say about those who believed without seeing? After seeing the risen Jesus, Thomas believed that he was alive - he still is! Believing in the resurrection adds something very special to our lives and this cannot be found anywhere else. Jesus invited Thomas to believe and he makes the same invitation to you and me. Ask your child what the word 'believe' means to them, and what it means to 'believe' in Jesus. Each of you say one way that believing in Jesus improves life?

3

Jesus' resurrection - his victory over death - is the greatest event in history! Even though, like Thomas, you may sometimes have doubts, be assured that, when you do doubt, Jesus is still truly close to you and ready to help you to believe. As we journey through Easter, which of the following ways could best help you, as a family, to grow in your belief in Jesus? Perhaps it could be: reading about what Jesus did and said; being with others who believe; asking God to help you grow in belief; living out Jesus' teachings and seeing the difference it makes to your lives.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help our **belief** in you to grow, through recognising your presence in the loving words and actions of those around us. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....



Wednesday 23rd 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 27th April 2025

JESUS IN THE UPPER ROOM

The doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. He said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord", he answered, "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Taken from John 20:19-31 The Second Sunday of Easter, 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.

Two aspects of this meeting with the risen Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the Gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix. At the end, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God: nowhere else is Jesus hailed as 'God', though there are other ways in which his divinity has been indicated. So in a way Thomas' greeting of the risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus' final blessing is one of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring these gifts to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants, each in turn broken by God's chosen people, but then re-created by a forgiving God. There was the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, and finally the new covenant is promised by Jeremiah after unfaithful Israel had been exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for the sinner, who is surrounded by other sinners. As forgiven sinners we are exhorted to bring forgiveness to all those around us. **How, as a forgiven sinner and part of a community of forgiven sinners, do I demonstrate the power of God's forgiveness?**

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 **BELIEVE!**

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 27th April 2025**



1st Reading: Acts 5:12-16

The Early Community

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.



Before he tells us of the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, St Luke (the author of the Acts of the Apostles), describes the ideal community in Jerusalem. He stresses the unity of this community, their prayer together, their common ownership of all their possessions, their generosity to those in need, and their steadfastness under persecution by the authorities who refused to accept their message. It is the model for any Christian community, which all our Christian communities need to strive to imitate and become real centres of the love and confidence of Christ. In today's reading St Luke tells how in the early community the same signs and wonders of healing which Jesus himself had worked are now worked by the apostles too, and especially by Peter. It is a theme throughout the Acts that the followers of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, continue his work and are alive with his life, expressing the power of the risen Christ, who remains with them always. St Luke also wants to underline that Jerusalem is being given a second chance: the people there had rejected Jesus, but now they have another opportunity to welcome him, this time at the hands of his apostles, the witnesses to his resurrection. This is why St Luke underlines that the numbers of believers increased steadily. But the martyrdom of Stephen will mark the end and the failure of this second chance.

What work of Christian healing can I do now?

The risen Christ will release her people from all sorrow and sadness.



2nd Reading: Revelation 1:9-13. 17-19

A Vision of the LORD Jesus Christ

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, "Write down all that you see in a book." I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of Man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come."



The first reading during the season of Eastertide is about the beginnings of the Church; in Year C the second reading (taken from the Book of Revelation), is about the end and completion of the Church. This book, the last book of the Bible, was written to assure Christians, struggling under persecution from the Roman Empire, that the risen Christ would eventually bring his Church to triumph and release her people from all sorrow and sadness. It uses extravagant, cosmic imagery to emphasize God's total control of the universe, heaven and earth, and all that is in them. It is very imaginative, drawing heavily upon the imagery of the Old Testament and upon the symbolism of numbers. The narrator is the Apostle John, exiled to the Greek island of Patmos, and it begins with a vision of the risen Christ in all his glory. The phrase 'Son of Man' (used in this reading), was Jesus' favourite way of referring to himself. Here the 'Son of Man' is also reminiscent of the Son of Man in the prophet Daniel's vision; to him God gives all power over the universe. The seven lamp-stands (seven is the perfect number), represent the seven local Churches of Asia to whom the Book was primarily addressed. **This vision of Christ was written down to inspire and energize a real Christian community; can it help to inspire and energize mine?**

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**

Happy Birthday in the Easter holiday to....

Azari, Isabel, Lucas, Jude, Sian, Ella, Hayley,
Jemie, Nicole-Marie, Maya, Adele, Roman,
Arabella, Ucheoma, Axel, Adem, & Albie



And this week to...

Michael, Sreedivya, Sreekruthik, Oluoma, Aroha, Javonte-Blu,
Oliver, April, Ollie, Basil, Eduard, Freddie & Jalynn

Headteacher Award

Joel, for his fantastic attitude inside and outside of the classroom

Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Isabella, for a fantastic attitude to learning and for making great choices in provision.
Ladybirds: Luna, for excellent remembrance and retelling of the Easter story.
Dragonflies: Adele, for making such an improvement in phonics and maths.
Grasshoppers: Aiden, for excellent effort in his reading.
Hedgehogs: Jacob, for interesting and detached homework.
Squirrels: Harley, for working really hard in maths.
Badgers: Kyren, for making a conscious effort to complete all his work.
Foxes: Zuzanna, for her 'wearable tech' designs in D.T.
Hares: Blousey, for making great progress in maths.
Rabbits: Joel, for his amazing effort in his maths work!
Kingfishers: Jacob, for his very thoughtful and considered R.E. work- well done Jacob!
Robins: Rose, for her amazing R.E. work about Jesus.
Eagles: Evie, for excellent D.T. work.
Owls: Sian, for being a positive role model.

House Points

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

New menu week 2

Diary Dates

Science Week

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

Monday 28th April

Tuesday 29th April

Wednesday 30th April

Thursday 1st May

Friday 2nd May

Planetarium visit

Parents science workshops

Planetarium visit

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Year 1 Superhero day

Hares swimming

Boosters - Year 6

Karate - Years 2 & 3

KS2 assembly 9:00

Boosters - Year 6

Year 2 parents SATs meeting
15:30

KS1 assembly 14:30

Year 3 & 4 Outdoor
games club

Y 1 Phonics booster

Y1 Forest club

Football club

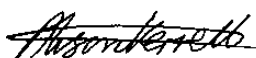
Y1 & 2 Multi-sports club

Y1 Gardening



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