



2nd May 2025



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

### Weekly Reflection on the Gospel of the 3rd Sunday of Easter

The Gospel this Sunday leads us to think that sometimes it is easier to extend kindness to strangers than to those who have deeply hurt us. Do we find ourselves helping people we barely know, yet when it comes to former friends, colleagues or family members who have wronged me, I hesitate. Even when we know they are in need, I tell myself that if they don't ask for help, it has nothing to do with us-not a problem for me!

Let us follow in the footsteps of Jesus and try to embrace his spirit of forgiveness, if we can our world would be a more peaceful and compassionate place. Just as the disciples' nets overflowed when they trusted Jesus, choosing forgiveness can bring an abundance of healing, reconciliation and hope - not just in our lives but in communities everywhere.



Wishing everyone a wonderful Bank Holiday Weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

### SATs Week

Our Year 6 children have their much-anticipated SATs tests in just over a week from now: week beginning the 12th May. They have all worked incredibly hard and shown great resilience and we could not be prouder of them. Please keep the children in your prayers as they enter this week-long week of tests.

We will be serving our well-loved **SATs Breakfast** on the Monday-Thursday mornings of SATs week and if you have a Year 6 child they are very welcome to come along and have a free breakfast. We encourage all our Year 6s (sorry no siblings) to do this and **be at school for 8am**.

## Isle of Wight Meeting

Once the SATs are over we will turn our thoughts to the Year 6 Residential Visit to the Isle of Wight. We will hold a meeting for parents and Year 6 children on Wednesday 22nd May at 3.30pm when we will give out some very important information about the trip. If you can't make this date and time we can send you the slides and I am always happy to chat to parents about the trip if you have any questions.

## MAY-Month of Devotion to Our Lady

In May we have special devotion to Our Lady and we will pray the Rosary every day with the children at lunchtime. **On Wednesdays just after drop off and at 3pm before pick up I would like to invite parents and families to join with me in praying the Rosary during the month of May.**

You may also like to follow this link to access some resources for praying the Rosary together as a family:

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary>

## Save the Date

We have some important events coming up that I would like to highlight in case you need to ask for some time off work.

Sports Day and Picnic (Fete)-This year we are planning a Sports Week with traditional races on the morning of the 18th June. Reception and Key Stage one will start at 9.00am and Key Stage 2 at 10.30am. Parents and families are invited to come along and watch the races. At 12 noon we will then move into our Family Picnic and Fetes afternoon (meaning parents only need to book 1 day off as we are combining them this year!).

Leavers Mass: This will be in the church this year and will take place on Monday 21st July at 9:30am. This will be limited to our Year 6 parents or parents of children who are leaving our school.

All the other important dates for the summer term can be found by following this link to our website:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=3&pid=133&viewid=41>

## Parent Consultation Meetings-summer term

As teachers write a more detailed report in the summer term for the end of the year with your child, we will no longer be holding Parent Consultation meetings on one specific morning. Instead, once you have read your child's report and if there are any questions regarding it, then you are invited to make an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher at the end of term.

## Uniform

A reminder about uniform-children may now wear the summer uniform if they wish. If girls are wearing cycling shorts underneath their summer dress these must be Holy Cross colours and plain. Children are not permitted to wear trainers, crocs or open sandals and must have school socks with their footwear-no bare feet.

**PE Kit: Children MUST have black sports shorts (not cycling shorts) or black tracksuit bottoms (not leggings) for PE. Tracksuit bottoms must be plain or be the school tracksuit bottoms. No Logos please.**

Hair accessories and hair beads and hair Braids must be Holy Cross colours. Children are not allowed earrings or other jewellery and no Smartwatches.

Please ensure that in warm weather that your child has sun cream applied before school, a hat and a refillable water bottle with them.

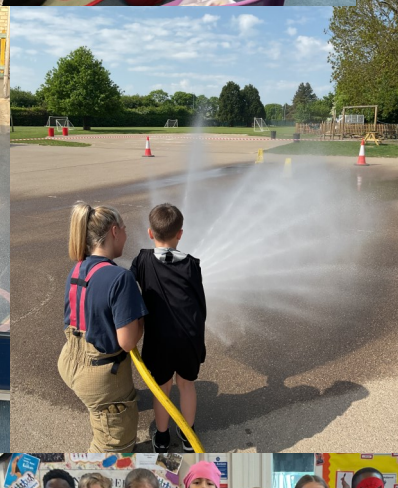
## Warmest Congratulations

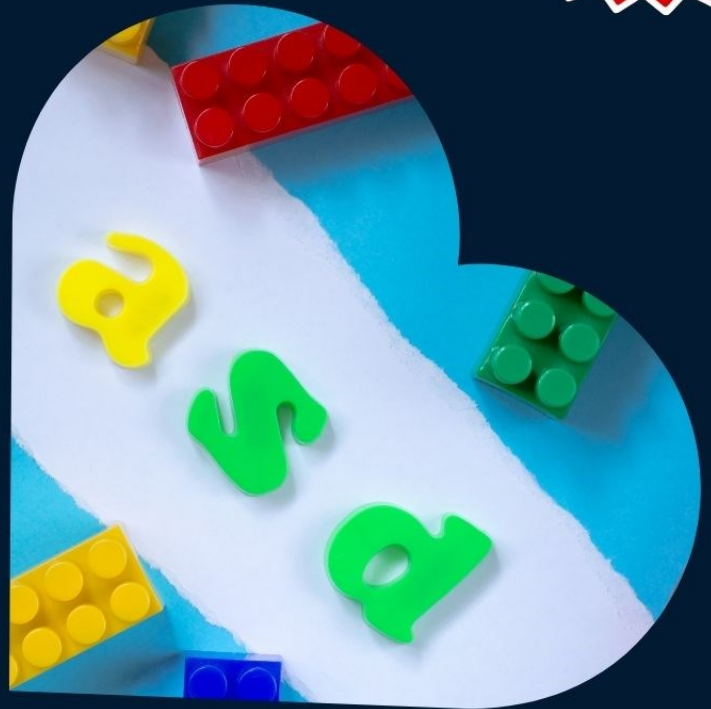
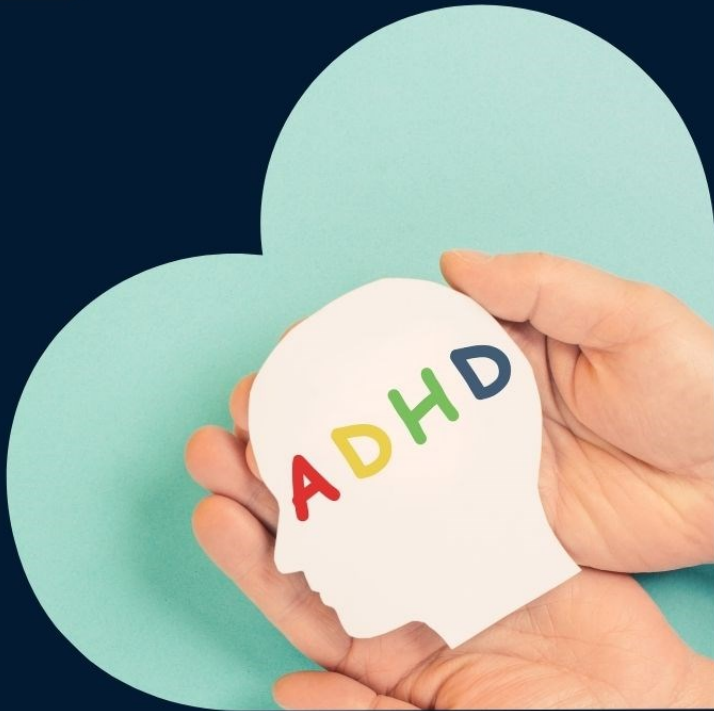
Our warmest congratulations to Mr and Mrs Huggett who got married last Saturday. We wish them every happiness for the future.



# SUPER HERO DAY

In relation to our learning about superheroes, Year 1 had the most amazing superhero day. The children all looked amazing with a range of superheroes and real-life superhero costumes. We all made and decorated our own super shields. We also had a very special visit from Harlow Fire Service. The crew were amazing and spoke to the children all about the wonderful work they do and how they are real life superheroes. The children got to look at different equipment, clothes and even got to shoot water from the firehose! What a fantastic day.





## **ADHD & ASD: Join Our Support Network!**

Are you a parent or carer of a child, or teen, with ADHD or ASD? Gain valuable insights and connect with others who understand your journey. Attend our informative online sessions to learn more about your child's needs and build a supportive community.

 Upcoming online sessions this May:

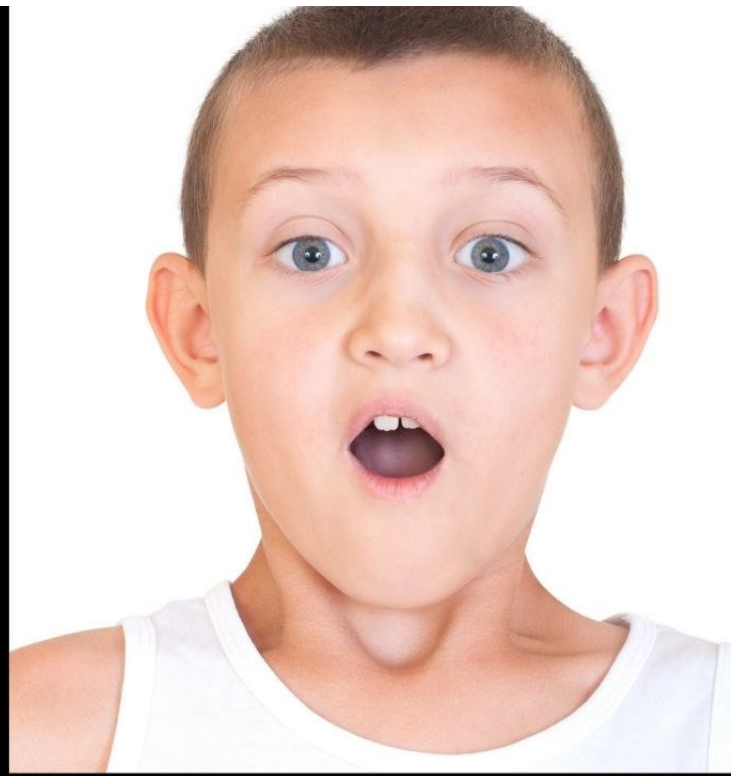
- Understanding ADHD In Children
- Understanding ASD In Children
- Understanding ADHD & ASD In Children
- Understanding ADHD & ASD: Teen Boys

Don't miss out! Register today and be part of a supportive network.

### **Sign Up!**

Visit our website [aclessex.com](http://aclessex.com) and type '**ASD or ADHD**' in to the 'Find a course...' box

ACL



## EMPOWER YOUR CHILD TO MANAGE THEIR EMOTIONS

Are you a parent or carer looking to better support your child's emotional well-being? Join our sessions designed to help you understand and nurture your child's emotions.

FREE Online sessions available this May:  
Managing Big Emotions, Managing Anger, Self Esteem For Teens,  
Understanding Children's Anxiety, Understanding Teen Stress, Zones of Regulations.

Take the First Step Today by Signing Up!  
Visit [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and type 'emotions' in the search courses box

FREE

COMMUNITY &  
FAMILY LEARNING



Essex County Council

# 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 Badgers attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

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

**It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Arbor 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	94%
Ladybirds	97%
Dragonflies	97%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	99%
Badgers	99%
Foxes	98%
Hares	94%
Rabbits	98%
Kingfishers	95%
Robins	98%
Eagles	97%
Owls	96%

## Gospel Value Awards

### Justice

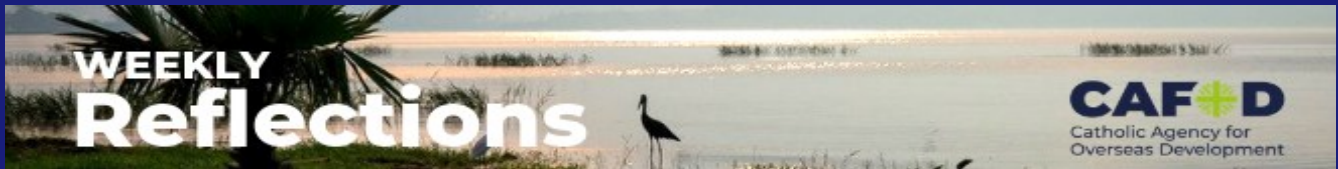
**fairness, equality, share for all**

"The Lord is gracious and merciful: patient and plenteous in mercy. The Lord is sweet to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. The Lord is just in all his ways: and holy in all his works." Psalm 145: 8-9, 17



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

Butterflies:	Sean	Ladybirds:	Dredon-Reign
Dragonflies:	Dillon	Grasshoppers:	Riley
Hedgehogs:	Keziah	Squirrels:	Luca
Badgers:	Dennis	Foxes:	Flynn
Hares:	Adam	Rabbits:	Elsie
Kingfishers:	Anayah	Robins:	Indiana
Eagles:	Giuseppe	Owls:	Jemie



Based on the gospel for Sunday 4 May, Third Sunday of Easter: John 21:1-19

"Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.'"

It is often easier to extend kindness to strangers than to those who have deeply hurt us. I find myself readily assisting people I barely know, yet when it comes to former friends, colleagues or family members who have wronged me, I hesitate. Even when I know they are in need, I convince myself that if they do not ask for help, I am not obligated to offer it.

But look at Jesus. The disciples abandoned him in his darkest hour - one denied him, others fled, and yet, when they are at their lowest, Jesus does not wait for them to come to him. He sees their frustration from a distance and meets them with compassion.

Here is Jesus, standing on the shore, calling them once again, just as he did at the beginning. It is as if he is saying, "Remember how it was before? Let's start over. I forgive you, and I am still calling you."

If we embraced this grace, our world would be a more peaceful and compassionate place.

Lord,  
soften my heart to love as you love, to forgive as you forgive, and to reach out  
in grace even when it's hard.  
Amen.



### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Braven	Squirrels:	Salem
Hares:	Abigail	Rabbits:	Evan
Kingfishers:	Joshua	Robins:	Liana
Eagles:		Owls:	Sophie

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

##### JESUS MEETS HIS DISCIPLES AT THE LAKE

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We'll come with you." They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, "Have you caught anything, friends?" And when they answered, "No", he said, "Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something." So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land. As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, "Who are you?"; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead. After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, "Yes Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." Then he said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked him the third time 'Do you love me? and said, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go." In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, "Follow me."

**Taken from John 21:1-19 The Third 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.

This epilogue to the Gospel of John shows an extraordinary link with Luke's version of the Call of the Disciples: the same unsuccessful fishing all night transformed into success at Jesus' command, and then the commission to proclaim the Gospel. As in so many encounters with the risen Christ, he is an awesome figure, the same person but mysteriously changed, so that the disciples have difficulty recognising him. In addition, here in John's Gospel, we have the touching scene of Peter's restoration: a triple declaration of love and loyalty is extorted from Peter to compensate for his triple denial, and a triple commission is given to him, concluding with the repeat of his call, "Follow me" – as the prophecy of his martyrdom still echoes in his ears. While Matthew's Gospel concludes with a promise that the risen Christ will be always with his Church, this Gospel illustrates what this will look like in practice: Jesus feeds his followers at the picnic breakfast. Why the 153 fish? For the Venerable Bede it is too obvious: put together the numbers from 1 to 16, to this add 10 for the commandments and 7 for the days of creation, and you get 153. There may be more to it than that!

Is Peter's protestation of love after his denial an example to us (to turn back to the Lord and away from sin)? How can I become more aware of Christ's presence – particularly in the Eucharist, and so in each other?

*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 **WITNESS!**

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.**

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 4th May 2025**



**1st Reading: Acts 5:27-32. 40-41**

## The Apostles in the Dock

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. "We gave you a formal warning," he said, "not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us." In reply Peter and the apostles said, "Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.



By the time this hearing before the Sanhedrin (the supreme Jewish Council in Jerusalem) occurs, the apostles have already been arrested twice for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. The first time only Peter and John were arrested, interrogated and given a warning. Now it seems to be a whole group of the apostles. They were arrested, delivered from prison by an angel – another sign that God looks after his own people - and voluntarily went to face the Sanhedrin. The task of the apostle is first and foremost to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and his new life, a positive message of encouragement. Is our message of Christianity to those whom we meet always a message of encouragement? Does it always set out to inspire new life? All the way through the Acts of the Apostles we see the interplay of the harassment of Christ's messengers and God's protection of them. Peter is arrested and is about to be executed when he is delivered from prison by an angel. Later on, Paul is imprisoned and delivered from prison by an earthquake. It is no surprise that the same harassment, mockery and persecution continue throughout the history of the Church.

**What sort of hardships do I endure for the sake of Christ?**



**2nd Reading: Revelation 5:11-14**

## The Lamb in Glory

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, "The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing." Then I heard all the living things in creation - everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, "To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever." And the four animals said, "Amen"; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.



This second reading (from Revelation) shows us a scene in the heavenly throne-room, the Lamb sacrificed enthroned. In fact this is the second half of the scene, the first half of which describes God enthroned in glory. Now we see the triumphant Lamb on the same throne, being accorded the same honours by the 24 elders and by all living creatures as were earlier accorded to the LORD God. Note the sevenfold acclamation! Then there is a fourfold acclamation from the four animals, four-square, who (as in Ezekiel's vision of the divine throne) represent the solidity of the universe. The surest indication, already in the early Church, that the risen Christ was seen as fully equal to the Father is the equality of worship accorded to them both by the whole of creation. It is precisely as the sacrificed Lamb of God that Jesus enters into the sanctuary, seated on the throne of God and presenting the very sacrifice which we present in the Eucharist. There is no time in God, and this sacrifice is 'once and for all'. The sacrifice on our altars is no new sacrifice but is the sacrifice of obedience which Christ presents in permanence to his Father.

**What implications does this scene of the enthronement of the Lamb have for the full and final reality of our lives?**



**The risen Christ - fully equal to the Father.**



**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 the Gospel

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples for the third time. The disciples had been out fishing and as soon as they came ashore they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." Then he said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - John 21:1-19 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **WITNESS**

## 2 "Dear young people, Jesus is counting on you to be his friends and witnesses to his infinite love." Pope Francis

What was Peter's reply to Jesus' questions? What three things did Jesus tell Peter to do? Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times before the crucifixion. But now Jesus gives Peter the chance to say he loves him three times - preparing Peter to lead the Church. From this point onwards, St Peter's life witnessed to the truth about Jesus. Ask your child what the word 'witness' means to them. Who has recently brought the message of Jesus to your child? Who does your child know to be a great witness for Jesus?

## 3

St Peter gave witness to what Jesus did and who Jesus really was. Because of his witness, many people came to know and follow Jesus. Through our words, actions and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we too can be God's witnesses, through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. Choose a special way to be Jesus' witnesses - sharing and showing God's love to everyone you meet in this coming week. Perhaps you can: be kind and loving in your simple everyday words and actions; be a peacemaker; pray and ask God to make you a good witness.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be your **witnesses** by our love, so that others will come to know the joy of knowing you. Amen.



Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....  
.....



# WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



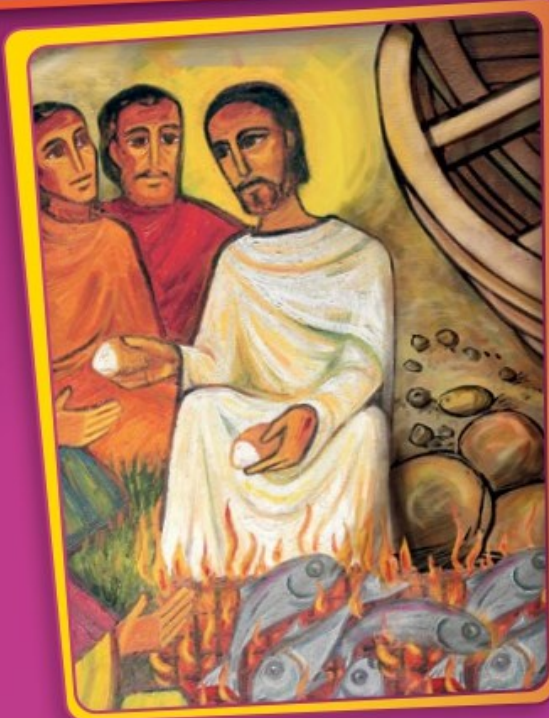
Can you find the following words in the Scripture Square?

E	D	P	J	J	R	G	B	N	X	S	D	T	K	G
A	M	R	S	V	S	Y	L	O	H	O	T	E	E	P
S	J	N	T	O	M	B	U	J	Q	A	E	A	G	E
T	G	Y	X	F	Z	H	V	X	W	W	Y	R	R	D
E	R	O	E	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	E	D	T	T
R	U	B	V	R	L	Q	V	N	B	M	O	T	D	R
T	I	E	E	K	D	Q	I	A	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>W</b>	W	E	Q
H	J	L	I	P	R	S	S	S	P	Z	E	Z	S	P
O	I	I	L	E	T	R	A	H	R	W	M	S	K	
M	Q	E	E	T	T	A	W	J	M	M	H	Q	E	D
A	A	V	B	E	S	R	D	R	U	O	I	R	N	R
S	Y	E	C	R	A	T	O	E	A	V	H	C	T	H
I	I	B	A	L	E	U	L	T	S	L	I	T	I	O
Q	K	F	Q	W	E	E	K	E	K	Q	B	C	W	L
<b>W</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>N</b>	Z	Q	X	M	C	P	Q	K	P	J	O	Y

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

- NEW START**
- HOLY WEEK**
- TOMB EASTER**
- THOMAS BELIEVE**
- PETER WITNESSED**

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



THERE ARE 8 MISSING PARTS IN THE BLACK AND WHITE PICTURE. FIND AND DRAW THE MISSING PARTS BEFORE COLOURING IN.

Happy Birthday this week to...

Naya, Blousey, Luca, Damian, Anaya,  
Kenzo-Larome, Yannick, Annaliesa,  
Luke & Myles



### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Zuzanna, for a fantastic picture and description of a dragon.  
Ladybirds: Hartley, for excellent work making teen numbers.  
Dragonflies: Kaleb, for his excellent learning in R.E.  
Grasshoppers: Stephanie, for working really hard in phonics.  
Hedgehogs: Chloe, for improved concentration in all areas.  
Squirrels: Samuel, for having a great attitude to learning.  
Badgers: Naomi, for really persevering in maths to find the correct answer.  
Foxes: Lyla, for her selfless attitude. She is always willing to help others.  
Hares: Tawana, for always having a great attitude towards her learning.  
Rabbits: Sophie, for having a fantastic attitude towards her learning.  
Kingfishers: Kenna, for her fantastic writing linked to myths and legends.  
Robins: Hillary, for his excellent attitude towards her work.  
Eagles: Cristiana, for always having a positive attitude towards her work.  
Owls: Aria, McGinty, for persevering in maths lessons.

### 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 5th May

Bank Holiday - school  
closed

#### Tuesday 6th May

Mass & May procession  
14:00  
Boosters - Year 6

#### Wednesday 7th May

Year 1 trip - Wyvernwood  
Karate - Years 2 & 3

#### Thursday 8th May

VE Day - non-uniform, red,  
white and blue  
Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

#### Friday 9th May

KS2 assembly 9:00  
KS1 assembly 14:30



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)