



9th May 2025



## Newsletter

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

### Weekly Reflection on the Gospel of the 4th Sunday of Easter



**PEACE BE WITH YOU**—the first words of our new Pope Leo XIV.



It is wonderful news as we enter the weekend to have a new Pope and we are excited to welcome our new Holy Father into our school and into our lives. We ask God to bless Pope Leo as he begins his new ministry. Let us all keep him in our thoughts and in our prayers.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

### **SATs Week**

Our Year 6 children have their much-anticipated SATs tests next week. 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 next week in 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>

### Panathlon

Today some Key Stage 1 children took part in a multi sports panathlon where they took part in various activities representing our school team. They had a great time, enjoyed it thoroughly and performed brilliantly



### Football

Our school football team visited Hare Street school to play a friendly match yesterday to get used to the pitch in preparation for our cup final, which is just over **1 week away!** They recorded a convincing win. There were lots of positives and things to work on for the coaches Mr Clarke and Miss Cargill.

There were no pictures from the match but many will be taken at the final.

We wish the team the very best of luck and we would love to see you at Hare Street school to get behind the team as they attempt to bring the Stacy Pardoe Cup back to Holy Cross on Saturday 17th May at 9.30 a.m.



### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Olivia	Squirrels:	Oliwier
Hares:	Rosie	Rabbits:	Christabel
Kingfishers:	Sofia	Robins:	Keaton
Eagles:	Amber	Owls:	Jemie



On Wednesday, Year 1 children went and visited a magical fairy kingdom called Wyvernwood. We had a really exciting day meeting goblins, a captain and even a princess! We went on a magical Dragons quest around the park and got to help find the missing treasure! The children loved exploring the park and were smiling and laughing all day!



**YOUNG MINDS**

**#HelloYellow**

**Wear Yellow for Mental Health**

**Come to school on  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
in something yellow**

**JOIN  
THE FUN**

**TIME  
FOR  
CHANGE**

**WE ALL  
MATTER**

**COW DAY**



**Come to school dressed as a  
cow, cowboy or cowgirl (no toy  
guns), milk maid or anything  
related to cows**

**on  
Thursday 22nd May 2025**

**CAFOD club are raising money to buy a  
Cow for a village in a poorer country.  
We will be having a bucket collection  
before and after school.**

# 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 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 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	93%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	96%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	89%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	91%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	99%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	98%
Eagles	96%
Owls	94%

## Gospel Value Awards

### Integrity

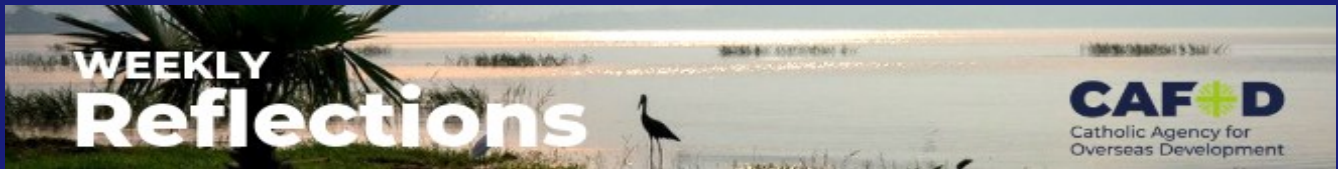
honesty, truth, honour, faithfulness

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Matthew 25: 14-30



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

Butterflies:	Kai	Ladybirds:	Ethan
Dragonflies:	J.J.	Grasshoppers:	Zuriel
Hedgehogs:	Hudson	Squirrels:	Malachi
Badgers:	Gerald	Foxes:	Damian
Hares:	Albie	Rabbits:	William
Kingfishers:	Phoebe	Robins:	Zachary
Eagles:	Anthonia	Owls:	Rohan



Based on the gospel for Sunday 11 May, Fourth Sunday of Easter, John 10:27-30

"Jesus said, 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.'"

This gospel is about listening to the message of Jesus, and then following him in how we live. He came to bring good news, but when we hear about natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and fires, or those that are created by people like wars, hunger, hatred and violence, it can be very difficult for us to hold onto hope.

God calls us to bring comfort to one another, and to provide assistance to those who have lost homes and belongings.

The daily Lent reflections from CAFOD reminded us that people in Kenya are working together with their communities to rebuild after drought and to produce more food to feed their children. They have remarkable resilience and hope.

As we listen to the voice of Jesus and try to follow his way, we pray that it may help all of us to spread hope.

#### Prayer

God of all people,  
you show us how much you care for us,  
by giving us Jesus as our Good Shepherd.  
His message brings us hope.

May he help us proclaim  
by what we do,  
that his message of hope  
is for all people in the world.  
May we be shepherds to one another  
and show practical care for anyone in need. Amen.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 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 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."

**Taken from John 10:27-30 The Fourth 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.

Jesus' teaching on the Good Shepherd is the nearest saying approaching a parable in John's gospel. It is so important that the Church puts it before us on the fourth Sunday of Easter in each of the three cycles of readings. Apart from its obvious sense of Jesus looking after his sheep – and silly, confused sheep at that – this image receives special meaning from the figure of the shepherd in the Old Testament. God is the primary shepherd of Israel, who pastures his sheep in pastures green so that they fear no evil (Psalm 23). In Ezekiel 34 God promises to free Israel from the self-centred shepherds who keep the sheep for their own advantage, and to send them a true shepherd after his own heart, a second King David, who will tend them as God himself would care for them. Thus, in putting before us each year in Eastertide this proclamation that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Church is affirming the risen Christ as the divine Shepherd who tends his flocks. Particularly in these verses we see the unity of the risen Christ and the Father in their role of shepherds of the sheep, just as in our second reading from the Book of Revelation we see the unity of the LORD God and the Lamb, both revered on the one throne.

**What is involved in imitating Christ as shepherd?**

*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 LIFE!**

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

**St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**The Jubilee  
Year of Hope**

**Share the Prayer:** Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org)

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 11th May 2025**



**1st Reading: Acts 13:14. 43-52**

## Paul Turns to the Gentiles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, "We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said, "I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth." It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.



In the Acts of the Apostles we witness the Christian message spreading to the ends of the earth. Yet three times Paul, as he does this, is rejected by his own people and forced to turn to the gentiles: once here in Asia Minor, once in Greece and finally in Rome. Each time he does so with a biblical gesture, shaking the dust off his feet, shaking out his cloak, finally in Rome quoting the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah ("You will indeed listen, but never understand ..."). Perhaps in God's providence this rejection of Paul's preaching was the means by which the Gospel reached beyond Judaism. **What can I do to help the mission to bring Christ (like Paul) to all nations?**

**Bring the Christian values as a leavening of society.**



**2nd Reading: Revelation 7:9. 14-17**

## The Innumerable Gathering of the Redeemed

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, "These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes."



In his vision John sees the countless numbers of the redeemed as they will be gathered at the throne of the Lamb. Their palms are the palms of victory and their robes, curiously washed white in blood, are the sign of integrity and innocence. The Book of Revelation was written at a time, whether of bloody persecution or not, when the temptation was overwhelming to submit to the dominance of Rome. This was not only political subjection but religious too, for the Lord Emperor was worshipped as a god. In every city there was an altar to Rome and to Augustus: the greater the city, the greater the temple. Worship of the Emperor and Rome set the whole tone for society. To join this worship was the only way to success and prosperity. Yet if Augustus is Lord, Christ cannot be LORD. Christians had to opt out of the emperor cult, and many paid with their blood. The victory was not by arms but by endurance. Today also there are many practices and beliefs in our society which Christians must opt out of – and yet we must also vigorously opt in, to bring the Christian values as a leavening of society.

**Do I give too much ground to the idols and standards of contemporary society?**

**The Wednesday Word** Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church  
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**



Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. The Gospel reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and that, if we listen to him, we can rely on him to guide our lives in the right direction.

Sheep are so unpredictable and undependable. They are easily startled and often run in the wrong direction, appearing constantly to change their mind. Sometimes we too can head in the wrong direction and we need help to keep our lives on the right path.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Jesus is the patient shepherd who never gives up on us. He came so that we could experience the fullness of life here, and to lead us into the joys of eternal life.

Enjoy a special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **LIFE**.

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



A Word from the Saints

**"To live well is to love God with all your heart."**

*Saint Augustine*

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025



Jesus said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."

*Adapted from John 10:27-30  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year C*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.  
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

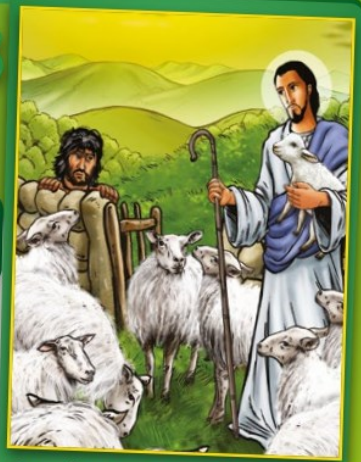
**Having Hope**  
in our Families

**Jesus wants us to share in his life because he loves us so much.** He offers us eternal life and that's a gift which we can begin to receive today. When we listen to Jesus and follow him we can already begin to experience eternal life, to live in God's love, here and now!



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

One day, Jesus said to the disciples, "My sheep listen to my voice. I know my sheep and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one."

**What does Jesus give to those who follow him?**

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

### Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

### 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Life is a gift from God. The voice of Jesus is unmistakable! He guides us along the path of life."

*Pope Francis*

# LIFE



Ask your child what the word 'life' means to them. Ask your child who, or what, makes their life happy right now. What is most important to them in their life? It may help your child if you tell them something that gives you life, or is important in your life. You might want to tell your child how they make your life special.



How can we follow Jesus the Good Shepherd this week, and make life better for others at home, at school or in the community? Perhaps we can: always tell the truth; be generous and share; listen carefully to wise parents, teachers and other good people; show our gratitude to all those who teach and lead us through life, and pray for them too; help someone to feel special and valued - to feel alive.

### 3

Dear Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who knows us by name and guides us through **life**. Please help us to follow you always. Amen.

### FINDING THREE

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

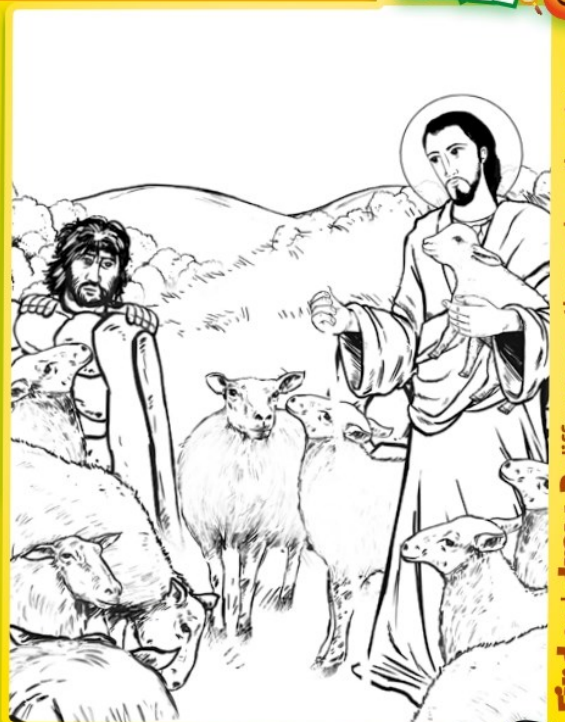
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>SHEEP</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>KNOW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>LISTEN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FOLLOW</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ETERNAL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>LIFE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JESUS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FATHER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **u b d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**beterdnalu kunbowd shudebep fodlulowb**

Jesus said, "I \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ and they \_\_\_\_\_ me. I give them \_\_\_\_\_ life."



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture



Jesus continues to be our Good Shepherd through the lives of people who show us how to live in a way that pleases God. He wants to make our lives special and complete, and he wants us to make life better for others too.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Dylan, Milin, Nojus, Juwon, Aidan,  
River, Nate, Indie & Luka



### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Ethan, for great enthusiasm in phonics.  
Ladybirds: Chase, for his outstanding effort to improve his listening and focus.  
Dragonflies: Felicity, for her fantastic ideas in English.  
Grasshoppers: Cameron James, for being a great role model to his peers.  
Hedgehogs: Autumn, for excellent effort with her creative writing.  
Squirrels: Alexandra, for writing excellent descriptive sentences.  
Badgers: Stephanie, for always following the rules and expectations.  
Foxes: Neave, for her great improvement in handwriting.  
Hares: Sophia, for writing a fantastic Tanka in English.  
Rabbits: Mayah, for having a mature attitude to her work.  
Kingfishers: Jack, for his fantastic R.E. work and contributions in lessons. Well done Jack!.  
Robins: Priscilla, for her superb answers in our class discussions.  
Eagles: Stanislaw, for excellent science work. Well done!  
Owls: Oliwier, for a great effort and enthusiasm in maths lessons.

### House Points

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

Menu week 2

## Diary Dates

### SATs Week

### Mental Health Awareness Week

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

#### Monday 12th May

Year 6 SATs breakfast 8:00

Hares swimming

Boosters - Year 6

Year 3 & 4 Outdoor games club

Y 1 Phonics booster

Y1 Forest club

Football club

Y1 & 2 Multi-sports club

Y1 Gardening

#### Tuesday 13th May

Year 6 SATs breakfast 8:00

Boosters - Year 6

#### Wednesday 14th May

Year 6 SATs breakfast 8:00

Family rosary 8:00

Karate - Years 2 & 3

#### Thursday 15th May

Year 6 SATs breakfast 8:00

CAFOD - Years 4 to 6

#### Friday 16th May

Non-uniform - wear yellow for Mind

KS2 assembly 9:00

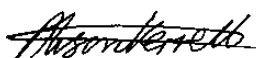
KS1 assembly 14:30

Parish youth group 18:00



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)