



16th May 2025



Newsletter

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

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

This week we have been thinking about the importance of having good Mental Health and in this, also good spiritual and physical health. At Holy Cross we are wholly committed to supporting our children with having good wellbeing. We offer our pupils lots of opportunities to be outside to enjoy fresh air and exercise and to drink lots of water throughout the day. We are here to listen when children are sad, struggling to manage their emotions and feelings or if they are worried.

Class teachers are always the first person who a child can talk to if they are worried and we are very lucky at Holy Cross to have lots of trusted adults who children feel they can talk to and who they know will offer lots of support. Mrs Gallagher, our dedicated Social and Emotional Mental Health Lead, is also available most days on the gate and children know that she is always there if they need any extra help.



THIS WEEK IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK. SO HERE ARE SOME REMINDERS...



It's ok to be struggling



Your feelings are always valid



Progress isn't always linear



You are stronger than you think



It is ok to ask for help when you need it



Small steps lead to big changes

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

SATs Week

Our Year 6 children have been incredible this week. They have shown so much determination and resilience. It was amazing to watch them take this last week in their stride and to approach every test with a 'can do' attitude. We are all very, very proud of them.

Isle Of Wight Meeting

We can now 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 this 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. This Wednesday 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>

Football Final

Tomorrow is the big day! Good luck to our school team in the Stacey Pardoe Cup final vs Freshwaters! We welcome Hector to our squad. He has impressed with his wonderful attitude and great skill.

Let's get behind the green army, 9.30 a.m at Hare Street school. The more the merrier! The weather is going to be great, there are food and drinks available and it will be a feast of football!!!



Times Tables Rockstars

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




Hedgehogs:	Yohanna	Squirrels:	Olivier
Badgers:	Stephanie	Foxes:	Myles
Hares:	Eva	Rabbits:	Maya
Kingfishers:	Margaret	Robins:	Diana
Eagles:	Teodora	Owls:	Ella

Harlow History Day

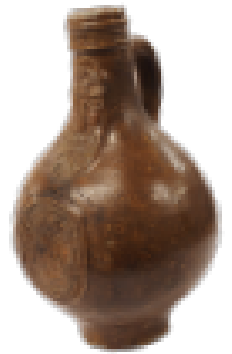
Saturday 17th May, 2025

11am - 1pm

Schools from around Harlow will be sharing their learning about different periods of Harlow History. All welcome.

-  There will be fun activities for adults and children alike to bring these periods alive.
-  A flint knapper will be making flint tools in the front courtyard, and visitors will have the opportunity to try their hand at it.
-  A 17th Century re-enactor will showcase Harlow's local pottery and share her knowledge of creating nets and traps.

Free
event



For more information visit: www.harlowmuseum.com



ACL



Join the Fun at Harlow Library!

Parents and carers, bring your children to our free **Arts & Crafts** for Family Wellbeing session on 29th May 2025 from 1300 - 1500 at Harlow Library. Create, relax, and enjoy quality time together! Don't miss out – come and join us!

For Further Information, and to sign up ...
Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type 'arts crafts' in to the 'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING**



Essex County Council



ACL

FREE!

Join the Fun at Harlow Library!

Parents and carers, bring your children to our Free LEGO Challenge on 29th May 2025 from 10am - 12pm at Harlow Library. Build, create, and enjoy quality time together! Don't miss out – come and join the adventure!

For Further Information, and to sign up ...
Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type 'LEGO' in to the 'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING**





Police Station Open Day

Come In
WE'RE
OPEN

Saturday May 31st 2025

10am till 2pm

Essex Police would like to invite you to our open day at Harlow Police Station. This is a great opportunity for all to come and meet the various policing teams and their working partners that operate within your district and give you the chance to find out what we do every day to keep your community safe. We will also be joined by Essex Fire and Rescue, Harlow Council, Rainbow Services and others.



Tell us what matters to you, email the team on HarlowCPT@essex.police.uk

Harlow Police Station Opening times: Monday to Sunday 9am till 5pm

f :EPHarlow

🐦 :EP_Harlow



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 and Squirrels achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Eagles also 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	98%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	95%
Grasshoppers	95%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	99%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	94%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	97%
Eagles	99%
Owls	97%

Gospel Value Awards

Compassion

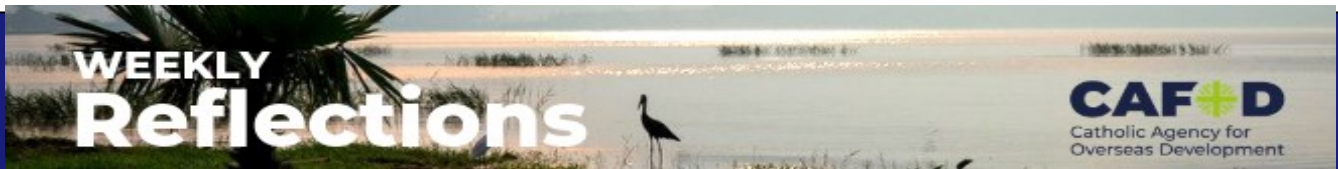
kindness, patience, empathy, helpfulness

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12



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

Butterflies:	Emily	Ladybirds:	Francesca
Dragonflies:	Denis	Grasshoppers:	Jayden
Hedgehogs:	Autumn	Squirrels:	Lemuel
Badgers:	Diona	Foxes:	Ava
Hares:	Medeina	Rabbits:	Roman
Kingfishers:	Amelia	Robins:	Dominik
Eagles:	Julia	Owls:	Ilinca



Based on the gospel for Sunday 18 May, Fifth Sunday of Easter, John 13:31-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another."

We live in a time of escalating humanitarian crisis. During this time, many of the conversations I have with friends and family leave me feeling anxious and fearful of the future as the world feels so complicated and difficult to navigate.

In John 13, Jesus gives us one single and new command, to love one another as he loves us. When I have recently found myself in circumstances where life feels overwhelming, the strength of this one single command cuts through a lot of the 'noise' of modern life.

In this passage, Jesus also reminds us that the best way to show our discipleship is through enacting this love, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Reading this, I am reminded of the life of Pope Francis, who showed this love to some of the most vulnerable members of humanity. Pope Francis epitomised servant leadership and asked us to work together to address hunger, inequality and the climate crisis, especially in this Jubilee Year. He recognised that what affects people in one part of the world affects us all.

Dear Lord,
Even when our modern lives feel chaotic and complicated, help us to show love to all people. We thank you for the life of your servant Pope Francis and pray that you may guide his successor, Pope Leo XIV, as he continues to witness to your love. Inspire us to work towards a common good for all people.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Peace be with you all! This is the first greeting spoken by the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd. I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, and among all people, wherever they may be, in every nations and throughout the world.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Love is life's greatest blessing. St Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do that matters ... but how much love we put into it."

In Sunday's Gospel, we listen to the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Jesus gives his friends, the disciples, a new commandment - they must love one another as Jesus loves them, with whole-hearted and unlimited generosity.

Wednesday 14th May 2025

The new commandment which Jesus gave to his friends is for us too - today! Everyone likes to be loved and family and school life become more joyful when we follow Jesus' command to love one another.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"It is not enough to say 'I love.' We must put that love into a living action." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 18th May 2025



When Judas had gone Jesus said: "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

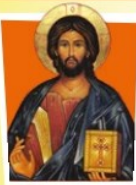
*Adapted from John 13:31-35
The 5th Sunday of Easter, Year C*

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!

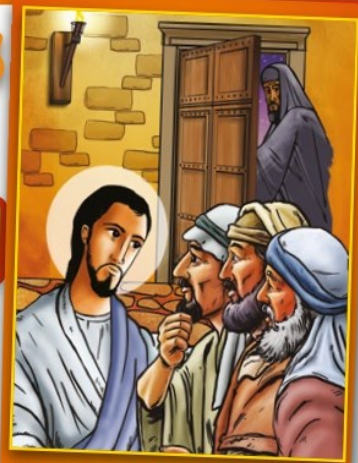
Having Hope
in our Families

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about love. The Gospel reminds us that Jesus wants us to share his love in the world. Jesus' life is a lesson in how we are to love others. He wants each one of us to experience the life-giving happiness which comes from following his new commandment - to love one another as he loves us.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus had gathered his friends, the disciples, together for the Last Supper. After Judas left the room Jesus said, "I shall not be with you much longer. But now I am giving you a new commandment: you must love one another in the same way as I have loved you. If you do this, everyone will know that you are my friends."

What new commandment has Jesus given to us?

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...

"Love is the only language everyone understands."

St Joseph Fienademetz

LOVE



God is love and all love comes from God. Whenever we love and care for one another we can be sure that God is with us. Ask your child who they love. What does your child think it means to 'love one another'. Who makes your child feel especially loved: a) at home? b) at school? c) at church or in the community? Ask your child when they recently felt especially loved. When did your child last show love towards someone? How did they show their love?



Each of you decide on something you can do in the coming days to share your love - to love as Jesus loves. Perhaps you can: as a family, visit someone who may be sick or lonely; be extra helpful by putting others' needs first; show and tell family members how much you love them through unexpected acts of kindness; include someone in your games who may be feeling left out.

3 * Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our loving friend. Please help us always to love you and to keep growing in love for one another. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JESUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	DISCIPLES	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAST SUPPER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW COMMAND	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	LOVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SAME	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **cki** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

sacimke Jieksusc hacvike clokvie

_____ said, "You must _____ one another
in the _____ way as I _____ loved you."



Jesus went back to his Father but he gave us a special job to do. Jesus wants us to love each other. When we care for and look after each other, through our words and through our actions, we are following Jesus' new commandment.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & **draw** a big smile on Smiley

Wednesday 14th 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 18th May 2025

THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

When Judas had gone Jesus said, "Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

Taken from John 13:31-35 The Fifth 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.

From now until Pentecost the readings from St John's Gospel are taken from the great final teaching of Jesus at the Last Supper about the future of his Church and his disciples. From the sayings of Jesus the evangelist has composed a great discourse of Jesus about the obligations, duties and dangers which will come upon his disciples after his own death and resurrection. There were probably slightly different versions of this discourse, which were handed down by word of mouth; the impression of repetition in the discourse probably results from the evangelist recording three versions one after another. As we approach the Birth of the Church at Pentecost we need to listen to how Jesus envisaged his community. Today's reading gives the essentials. At the head of the Christian community stands the glorified Son of Man, in whom God is glorified. But this Son is no distant figurehead, for he will come to be present among his disciples. How will this happen? Answer: in the love which his disciples show for one another. One is reminded of the legend about the aged St John, wheeled into the church at Ephesus. When asked for the message of Jesus, all he would say was, 'My little children, love one another.'

How has Jesus shown his love for us? How do you show that same love for someone else?

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 LOVE!

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 18th May 2025**



1st Reading: **Acts 14:21-27**

The End of Paul's First Missionary Journey

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. "We all have to experience many hardships," they said, "before we enter the kingdom of God." In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.



Antioch was a big city, one of the largest in the ancient world. On the Mediterranean coast of the Roman province of Syria, it was at the end of the trade-route from the east. So it had a busy commercial life with a large colony of Jews among the traders. A considerable group of them accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord, and it was at Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called 'Christians' or 'Messianists'; other Jews thought that the Messiah had not yet come. It was at Antioch that the well-trained and eloquent Paul was appointed to accompany Barnabas (who at this stage was the leader) in spreading the Good News about Jesus as the Messiah. At the end of their journey they reported back to the community at Antioch. It is significant that Barnabas and Paul appointed elders in each community they visited; this was the normal way in which a Jewish community was constituted. A synagogue is still today ruled by a body of elders, one of whom is chosen to preside at services. Obviously, in spite of the bad reception Paul and other Christians sometimes received (as we read last Sunday), these Christian communities felt themselves to be like the other Jewish communities, though accepting Jesus as Messiah, and living by his Spirit. **To what extent (as a Christian) should my behaviour be different from that of other people?**



2nd Reading: **Revelation 21:1-5**

The New Jerusalem

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, "You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone." Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."



Like so much of the Book of Revelation, this prophecy of the New Jerusalem is heavily dependent on the prophets of the Old Testament. In the dark days of the Babylonian Exile the prophet Ezekiel had foretold that God would rebuild Jerusalem as a new city where God would dwell, a city named Hephzibah, that is, 'My pleasure is in her'. The prophets had long spoken of the relationship of Israel to God as that of a bride to her husband, a bride who was often unfaithful. Isaiah, however, had foretold a joyful marriage feast in which God would be the bridegroom and Jerusalem the bride, the final wedding of God to his people. God's bride, Israel, who had so often been unfaithful, would at last be wedded to him for ever in fidelity and happiness. This was the intended meaning of the marriage-feast at Cana and of the parables of Jesus about a wedding-feast of the great king, to which the poor and the outcasts would be invited. Here the Book of Revelation promises just such a festival to those who have sustained the grimness of Roman persecution. Now, as we celebrate Christ's triumph over death at Easter, we look forward to this same unalloyed happiness experienced in God's presence and his love. **If God lives among us now, where and how can I most clearly find him?**



We look forward to the happiness of God's presence and his love.



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 this week to...

Mariella, Denis, Amber, Samantha,
Jude, Freya & Rohan



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Luca, for writing a very detailed description of a dragon.
Ladybirds: Liora, for being a positive role model to others.
Dragonflies: Olivia, for her great R.E. work.
Grasshoppers: Sofia, for wonderful effort in writing.
Hedgehogs: Nathan, for improvement in concentration in all areas.
Squirrels: Mina, for having a great attitude to learning.
Badgers: Munenyasha, for beautifully presented work.
Foxes: Gabriella, for displaying a great joy for learning.
Hares: Alexander, for always having a great attitude to his learning especially in maths.
Rabbits: Yohane, for having a positive attitude to his learning and greatly improved writing.
Kingfishers: Kojo, for always being an amazing role model and trying his hardest.
Robins: Blake, for his excellent attitude towards writing.
Eagles: Elliot, for always working hard and trying his best in all areas of his learning.
Owls: Sophie, for being a positive role model.

House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

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

Monday 19th May

Hares swimming

Year 6 National Measurement
Programme

Year 3 & 4 Outdoor games
club

Y 1 Phonics booster

Y1 Forest club

Football club

Y1 & 2 Multi-sports club

Y1 Gardening

Tuesday 20th May

Wednesday 21st May

Class photographs

Family rosary 9:00

Karate - Years 2 & 3

Family rosary 15:00

Thursday 22nd May

CAFOD Cow day

CAFOD - Years 4 to 6

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Last day of school, return
on 2nd June

Friday 23rd May

**Inset Day - school
closed**



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