



4th July 2025



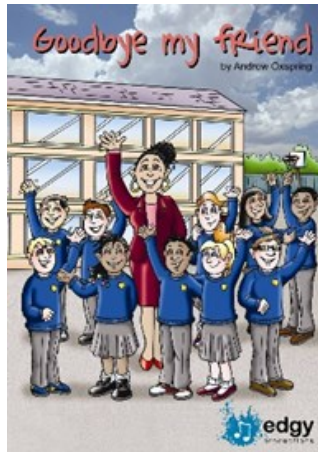
GOSPEL VALUE: Our Gospel Value for next week is Justice. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection.

We are reflecting on the words of the Gospel from this coming Sunday, 'The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.' The message from the Gospel is a significant one for our Year 6 pupils as we approach the end of their school journey with us at Holy Cross.

Jesus is sending our wonderful children on to the next step in their school lives, from our Holy Cross family and we know that they will be sharing our 10 Gospel Values with everyone they meet, through their words and through their actions.

Their Leavers production this week was outstanding with wonderful singing and so much enthusiasm. It is hard to imagine them moving on from us and we will really miss them as a Year group. They are shining examples of the children that we want our younger children to aspire to be. We could not be prouder of them and wish them a wonderful final few weeks at Holy Cross.



Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

End of Year letter

We hope that you have had an opportunity to read your child's end of year report and would appreciate your feedback sent back via the office email or Tapestry/ Seesaw.

Rather than a comment on the report from your child, each child has written you a special letter to tell you about their year at school. They have worked hard on these and we ask that they are treated as special treasures which perhaps you put away each year to give your child and you, a lasting memory of primary school.

Isle of Wight

Our Year 6 children will be setting off for the Isle of Wight on Monday for their week long residential. We are excited for them and we ask that you keep everyone on the trip in your prayers, asking God to keep everyone safe.

I am leading the trip and the following staff will be supporting me; their class will be covered by a different member of staff:

Mr Kelliher-Year 3 Foxes: Mrs Noonan

Miss Reeves-Year 4 Hares: supply teacher

Miss Cargill Year 1 Dragonflies: Miss Gordan

Miss Seers Year 1 Grasshoppers: Miss Sain

Mrs Wallace Year 5 TA will also be attending along with Father Bernard.

Miss Hollick is having a planned surgery next week and will be off for the next 2 weeks recovering. Her class will be covered by Mrs Ennifer next week and Miss Dodd in the final full week but Miss Hollick is hoping to make it in for the Transition morning.

Altar Servers

The parish has a dwindling number of Altar Servers and we are hoping to increase the numbers. If your child is in Year 3 or above and has made their First Holy Communion, they can be an Altar Server. This is such a special role in the Mass and if you are interested please speak to the school office.

Brentwood Citizenship Award

Ohemaa Yaa & Julia

Throughout Ohemaa & Julia's time at our school, they have displayed an unwavering commitment to kindness and care towards others. They are always ready to offer a helping hand whenever needed; often going out of their way to help those in our school that need more support. This selfless attitude has not gone unnoticed and has had a positive impact within our school community.

They possess a tireless work ethic and conscientious approach to all tasks undertaken. They consistently dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to every endeavour. Julia's role as Head Girl and Ohemaa's role as School Prefect exemplifies their dedication and hard-working nature, setting a shining example for their peers and younger students.

In addition, their behaviour and attitude reflect maturity and integrity, making them an inspiration for every child in our school. They embody the values of respect, responsibility, and empathy that we strive to instil in all our students.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly endorse Ohemaa & Julia for the Brentwood Citizenship Award. Congratulations, we are so very proud of you both.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Miss Hollick on achieving her Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. She has been working hard on this for the whole year and we are delighted that she has passed with Distinction.

Proms in the Playground

Please save the date for this new event that we will be having before the end of the summer term. On Wednesday 16th July at 4:30pm our choir will be presenting Proms in the Playground from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. You are welcome to bring some food, chairs and a blanket and come and watch the children. We will have a light refreshment stall too.

Multi Faith Week-Islam

Every term we focus for 1 week, on another religion and this helps us to understand and respect our neighbour. Our multi-faith week last week, focused on Islam. Many thanks to pupils and families who shared their traditions and of Islam with the rest of the school.





Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Zora	Squirrels:	Gwenda
Hares:	Layla	Rabbits:	Roman
Kingfishers:	Freya	Robins:	Luke



**WEDNESDAY
16TH JULY
at 4.30pm**



**PROMS
ON THE
Playground**

**Showcasing the
talents of the
school choir**

**bring along your family and
friends to enjoy this wonderful
event.**

**Bring your own picnic
Light refreshments will be available**



A vibrant, colorful poster for an International Food Festival. The background is white with various food-related illustrations: a pizza with toppings, a skewer of fried food, a hot dog, and several slices of citrus fruit. At the top, there are orange and yellow triangular bunting flags. The text is centered and uses bold, sans-serif fonts in black and orange. At the bottom, there are stylized illustrations of food stalls with awnings and a red building.

International Food Festival

Friday

18th July 2025

3pm to 4.30pm

Come along and try some food from
_____ around the world. _____

If you would like to bring dishes please
let Mrs Slater or Mrs Mills know.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Hedgehogs achieving 96% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Hares attaining 98% attendance. Well done!

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

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the 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	93%
Dragonflies	93%
Grasshoppers	93%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	95%
Badgers	93%
Foxes	92%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	92%
Eagles	96%
Owls	93%

Gospel Value Awards

Simplicity

calm, uncomplicated, trust

"And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in Her heart." Luke 2:18-19



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

Butterflies:	Maliyah	Ladybirds:	Rebecca
Dragonflies:	Sreekruthik	Grasshoppers:	Chloe
Hedgehogs:	Amelia	Squirrels:	Alice
Badgers:	Munenyasha	Foxes:	Memphis
Hares:	Blousey	Rabbits:	Bali
Kingfishers:	Hendrix	Robins:	Keaton
Eagles:	Ollie	Owls:	Ohemaa



Based on the gospel for Sunday 6 July, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

"The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go."

Quite often, when we are going to do or say something, we may hesitate. What should we do when faced with a difficult situation? It can be harder if we are on our own, but often easier if someone is with us.

In today's gospel, Jesus sends his disciples out in pairs. He must surely have known that two people travelling together could help each other in all that they had to do and say.

When we have to make difficult choices we need to have the sense and wisdom to ask the advice of our companions on the journey of life and seek the guidance of Jesus in prayer.

Then, like the seventy-two, we may also share in Jesus' mission, to bring peace and healing and proclaim the nearness of God's Kingdom.

Prayer
God of all people,
you want us to live in your way.
Fill our lives with your Holy Spirit,
our helper and guide.
Help us, by the way we treat people,
to bring your message of peace, love, and justice to those we meet.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Let us #PrayTogether that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.



Dear Parents and Carers,

God loves all people equally and invites everyone to share in his kingdom – today!

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus came to establish a kingdom. With Jesus' blessing, his friends are sent on an urgent mission to all who will listen.

What are they sent to tell the people? They are to announce the good news of God's kingdom – to make present God's blessing of peace and healing.

Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Today, the Church invites us all to enter into God's kingdom and to help it to grow here on earth. Everywhere I go I can spread either gossip or peace, either hurt or God's healing – the healing which Jesus brought as he went round the countryside.

I may not be able to heal physically, but I can spread the healing of peace in my community. Enjoy your week and help spread God's love.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"The kingdom is hidden within you; it is found in your own soul." *St Isaac of Nineveh*

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 6th July 2025



The Lord appointed another seventy-two and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if people of peace live there, your peace will go and rest on them; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The Kingdom of God is very near to you.'"

Adapted from Luke 10:1-12.17-20
14th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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!

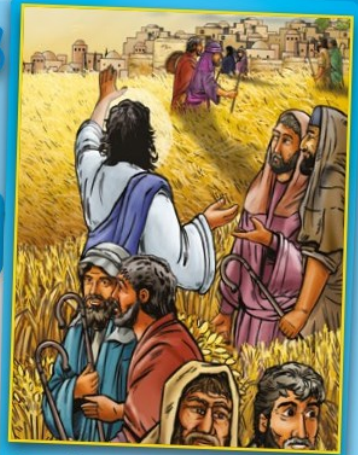
Having Hope
in our Families

God's kingdom is right here – right now! When we welcome Jesus into our lives and try to live as he taught us, God's kingdom grows within our hearts. Within our families, and everywhere we go, we can help to reveal God's kingdom, sharing God's healing love and peace – making life better for all.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus sent the disciples out, in pairs, to all the towns and villages he planned to visit. He said to them, "When you go into a house, say, 'Peace to this house!' If people of peace live there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will come back to you. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, heal the people who are sick and say, 'The kingdom of God is very near to you.'" **What did Jesus tell the disciples to say when they entered a town that welcomed them?**

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?

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.

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

"It is in the human heart that God's kingdom takes root and grows." *Pope Francis*

GOD'S KINGDOM



Jesus came to establish a kingdom - God's kingdom. Ask your child what the words 'God's kingdom' mean to them. We can see God's kingdom in the person of Jesus and demonstrated through the loving actions of others. Ask your child who brings peace, joy, happiness, love, kindness or understanding into their lives (you might like to give your child an example of your own). Where and when does your child personally experience these special gifts?

We can help God's kingdom of peace and healing to grow within and around us through the little things that we do and say. Each of you choose one way in which you can help the kingdom of God to grow. Perhaps you can: be more helpful around the house; share more; support a child, family or project at school where help is needed. Why not get involved with a charity that helps the poorest in the world (e.g. visit marysmeals.org or cafod.org.uk)?

3 Dear Lord Jesus, Please help us to build your kingdom in our hearts and in the world - to do your work on earth with love and care for all. Amen.

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISCIPLES SENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	HEALING PEACE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	KINGDOM GOD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	VERY NEAR	<input type="checkbox"/>

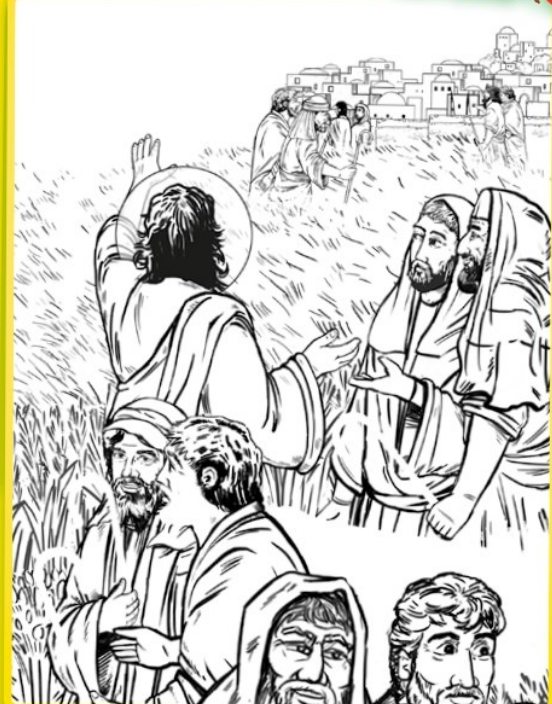
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

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

upebcople kibngudocm nuecarb cheabul

Jesus said, " _____ the _____ who are sick and say, 'The _____ of God is very _____ to you.' "

Just like Jesus' first followers, we too should try to bring peace and healing to other people by the things we say and the way we behave. Even if others ignore us, then at least we have tried to do what Jesus asked.



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Wednesday 2nd July 2025

THE *Wednesday* WORD



Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read

The Gospel for Sunday 6th July 2025

THE MISSION IN ACTION

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The kingdom of God is very near to you'."

Taken from Luke 10:1-12. 17-20 The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

The instructions to the seventy-two who are sent out are direct and simple. They are really sent out like lambs among wolves, without food, without distractions, without baggage, without spares. The version in the Gospel of Mark allows them sandals, presumably to enable them to make more speed on their journey, for the urgency of the task is paramount. They are not to be distracted by picking and choosing their accommodation or their food. Direct, too, is their method: to impart the blessing of peace and to heal. No second chance: if the blessing is rejected, away they go, leaving the town to a fate worse than that of Sodom! Last Sunday's gospel demanded an uncompromisingly whole-hearted response to Jesus from the apostles. This Sunday the apostles demand the same response to their own message. Again the absolute demands of Jesus! There is a wonderful simplicity about this message of the coming of the Kingdom: all that is involved is peace and healing. No squabbles, no fripperies, no complications of doctrine. If these Kingdom values can remain the focus of our Christian vision, we may make some progress towards bringing the Kingdom of God to reality in our own surroundings.

What would you say are the most important aspects of the Kingdom? What sort of healing can I bring in my own surroundings?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's words for our school families are GOD'S KINGDOM !

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

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

**The Jubilee
Year of Hope**

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

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 6th July 2025**



1st Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

As a Mother Comforts her Child

Rejoice, Jerusalem, be glad for her, all you who love her! Rejoice, rejoice for her, all you who mourned her! That you may be suckled, filled, from her consoling breast, that you may savour with delight her glorious breasts. For thus says the Lord: Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river, and like a stream in spate the glory of the nations. At her breast will her nurslings be carried and fondled in her lap. Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you. And by Jerusalem you will be comforted. At the sight your heart will rejoice, and your bones flourish like the grass. To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.



We are used to the imagery of God as Father, the creator and initiator of all things. But there is no gender or sex in God; God infinitely transcends such human limitations. So there is also room and need for a gentler image of God as mother: 'As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you', promises this passage, even daring to invoke that most maternal and intimately loving and trusting image of the child feeding at its mother's breast. Such imagery for God as mother occurs in other biblical passages as well, such as Psalm 131, where the contentment of the believer in God is compared to that of a little child in its mother's embrace; or Hosea 11:1-4, where God's loving care is described in terms of a parent leading and feeding a child. The child is now growing up, and God's maternal love continues throughout our lives. One of the chief Hebrew words describing God's love for his people is rahamim, the plural of rehem, which means a mother's womb. God's love involves, therefore, that instinctive gut-feeling of a mother for her child, which can never be destroyed or overruled.

What is scripture teaching us when it uses the imagery of parent to describe God? How may we make use of such imagery in prayer?



2nd Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

The Triumph of the Cross

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God. I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen.



This is the final reading for this year from the fiery letter to the Galatians. It also provides the entry antiphon for Maundy Thursday, as we enter upon the celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death. Paul is again comparing the Law and the Cross. Instead of glorying in the physical mark of circumcision, the symbol of subjection to the Law, he glories in the Cross 'branded on' his body (he must mean in a symbolic sense by baptism - unless he means the scars of the floggings he received) which makes him a new creation. Everything is new about the Christian baptized into Christ, having left behind the old, mundane pre-occupations to embrace the new freedom inspired by the Spirit. This sounds all very well, but we know (and Paul knows too) that it is a constant challenge to bring this new life and new scale of values into reality: 'The good thing I want to do, I never do; the evil thing which I do not want - that is what I do', he laments when writing to the Romans. We are already reconciled to God, but only once does Paul say we are already saved. Even then it is 'saved in hope', which puts it into the future.

How far does my new life in Christ express a new scale of values?

Everything is new about the Christian baptized into Christ.

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...

Olivia, Blake, Yohane, Athea,
Zofia, Gabriel, Zuriel & Isabella



Head Teachers Award

Diale, Indiana, Hillary, Feodora, Zachary, Priscilla, Axel, Luke, Zofia & Jaden, for being incredibly helpful during Sports Week.

Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Mila, for an improved effort in phonics sessions - well done Mila!
- Ladybirds: Nate, for being an excellent role model to others.
- Dragonflies: J.J. for his hard work in all of his learning.
- Grasshoppers: Olivia, for having a positive attitude to school and learning.
- Hedgehogs: Grace, for excellent work in all areas of maths.
- Squirrels: Salem, for always trying his best.
- Badgers: Dennis, for great focus and effort during Multi Faith week.
- Foxes: Ama, for her dedication to learning, making her an excellent role model.
- Hares: Enoch, for great participation in R.E. lesson when learning about Islam.
- Rabbits: Blake, for his focus and determination in swimming.
- Kingfishers: Joshua, for his fantastic work in R.E. lessons during Multi Faith week.
- Robins: Sid, for his amazing attitude in our R.E. lessons.
- Eagles: Amber, for being kind and encouraging to her peers.
- Owls: Hector, for such positivity during play rehearsals.

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Clubs and boosters are run from 15:15 - 16:15

Monday 30th June

Year 6 Isle of Wight trip
Rabbits swimming
Year 3 & 4 Outdoor games club
Y 1 Phonics booster
Football club
Y1 & 2 Multi-sports club

Tuesday 1st July

Year 1 reading zone - 9:00

Wednesday 2nd July

Year 1 karate taster session 13:30
Year 1 reading zone - 14:45 - 15:00
Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30

Thursday 23rd July

Year 5 visiting St Mark's
Year 1 reading zone - 9:00
Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6
Year 2 Forest club
Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30

Friday 4th July

KS2 Celebration assembly 9:00
KS1 Celebration assembly 14:30



Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Kerrell'.

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk