



11th July 2025



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection.

We are reflecting on the parable of The Good Samaritan in St Luke's Gospel this coming week.

We are thinking of how we can show our love and kindness to our neighbour we can see and those we can't see or don't know. At Holy Cross we focus on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and they help us to show generosity and compassion to others.

Being a good friend and helping others in need is something that we teach the children from the beginning of their school journey with us as we want to create a better world for everyone.

Pope Leo tells us "Let's pray for the grace to be good neighbours to all our sisters and brothers, as we seek to "go and do likewise."

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend as we enter this last full week of term.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher



Hot Weather

Due to the predicted hot weather, wearing PE kit instead of normal uniform is optional for all children next week. Please ensure that your child has a hat (they will not be allowed outside without one), a refillable water bottle and sun cream applied at the beginning of every day. The children spend a lot of time outdoors so it is very important that they are safe in the sun.

Football at lunchtime (we will allow it at break with the current rota) will be temporarily suspended in these hot temperatures and we ask the children to sit in the shade as much as possible and not run around. Teachers have been asked not to sit their children on the playground in the hot weather when they are lining up at any point in the day.



Isle of Wight

We have had an incredible week with our Year 6 children on The Isle of Wight. We had warm and sunny weather and the children loved all the activities with Robin Hill being their favourite. None of this would be possible without the dedication and support of the incredible team of staff who went with the children. My thanks to Mrs Mills, Miss Seers, Miss Reeves, Miss Cargill, Mr Kelliher and Mrs Wallace. They have worked so hard, all day and late into the night to make sure the Year 6 children were safe and happy. I hope the children will keep this week as a special memory for life.



Class Teacher Announcement

A reminder that a letter was sent out via Arbor, today, informing you of your child's new class teacher for next year. The children will have the opportunity to spend time with their new teacher and classmates during our transition morning next Thursday.

International week

Next week, we are excited to be hosting International Week at Holy Cross. Each class will focus on a different country, exploring its culture, traditions, and way of life. Be sure to ask your children where they will be "travelling" to next week!

We will finish the week, on Friday, with a non uniform day and our annual International Food Festival in the marquee—a wonderful celebration where we can come together to share food from around the world. Please let us know if you are able to cook and collect an ingredient sheet from the school office. Children can come into school wearing traditional national dress or colours of your country's flag.

Year 5 Enterprise Day at St Mark's

Year 5 had a wonderful time this week taking part in an Enterprise Day at St Mark's. The children were given the exciting challenge of planning the entire process of designing, making, and marketing their own soap products. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to use their creativity, work as a team, and experience a taste of what secondary school life might be like. The children represented Holy Cross beautifully - they were well behaved, enthusiastic, and full of great ideas. A big thank you to all the staff who accompanied them and helped make the day such a success.



Year 1 Trip to Pets Corner

Last Friday Year 1 took a lovely trip to Harlow Town park and Pets Corner inspired by our topic of living things. The children got to play in the adventure playground, walk around the park and have a lunch in the sun. After that we visited Pets Corner where the children had the opportunity to hold and feed some animals! What a great day.



FOOD BANK

Please help us collect non-perishable foods for our food bank. The food bank is located in the entrance hall and we hope will support many families within our school community.

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

School Office



Please could you provide

New, unused and in date

EYFS - Baby supplies (nappies, wipes, baby bath, baby shampoo, creams and lotions)

Year 1 - Pasta, rice and spaghetti

Year 2 - Cereals, biscuits, crisps/snacks and UHT milk

Year 3 - Tinned food (beans, soup, spaghetti, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables)

Year 4 - Jarred food (cooking sauces, sauces, mayo, jam, honey and condiments)

Year 5 - Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Squash

Year 6 - Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, conditioner, deodorant, soap, flannels, toothpaste)



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Ollie	Squirrels:	Nellie
Hares:	Rufus	Rabbits:	Tilly
Kingfishers:	Oliver	Robins:	Rose



**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.

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.

Welcome to the new school year

Family Picnic

Free
Inflatable
fun

Lite
Refreshments

Bring your
own picnic

£1
entrance
fee

Saturday 6th September 2pm to 5pm
at Holy Cross Academy

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Eagles 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	92%
Dragonflies	88%
Grasshoppers	92%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	96%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	95%
Hares	95%
Rabbits	98%
Kingfishers	97%
Robins	93%
Eagles	99%
Owls	96%

Gospel Value Awards

Gentleness

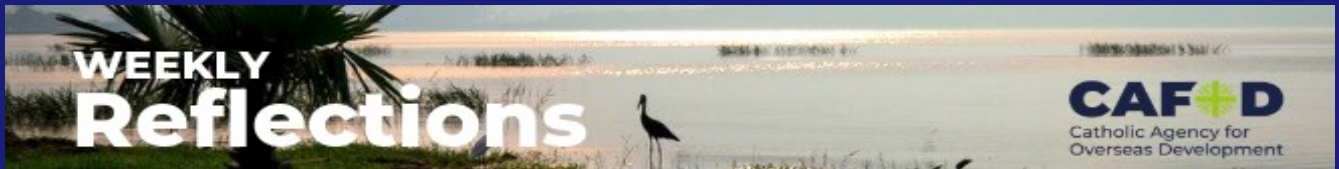
Softness, beauty, serenity, peacefulness

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29



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

Butterflies:	Nicholas	Ladybirds:	Isabella
Dragonflies:	Aminda	Grasshoppers:	Nojus
Hedgehogs:	Indila	Squirrels:	Dilara
Badgers:	Raysa	Foxes:	Emilia
Hares:	Afi	Rabbits:	Aoife
Kingfishers:	Kenna-Kah	Robins:	Hillary
Eagles:	Eliana	Owls:	Sian



Based on the gospel for Sunday 13 July, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 10: 25-37

"You go and do likewise."

Although the parable is found only in Luke's gospel, this Sunday's story of the *Good Samaritan* is among the most widely known gospel passages. So much so that the term "Good Samaritan" has entered everyday English language. Perhaps the very familiarity of the tale, can sometimes stop us realising just how radical it is.

The central question "Who is my neighbour?" remains as live today as it was in the time of Jesus. It is a question relevant to conversations about immigration, cuts to international aid and how we treat others, especially those who are different to us.

Jesus' choice of a Samaritan - despite the animosity that existed between them and the Jewish people - to illustrate true neighbourly love is striking. It shatters the notion that our neighbour is merely someone nearby, or someone who shares our culture, nation, or faith. Instead, it unequivocally declares that our neighbour is anyone and everyone in need.

Reflecting on this parable, Pope Leo XIV asks, "when will we too be capable of interrupting our journey and having compassion?" Let's pray for the grace to be good neighbours to all our sisters and brothers, as we seek to "go and do likewise."

Prayer
Gentle God,
fill us with compassion
so we may imitate your love
caring for our neighbours,
both near and far.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

The Lord has entrusted us with the mission to care for creation and to bring it peace and reconciliation. We hear the cry of the earth and the poor, for that cry has reached the heart of God. Our indignation is His indignation; our work is His work. #LaudatoSi



Dear Parents and Carers,

Loving God and our neighbours is the foundation of a good life. But it is only through loving God first, that we are really able to love our neighbours as God intends.

Who is our neighbour? In this Sunday's Gospel we read about the Good Samaritan. Through this parable, Jesus answers a question from a lawyer and tells us that our neighbour is any person who needs our help, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

Wednesday 9th July 2025

At the end of the Gospel, Jesus then tells the lawyer to go and act as the Good Samaritan did. It's a message for us today. Who will I be a good neighbour to this week?

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"We must not fail to help our neighbours, because in them we are serving Jesus." Saint Rose of Lima

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 13th July 2025



There was a lawyer who, to unsettle Jesus, stood up and said, "Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" The lawyer replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." "You have answered right," said Jesus. "Do this and life is yours." But the man then said, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was robbed on his way down from Jerusalem. He was badly beaten and left for dead. Two people passed by without helping him. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He bandaged his wounds and took him to the inn and looked after him and paid for him to stay there. Which person proved himself a neighbour to this man who fell into the robbers' hands?" "The one, who took pity on him," the lawyer replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself."

Adapted from Luke 10: 25-37

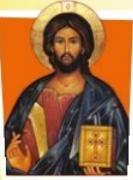
The 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

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!

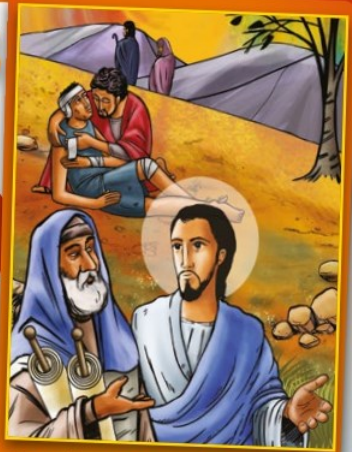
Having Hope
in our Families

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that every person, without exception, is our neighbour - particularly anyone in need. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is showing us how to be truly human and so change the world through loving and serving our neighbour.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus agreed with a teacher of the law that, to live with God forever, we must love God and love our neighbour as ourselves. Then the teacher asked, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was robbed and badly beaten. Two people passed by and left him for dead. But a Samaritan traveller stopped, felt sorry for him and bandaged his wounds. He then paid for him to stay at an inn and looked after him. Who then was a 'neighbour' to this poor man?" "The one who took pity on him," the teacher replied.

What did the teacher ask Jesus?

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...

"Anyone who needs me, and whom I can help, is my neighbour." Pope Benedict XVI

NEIGHBOUR



The Good Samaritan teaches us how to be a good neighbour. Ask your child what the word 'neighbour' means to them. What makes a good neighbour? Do you ever find it difficult to 'love your neighbour as yourself'? Can you remember a time when someone was a good neighbour to you? Who are the 'Good Samaritans' in your community?

Good neighbours are caring, generous, kind and compassionate. How can we show these qualities and be 'Good Samaritans' to those around us in this coming week? Perhaps we can: visit an elderly or sick person together as a family; be welcoming to new people in our community; try to include someone at school who may be feeling lonely or left out; learn about and help our neighbours abroad: cafod.org.uk/Education/Kidz-Zone

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us how to be good neighbours. Help us to show our love through our actions and so to be respectful and caring to all we meet. Amen.

FINDING THREE

D E V O L N E T A E B
P O S A M A R I T A N
B T B E A T E N S A S
P E L P O E P E T P T
E R U O B H G I E N O
O H V B M S R G H S P
P O T S E A G H G A P
L D S P M A N B R M E
E A V A E T L O V E D
P A S S P S A U H A S
D E P P O T S R N D N

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- MAN
- BEATEN
- PEOPLE
- PASS
- SAMARITAN
- STOPPED
- LOVED
- NEIGHBOUR

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **a c l** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

ascorrl y scoppaled lawoucnds chaiml

A Samaritan traveller _____, felt _____
for _____ and bandaged his _____.

DID YOU KNOW? This Friday, 11th July, is St Benedict's Feast Day. St Benedict founded the Benedictine religious order. For centuries the Benedictines have demonstrated their love for God and neighbour by setting up hospitals, schools, monasteries and churches throughout the world.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Wednesday 9th 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 13th July 2025

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, "Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." "You have answered right," said Jesus. "Do this and life is yours." But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.' Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?" "The one, who took pity on him," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself."

Taken from Luke 10:25-37 The Fifteenth 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.

To many a Jew at the time of Jesus the hatred of the Samaritans was such that a Good Samaritan was a contradiction in terms. It is striking that Luke changes the dialogue about the two commandments. In Mark's and Matthew's accounts Jesus answers the question about the commandments, while in Luke Jesus challenges the questioner, who then himself gives the right answer. It is also striking that, in his reply at the very end, the lawyer, despite Jesus' praise of him, cannot bring himself to pronounce the hated name, 'Samaritan', and says 'the one who...'. The conscientious dilemma of the priest and the Levite reveals a dry humour within this story: if the huddled traveller turns out to be dead, they will incur corpse-defilement and be unable to perform their sacred duties! This legal difficulty makes the Samaritan's attentive generosity all the more poignant, for a Samaritan is free of any such hang-ups. Love shown to the unfortunate and the down-trodden is a major theme in Luke's Gospel. But note also the Samaritan's careful administration of his funds: he gives not a blank cheque but two days' wages, which he will supplement on his return if necessary! **What is the main point of Jesus' story? Is it to be generous or not to be judgmental?**

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 **NEIGHBOUR!**

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 13th July 2025**



1st Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Moses' Final Counsel

Moses said to the people: "Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?' Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?' No, the Word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance."



The Book of Deuteronomy consists of four great discourses on the Law. This lovely passage concludes the last discourse, after which the death of Moses is recounted. It encourages the people to observe the Law. The Law, it teaches, is not obscure, or difficult, or far away; the people do not need to travel far or search deeply. The author is saying that the Law is Israel's natural inheritance, and so it is natural for them to observe it; it is almost – as we would say – second nature. The Law was God's most precious gift to Israel, a revelation of the divine nature and the divine ways to the world, and so a source of light and life. It revealed how Israel had to behave in order to be God's faithful people. Therefore, observance of the Law was not to be thought of as a tiresome obligation but a response in love to this gift made in love. For Christians the Law is brought to perfection in the incarnate Word of God, who is the perfect revelation of the Father, and is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Israel saw the revelation of God's will, and so of his nature, in the Law; Christians similarly see the full revelation of the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

How can I come to know God's ways? Why not (as a starting point) read John's Gospel (where we discover Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life)?



2nd Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Christ the First-born

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the firstborn of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.



This is the first of the readings we will hear from Colossians over the coming week; it is a hymn to the pre-eminence of Christ. It falls into two stanzas: the first proclaims Christ's pre-eminence as firstborn in creation, the second his pre-eminence as first-born from the dead. As first-born in creation he is the image of the invisible God, in whom all is created, just as, in the Book of Wisdom, Wisdom is called the image of God, the reflection of the eternal light and the mirror of God's active power. In Wisdom, in Christ, God can be seen. In the second stanza, as first-born from the dead, Christ brings all things to perfection and completion. The hymn is a sort of parabola, starting with God in creation, descending to Christ as Lord of the Church, and returning with Christ to completion in God.

What does this passage teach us about Jesus Christ?

Christ brings all things to perfection and completion.

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...

Mayah, Chloe, Kai & Rebecca



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Aoife, for always challenging herself to complete all of the activities.
- Ladybirds: Albi, for his positive attitude to learning.
- Dragonflies: Gracie, for being very helpful.
- Grasshoppers: Sofia, for excellent effort in all learning, especially art.
- Hedgehogs: Arthur, for fantastic effort and concentration in English this week.
- Squirrels: Leroy, for trying really hard in maths.
- Badgers: Kyren, for writing a beautiful letter.
- Foxes: Andreas, for being a great role model for his peers.
- Hares: Isla, for trying really hard in maths.
- Rabbits: Maya, for being a fantastic friend and showing kindness to all.
- Kingfishers: Hendrix, for being amazing on Greek day.
- Robins: Harry, for his brilliant attitude during our Ancient Greek day.
- Eagles: Ollie, for showing enthusiasm during the Year 6 production.
- Owls: Toby, for stepping into the donkey's shoes when we really needed him and being our number 1 understudy.

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 14th July

Rabbits swimming
Year 6 Retreat

Tuesday 15th July

Reception trip to Rye-
Assic
Year 4 library visit
Reception graduation
12:30

International Week

Wednesday 16th July

Passport day
Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30
Proms on the Playground 16:30

Thursday 17th July

Class changeover day
Strike football club 15:15 -
16:30

Friday 18th July

Non-Uniform - national
costume or colours
Year 6 parent
consultations
International Food
Festival



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