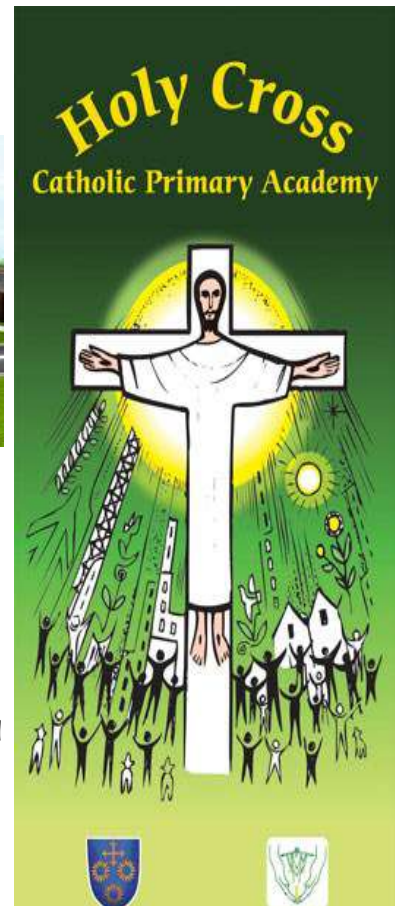




18th July 2025



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

### Weekly Reflection.

We are reflecting on the words of the Gospel from this coming Sunday, 16th Sunday in ordinary time,'

Jesus is visiting Mary and Martha at home and Martha is fussing to prepare and have the house as best as she can for their special guest. Mary on the other hand is taking a more relaxed approach. Martha becomes upset with her for not helping at which point Jesus says, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." He gently tells Martha that in her determination to have a perfect house that she is missing the point of his visit and a wonderful opportunity to spend time with Jesus and enjoy being with him.

Every time I read this gospel it reminds me of how I am when we have someone visit our house, I am always cleaning and cooking and sometimes miss spending time with our guests because I am so worried that they will think badly of me for not having a sparkling clean home. Perhaps we can all take some advice from this Gospel to be a little bit more Mary and less Martha.



Have a wonderful weekend

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

### Leavers Mass

We are saying a very sad farewell to our Year 6 on Monday at our Leavers Mass. Our Year 6 parents and family members (2 per child) are very welcome to attend this special mass in the church. It is going to be emotional so please bring tissues.

## **Tuesday 22nd July last day of the school year.**

School will finish for everyone on Tuesday 22nd July at 1:30pm. We will be allowing our Year 6 parents early access to the school playground at 1:15-if you are a Year 6 parent please queue at the small gate next to the pergola. Everyone else please form a queue as normal at the main gate, across the staff carpark and down the path. We will all join together to bid our Year 6 children a last good bye and wish everyone a wonderful summer holiday. I will be sending out an end of term letter on Monday-please look out for it in your in box.

## **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.

## **School Uniform**

It is important the we end the year with children in their correct summer uniform please. We have a special whole school Mass on Monday and as our uniform is the identity of our Catholic School, I would like the children to be smartly dressed for church please. Please remember the rules on jewellery and in particular earrings and hair accessories must be Holy Cross Colours.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Miss Gordan and Miss Sain on completing their training year. They are now officially fully-fledged teachers and we wish them lots of luck as they begin their teaching careers.

## **Proms in the Playground**

Huge thanks to all the parents and families who supported the children at Proms in the Playground. It was a wonderful event and huge thanks to Mrs Slater and Mrs Mills for organising it and to all the staff that helped at the event.

## **The new school year**

A reminder that the new school year will start for our Year 1to Year 6 pupils on Wednesday 3rd September. We will be having a special Welcome Picnic from 2:00-5:00pm on Saturday 6th September to welcome our new families and everyone to the new school year. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## **New Head Boys and Head Girls**

Our current head boys and girls have passed the baton to our new head boys and girls. Harry, Aimee, Kojo and Feodora, this week. Congratulations and thank you to our old head boys and girls, Julia, Stanislaw, Hector and Sian.



International Week







### Year 4 Egyptian Day

Last Friday, Year 4 had our Egyptian Day. In the morning we completed lots of exciting activities including; making Tutankhamun's Death Mask, designing and using our sewing skills to make an Egyptian Collar and making a Cartouche with our names on using Egyptian Hieroglyphics (Miss Reeves is currently turning these into keyrings for us!) In the afternoon we rounded off the day with a fantastic Egyptian Banquet where, most of us, tried a few new Egyptian foods. The children (and adults) all had a fantastic day and they all looked amazing as Ancient Egyptians!



# 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 year's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Squirrels achieving 97% attendance. Well done! The winners of this year's KS2 Attendance Award are Badgers attaining 97% 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.

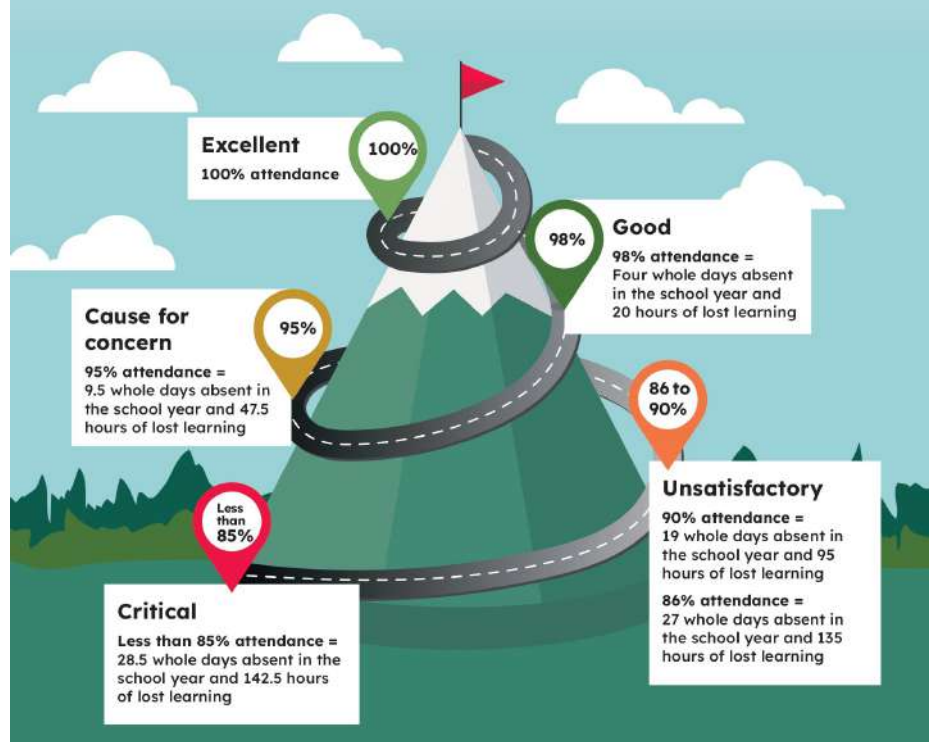
Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

Your child's attendance is available for you to view on Arbor. Compare it to the image right, to see how many hours of lost learning it equates to.

Butterflies	96%
Ladybirds	96%
Dragonflies	94%
Grasshoppers	95%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	95%
Hares	95%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	95%
Robins	96%
Eagles	96%
Owls	95%

Essex County Council  
Education

## Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?





Based on the gospel for Sunday 20 July, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 10: 38-42

The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

The current debt crisis affecting the world's poorest countries is causing suffering to billions. In view of this, activists for justice and peace can struggle with making time for 'just' listening to God, and feelings of guilt or helplessness can intrude.

In *The Lightmaker's Manifesto*, Karen Walrond says, "Getting clear on your gifts is the first step to creating a light-filled activism practice." And what better way to do this than by listening to Jesus?

If we are not to be scattered and disillusioned by the many claims on our attention in the twenty-first century world, we need to be wholehearted, and this was the approach of Mary in this week's gospel.

Lord, help us to listen to you and to let your light permeate our lives, so that we can act as you want us to, in sympathy with our innate gifts.  
Amen.



### **The Words of Pope Leo XIV**

In order to live eternally, we do not need to cheat death, but to serve life, by caring for others in this, our time together.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025

MARTHA AND MARY

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me." But the Lord answered: "Martha, Martha," he said, "you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her."

**Taken from Luke 10:38-42 The Sixteenth 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.

Martha and Mary have become classic figures in the Church representing two different styles of life, the active and the contemplative vocation, an active apostolate or a life of prayer. Carried to an extreme, this opposition is, of course, merely silly. No active apostolate can thrive unless it grows out of a life of prayer, for we cannot draw others to the knowledge and love of a God whom we do not ourselves know and love. Nor can a life of prayer be genuine unless it leads to care for others and concern for the salvation of all those whom the Lord loves. Even a strictly enclosed community cannot claim to be a part of Christ's body unless its fabric is one of love and concern for all the members, and especially those in need, the elderly, the sick and the young. In fact, Jesus does not present any such choice between two different religious ways of life. His speech is always in terms of absolutes. He does not use comparatives; he says that Mary has chosen not 'the better' (as our translation has it) but 'the good' part (as the Greek has it). Any 'good' life must be founded on listening devotedly to the Lord and responding to what we have heard. **How important a part does listening to the Lord play in my life as a Christian?**

*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 LISTENING!**

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 20th July 2025**



**1st Reading: Genesis 18:1-10**

## Abraham's Hospitality

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. "My Lord," he said, "I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction." They replied, "Do as you say." Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. "Hurry," he said, "knead three bushels of flour and make loaves." Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree. "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "She is in the tent," he replied. Then his guest said, "I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son."

This splendid narrative of Abraham entertaining the three strangers is chosen by the Church to pair with the gospel reading of Martha and Mary as an example of hospitality. But the tale has many other important aspects to it too. In the story the three men shimmer between being one and three. Since they clearly represent God – in a delightfully human way – this has been understood from the time of the earliest Church writers to be a hint of the Trinity, though the Trinity is not revealed until the New Testament. Another vital element is that it features the beginning of the fulfilment of the promise of a great posterity to Abraham. Abraham's faith has been tested by having to wait until both he and his wife are well beyond the normal age of conception, and now at last the Lord shows his care for them. A charming scene occurs just after the end of the reading: Sarah laughs at the idea of giving birth to a child at her age which leads to word-play when her son is named Isaac - which means laughs or smiles in Hebrew; this pun recurs several times in the Isaac story. For the sequel to the story, Abraham's bargain with God, we must wait till next week! **What does this story of Abraham and Sarah say to us about the life of faith, a life lived with God?**



**2nd Reading: Colossians 1:24-28**

## The Servant of the Church

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The letter to the Colossians, begun last Sunday and read over four Sundays, is one of the latest of the Pauline letters. Some scholars think it was written not by Paul at all but by a disciple, thoroughly familiar with Paul's thought, applying his master's ideas to a new situation. In any case, it is part of the inspired Scripture handed down to us. The mystery revealed only at the end of time, which Paul was commissioned to proclaim, is that the salvation promised to Abraham and his kin now extends to all people. The author is also very aware that Paul's own sufferings and tribulations in the apostolate mirror and complete those of Christ. When it says that Paul is 'completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions', the author does not mean that Jesus' Passion was somehow faulty or deficient. Rather he means that the Church (as the Body of Christ in every age) must be a suffering Church. His confidence rests in these sufferings, for they enable him to say that Paul is the Servant of the Lord Jesus in just the same way as Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Lord. In 2 Corinthians, when others claim more authority than he has, Paul replies by saying that he has suffered more. **Is suffering part of our mission as members of the Church? Why? How is this fulfilled?**

**« The salvation promised to Abraham and his kin now extends to all people. »**

**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**

Wednesday  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

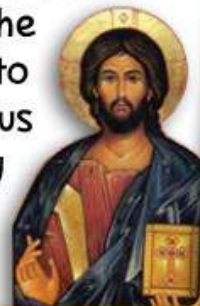


Good News  
for Families

1

## Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who chose to sit down in front of Jesus to listen to him. Now Martha, who was busy preparing the meal said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me." But Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is good; this will not be taken away from her."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Luke 10:38-42 (the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now explore this Wednesday's word, which is **LISTENING**.



# 2

## Wednesday's Word

### LISTENING



**"Open up your heart and listen to what God is saying to you."** *Pope Francis*

What did Mary do that was good? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus knows that household jobs are important, but he reminds us how important it is to take time to listen to God. Jesus does not force us to listen to him, but he knows what's best for us. Listening is a sign of real love - it's a powerful way of showing that we care. Ask your child if they know someone who is a really good listener. Who does your child like to listen to? Do they know people who speak with kindness and love, and want good things for them and others? It may help your child if you give them an example of your own.

**"Before we speak, it is necessary for us to listen. God speaks in the silence of the heart."** *St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

This Gospel reminds us that rushing frantically around can stop us hearing the wisdom of Jesus. We need first to listen to Jesus, to be reminded of what's really important in life; then it's time to swing into action. As the summer holidays approach, explore ways that can help you to listen to Jesus in these coming weeks. Perhaps you can: remember to have quiet times in prayer when you wake up, at bedtime or some other time - just for listening to God as he speaks to your heart; go to Church together; regularly read the gospels in this Wednesday Word Summer Special together. What other ways can you think of?

# 3

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for always being ready to **listen** to us. Please help us to **listen** and understand your words and to be good **listeners** to each other too. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



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


**MARTHA BUSY**  
**MARY SITTING**  
**LISTENING GOD**  
**MOST IMPORTANT**


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

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

Cross out the letters **m d o** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

mindo Jedosums olimstend smidto

Mary chose to \_\_\_\_\_ down \_\_\_\_\_ front of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to him.

**Write** a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

Jesus wants us to spend time listening to him and so allowing him to guide our lives. What are the best times for you to quietly pray and listen throughout the holidays? When you wake up, throughout the day or at bedtime?

**This week I will try my best to ...**

.....  
 .....



Happy Birthday this week to...

Declan, Luisa, Jonny, Aurora, Ethan, Gabriella,  
Ethan, Albert, Margaret & Ilinca

Happy Birthday in the next week to...

Amanda, Olivia, Sofia, Samuel, Million, Amara, Francesca,  
Jedidiah, Alexander, Oliver, Orlagh, Sean,

Happy Birthday in the summer holidays to...

Zara, Chase, Sid, Eryk, Ella, Cali, Lilah, Blake, Dilara, Samuel,  
Paul, Chiara, Tawana, Autumn, Ivy, Munenyasha, Amelia, Layla,  
P.J., Alan, Barry, Emily, Teodora, Giuseppe, Sean, Gracie,  
Freddie, Lottie, Archie, Eliza, Sophie, Temidayo, Hillary, Poppy,  
Albi, Ilinca, Nathaniel, Nellie, Stephanie, Grace & Axel



### Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

Monday 21st July

Leavers Mass 9:15

Year 6 party

Tuesday 22nd July

Last day of term

School finishes at 1:30

### International Week

Wednesday 24th July

Summer Holidays

Wednesday 3rd September



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)