



19th September 2025



Newsletter

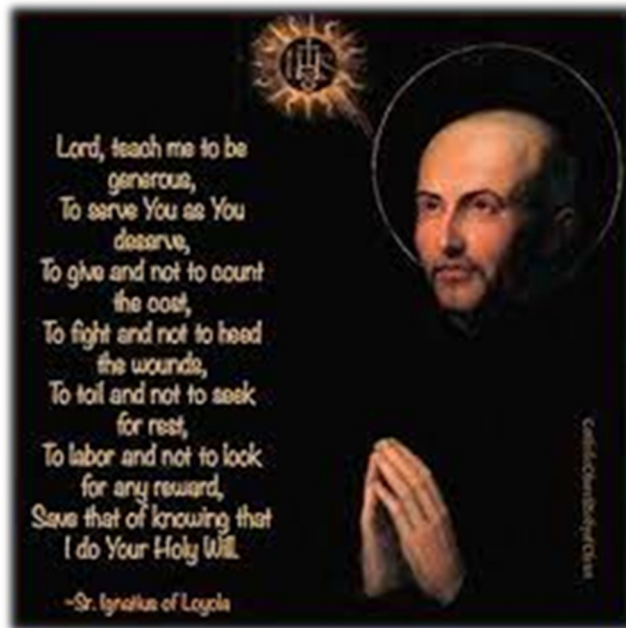


GOSPEL VALUE: Our Gospel Value for next week is Justice. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection.

In the Gospel this coming weekend, we hear the story of the manager who cancels people's debts in a bid to do the right thing to make their situation better. It is an opportunity to reflect on how we can do the same for others in our lives. Often, we do things and hope/ expect something in return and this is of course human nature, borne out of a sense of fairness.

We think of the prayer of St Ignatius, 'to give and not to count the cost'. We pray to Jesus for his help in following in his footsteps, giving of our time and our kindness to others without any expectation of the same in return; doing things for others because it makes us feel good rather than because we want to be rewarded. Telling others that there is no need for pay back and that we do things for them because we are good and kind people. This is a prayer we say regularly in school and perhaps you might like to pray this as a family at home.



Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Clubs

Clubs will be starting on Monday 29th September and details have been shared with you. Mrs Slater sent out notifications and if your child has applied to do a club please don't assume they have the place until it is confirmed. Remember that if your child is signing up for a club it is for the whole term and they must come to each session.

Year 6 Boosters

Some of our Year 6 pupils have been invited to attend a session (rather than a club) with some of the Senior teachers including Miss Dodd and I. It is very important that the children attend each session and these will begin on the 29th September. Mrs Slater will let children know which member of staff they will be working with and this session will either be on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon.

Novena to St Francis

This is the season of Creation, a period in the church that runs from the beginning of September to the 4th October-the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi. We are focusing on this in our RE learning, our Assemblies and in our prayer times. We want to raise awareness with the children of doing all we can to look after our planet-God's creation. As a school we will be taking part in a 9 Day Novena (a special period of prayer) which the children will do in class from the 25th September-4th October. The link is below should you wish to find out more and we will also share the daily reflections on Tapestry and Seesaw: <https://tinyurl.com/St-Francis-Novena>



Healthy Snack

As parents and Carers know, we have a healthy snack policy at Holy Cross. Children may bring fruit and or vegetables to school for their snack and we would encourage parents to get reluctant fruit or vegetable eaters to enjoy these foods at home. This is in line with the Essex Healthy Schools guidance. If your child does not have the correct snack they may be hungry in the middle of the morning.

Uniform

It has been good to see the children looking very smart in their school uniforms this week. Please remember that if your child is wearing the winter uniform and has a shirt or blouse that they must wear a tie.

Hair accessories must be Holy Cross colours only so not pink, blue, purple or orange etc.

Earrings and jewellery are not permitted and if your child is wearing clear, flat plastic spacers that they must be removed for PE.

Year 6 Prefects

All of our Year 6 pupils are being considered this half term for the role of PREFECT at Holy Cross. It is important that our Year 6 pupils are the shining examples to the younger pupils and love out our Gospel Values in all aspects of school life. We hope to be able to award them all with their special badge in a special assembly before Half Term on Friday 17th October. Year 6 parents are warmly invited to attend.

Harvest Assembly-Save the Date

We will have our traditional Harvest Assembly on Friday 24th October at 2:00pm. Parents are invited to attend and our Reception children will make a very short appearance (about 10 minutes-they won't stay) at the beginning, bring in our Harvest Gifts.

School Trips

Mrs Slater is in the process of booking the school trips for the year for Years Reception-Year 5. Please look out for an email which will give you the information and payment details.

Clothes Recycling Bank

There is a clothes recycling bank in the school car park. Items that can be donated are clothes, shoes, soft toys, linen, towels and accessories.

Donating items helps raise money for the school, so please bring in these items when you are having a sort out at home.





Our School Council will be running a grab and go refreshment stall on **Friday 26th September from 8.30am** outside the school office.

If you are able to donate a cake(s), please can you leave them at the office on Thursday 25th September.



SEND Healthy Habits Event

Time: 1pm-2pm or 2pm-3pm

Date : 2nd October 2025

Venue: Meadows Delivery Site, Harberts Road, CM19 4DL

Information, advice and support on Healthy Habits with fun SEND Activities for 2-8year olds. To book or to speak to a member of staff please call on the number below. Limited spaces available!

t: 0300 247 0122 Option 1

w: www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk



Commissioned by

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Robins, 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 8.55am.

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	93%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	95%
Hares	95%
Rabbits	95%
Kingfishers	97%
Robins	98%
Eagles	95%
Owls	96%

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.

Dragonflies:	Jed	Grasshoppers:	Rebecca
Hedgehogs:	Felicity	Squirrels:	Piper
Badgers:	Kayla	Foxes:	Oluoma
Hares:	Arnas	Rabbits:	Ama
Kingfishers:	Gabriel	Robins:	Mara
Eagles:	Axel	Owls:	Indiana



Based on the gospel for Sunday 21 September, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 16:1-13

"The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness."

This Sunday's gospel presents a somewhat puzzling parable about a dishonest manager who is about to be fired for wasting his master's money. Realising he'll soon be jobless, he comes up with a plan to secure his future. He calls in his master's debtors and significantly reduces their bills. Surprisingly, when the master finds out, he commends the manager for his shrewdness.

The cancellation of debts at the heart of this story can surely speak to us in this Jubilee Year. His motives may be questionable, but the astute manager demonstrates how money can be used to create a more just world where all may flourish. Can we do the same in how we use our own wealth and in calling for debt justice in the international community?

We live in a compromised world where we cannot avoid the challenges that money brings. Jesus reminds us that we are called to live as children of the light. May our reflections on this parable help us to embrace that calling - shrewdly and urgently - so that our use of money may build the loving relationships of God's Kingdom.

Prayer
Loving God,
help us live shrewdly
as children of the light,
trusting you more than wealth
and sharing your gifts generously
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

We live as if life were never enough. We rush to produce, to prove ourselves, to keep up. But the Gospel teaches us that knowing how to stop is an act of trust that we must learn to perform. Life does not always depend on what we do, but also in knowing how to let go of what we have been able to do.



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 21st September 2025
 The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – Luke 16:1-13

Relax

Make the Sign of the Cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Then read the Gospel — preferably aloud and slowly — paying attention to any words that stand out to you.



Read

This Sunday's Gospel : THE DISHONEST STEWARD



Jesus said to his disciples, "There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer.' Then the steward said to himself, 'Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes.' Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'One hundred measures of oil,' was the reply. The steward said, 'Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty.' To another he said, 'And you, sir, how much do you owe?' 'One hundred measures of wheat,' was the reply. The steward said, 'Here, take your bond and write eighty.' The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light. And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money."

Did any words or phrases stand out to you in the Gospel? If so, take a few moments to meditate on them.

Reflect

Now read the Gospel again and consider what the Lord might be saying to you, or asking of you, through it. Then continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection...



This parable can be deeply disquieting if we take it as an allegory, that is, if every element in the story is meant (as in Matthew's Parable of the Wheat and the Tares) to have an equivalent in reality. We can't have God praising the steward for his frauds! No, the point of the story is simply the steward's energy and inventiveness, his shrewdness as a 'child of this age'. A lot more thought often goes into how to make money than into how to spend it to the best advantage of others! The danger and encumbrance of wealth is such that skill and imagination is needed in using it to live justly here on earth and to prepare ourselves for life in heaven. The full brilliance of the story is even more subtle: Jews were forbidden to lend to Jews at interest. The steward cuts off the interest from the bills of his master's debtors, for oil was commonly lent at 100% interest, and wheat at 25%. It was easy to return olive oil adulterated with cheap sesame oil, but if I scatter handfuls of chaff in the grain I give you back, you will spot it immediately. So the steward makes his master obey the Law! The sayings added at the end hit the nail on the head: no slave can serve two masters, God and money.

Is there anything in your life which prevents you from fully serving God?

Rest

Now call to mind the Lord's love for you, remembering that through this scripture the Lord is truly present. Then silently and prayerfully listen for God's voice and rest in God's love.



**Respond
&
Request**

Thank God for any insight you may have received, and respond by asking the Holy Spirit to bless you with a spiritual gift or help you to grow in a particular fruit of the Spirit. You might pray for wisdom, courage, faithfulness, self-control, patience, generosity, joy, kindness, love, peace, faith, chastity - or another grace - to help you live out your faith this week.



Remember

This Wednesday's word for our families is **TRUSTWORTHY!**
 (To see the Family Version, please visit: wednesdayword.org)



As you pray for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and for the families connected to our schools.

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.



First Reading: *Racketeering*



Amos 8:4-7

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, "When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, "Never will I forget a single thing you have done."

Amos is one of the first of the prophets whose sayings were gathered together and written down. He was peacefully pasturing sheep in the southern hill-country near Bethlehem, when the Lord summoned him to trudge northwards and denounce the racketeering of rich against poor in Samaria. Archaeologists have

*shown us the traces of these practices. The capital in the North was moved westwards to link with Mediterranean trade: marriage alliances with merchant princes, grand palaces displacing slum dwellings, expensive (and idolatrous) ivory inlays on the furniture. The fat-cats would not listen to Amos, told him he was not welcome in their country, sent him packing and continued to fleece the helpless poor, for they controlled the money supply and the means of exchange – till the mighty power of Assyria swept down and destroyed them all. For us today perhaps the equivalent would be the rich nations profiteering from poor, unequal business deals, unfair trade, 'international aid' packages to dispose of excess production, the rich growing richer, the poor growing poorer in a thousand ways. The message of Amos is linked to the Gospel by the final sentence: use wealth to make friends in heaven by your generosity. **Can you do anything to prevent the exploitation of the poor?***



Second Reading: *Universal Salvation*



1 Timothy 2:1-8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone - petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and - I am telling the truth and no lie - a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans. In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

As the gospel message was proclaimed beyond the restricted world of Judaism, in the larger world of the Greco-Roman Empire, new questions arose for Christians. The first question addressed here was relationship to the civil authorities, and the answer: accept them and pray for them, particularly in their attempts to provide a worthy framework for human life. The second question, a pressing one in our post-Christian society: can non-Christians be saved? Here the scripture tells us that God wills all people to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth, and that there is one mediator, Christ Jesus. How is this so? Is it enough to grope towards a God 'in signs and symbols' (Vatican II), accepting a power outside ourselves, to which all are indebted for existence itself, the ultimate authority in human life? And what about the Mediator? How can people be saved by Christ if they do not know him? Is it enough for them to acknowledge their human deficiencies and failures and lay them before God? What responsibility do we have to express our Christian values in such a way that others may come to share them?

How can all people be saved by Christ, even those who do not know him?

**“ God wills all people to be saved ”
and come to knowledge of the truth.**

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School and Parish through the Word of God



Dear Parents and Carers,

While on earth, we are given 'free will' and God our Father trusts us to use it wisely. There may be times when we make a wrong choice, but we can trust that God is always there to help us start again.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us about the value of being trustworthy people. We can show this by making good choices - especially when it comes to the use of money.

Wednesday 17th September 2025

When we give God first place in our lives - using our talents, our time and our money to serve God - we are blessed here and now, and can be certain that we will be rewarded in the life to come too.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Trust the present to God's love and the future to God's care." St Augustine of Hippo

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 21st September 2025



Jesus said, "The one who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the one who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money."

Adapted from Luke 16:1-13
The 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

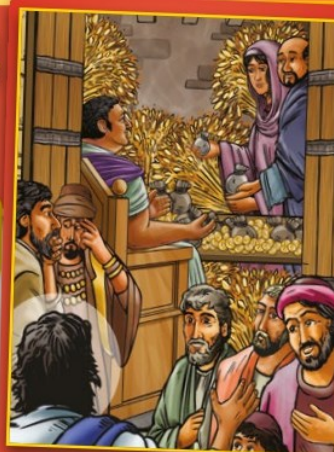
Having Hope
in our Families

God wants us to place our trust in him, so that he can guide our lives. Following God's ways shows God that we are trustworthy and provides a secure foundation for our lives and for the lives of our children too.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

One day Jesus was talking to his disciples about choosing to put God first in their lives - about not becoming a 'slave' to the love of money, but rather using money in a way that is pleasing to God. Jesus said: "If you can be trusted with little things, then you can be trusted with big things. To God, money is a little thing. If you can't be trusted with that, how can you be trusted with real riches? The choice is yours, but you cannot be the slave both of God and of money."

How does Jesus want us to use our money?

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...

"Those who trust in God can do all things."

St Alphonsus Liguori

TRUSTWORTHY



Being a trustworthy person and also knowing who to trust is really important. Ask your child what the word 'trustworthy' means to them. A friend who can be trusted is a gift from God! Who are the most trustworthy friends in your child's life and why do they trust them? What do their friends do which shows they are trustworthy? Perhaps you can tell your child about those people in your life whom you trust the most, and say why they are trustworthy.

We can show God and others that we are trustworthy by making the most of our gifts - to make the world a better place. In this coming week, what can each one of us do to show that we are trustworthy people? Perhaps we can: be generous with our God-given gifts of time, talent and money; always try to tell the truth; say our daily prayers asking God to guide us to do the right thing; keep our promises.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, help us use our gifts well - to be your trustworthy sons and daughters who always put you first in our lives. 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"/>	WARNS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SLAVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	MONEY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRUST	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	REAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	RICHES	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

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

bomieg trumstoced tchimnogs othcenm

"If you can be _____ with little _____, _____ you can be trusted with _____ things."

Jesus is trustworthy! We can always trust Jesus to help us make the most of our lives—enjoying them and using them to love and care for others. Jesus leads us to live our best life—full of peace, joy, and kindness.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Liora, Lemuel,
Feodora & Allison



Headteacher Award

Charlie, for making such a brilliant start at Holy Cross

Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Aoife, for a great start in Year 1.
- Grasshoppers: Hartley, for making a positive start to Year 1 and being so helpful.
- Hedgehogs: River, for an amazing effort in his attitude to learning.
- Squirrels: Malique, for making a mature start to Year 2 and being very helpful .
- Badgers: Tobi, for a great start to Year 3 and always following the rules and expectations.
- Foxes: Tilly, for being a helpful class member, especially with her reading.
- Hares: Samantha, for a great start to Year 4 and having a fantastic attitude.
- Rabbits: Emilia, for being a great role model in the class.
- Kingfishers: Maya, for her fantastic writing in R.E.
- Robins: Nick, for his amazing attitude in our writing lesson.
- Eagles: Hendrix, for an excellent start to Year 6, especially in maths.
- Owls: Luke, for excellent writing about his colour monster.

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 15th September

Badgers swimming

* Drama club

Tuesday 16th September

* Multisports club

* Dance club

Wednesday 17th September

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 18th September

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

* External club, fees apply

Wednesday 19th September

Reception phonics meeting for parents 9 am

Celebration assembly 2 pm

* Musical Theatre club

House Points

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

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