



26th September 2025



Newsletter



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

Weekly Reflection.

In the Gospel this coming weekend, we hear the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. In this story, Jesus shows us the danger of indifference to the suffering of others; of failing to recognise the experience of our neighbours. When we hear of conflict, war and troubles of others in distant lands or even in our own communities we can sometimes feel disconnected, 'nothing to do with me'. Pope Francis frequently warned against a culture of indifference, where awareness of suffering does not lead to compassion or action. He said: "indifference is the tragedy of being well-informed but not feeling the reality of others."

As a Catholic school we can pray for others and their challenges, as well as taking positive practical actions, for example today we have had our Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise money for families battling Cancer. Thank you if you have supported this today and helping us to raise £373.70, for this worthy cause.

We pray for the grace to support our neighbours who are experiencing poverty and injustice. May the love of God inspire us all to come together to build a better world.



Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Clubs

Exciting news! Clubs will be starting this 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.

New Parent Governor

Congratulations to our new parent governor Francisca Apau., who will be joining our governor team from Monday. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for taking on this important responsibility.

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>

Warm Congratulations

Well done to Mrs Peters, Miss Clark and Mrs Noonan on achieving their National Professional Qualifications. This is an 18-month programme of study which they undertook in their own time-it was a great deal of hard work in addition to the dedication and efforts to their class. We wish them all our warmest congratulations.

Uniform

We are still seeing lots of children with the wrong colour hair accessories in their hair. This is part of our Uniform Policy and **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.

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.

Labubu

We are seeing an increasing number of these popular toys in school. Pupils will be allowed to have them attached to their school bags, but not their school uniform. We are mindful that they can be very expensive and therefore if they are lost the school will not be responsible for replacing them. We would advise keeping them at home.



Pet Blessing

Father Bernard has asked us to share that he will have a special mass on Saturday 4th October at 10 am to bless pets. You are welcome to bring along your family pet for a blessing.





First Holy Communion

If you wish for your Year 3 or above child to take part in the First Holy Communion programme please complete the form on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/C1fqivZU+H>

Children must be baptised, before they can take their Holy Communion.

Girls Football Match

It was a historic day for Holy Cross as our newly formed girls football team played their first competitive fixtures. The tournament was hosted by Passmores on their 7 a-side grass pitches. Miss Cargill (team coach) and Mr Clarke (assistant coach) selected a squad of 9 girls.

In the first group stage we faced Tanys Dell and then Hare Street. Both games were tight and ended

0-0 with the defences being on top. We then faced a very strong Henry Moore side who scored two goals in quick succession, a 2-0 defeat for us but again we played well.

Then, the next group stage was drawn and we faced two Freshwater teams and Latton Green.

This is where the girls really excelled. We won all three games (2-0, 1-0 and 2-0). Five goals scored and zero conceded! The change in formation to a 2-2-2 worked perfectly as we drove through the middle of pitch and once Vienna scored our first ever goal, we were unstoppable! The girls (and coaches) all joined in with our well rehearsed 6, 7 celebration after each goal and it was a pleasure to see everyone playing so well with a smile on their faces. Vienna scored 3, while Diana and Keziah both scored 1.

When the tournament ended, we had recorded 3 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. So many positives to build on as we look forward to seeing who we will face in the 9 a-side cup competition.

Well done to our fantastic goalkeeper Gracie, super defenders Aoife, Tilly, Kenna and Amelia OB, awesome midfielders Keziah, Blousey, Diana and terrific striker Vienna.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Badgers:	Grace	Foxes:	Alexander
Hares:	Cristina	Rabbits:	Emilia
Kingfishers:	Bali	Robins:	Alexander
Eagles:	Erin	Owls:	Axel



Wear Yellow for World Mental Health Day

We will be having a bucket collection at the start of the day for Mind charity

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER

Non uniform day.

Wear something yellow

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. The joint winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Hares and Kingfishers, 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	96%
Grasshoppers	95%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	96%
Badgers	94%
Foxes	98%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	97%
Eagles	97%
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.

Dragonflies:	Paul	Grasshoppers:	Eliana
Hedgehogs:	Ilinca	Squirrels:	Sofia
Badgers:	Yohanna	Foxes:	Thankgod
Hares:	Zara	Rabbits:	Olivia
Kingfishers:	Mariella	Robins:	Jayden
Eagles:	Gracie	Owls:	Hillary



Based on the gospel for Sunday 28 September, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 16:19-31

"Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish."

Pope Francis frequently warned against a culture of indifference, where awareness of suffering does not lead to compassion or action. He said: "indifference is the tragedy of being well-informed but not feeling the reality of others."

In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus shows us the danger of indifference to the suffering of others; of failing to recognise the experience of our neighbours,

News coverage of our sisters and brothers affected by serious conflicts in the Holy Land, in Sudan and in Ukraine; the worsening effects of climate change; and poverty caused by injustice and economic uncertainty is distressing. It is often so disturbing that it is tempting to switch off, to look away, to focus on our own daily concerns.

Following Pope Francis' example, Pope Leo last month called us "not to give in to indifference" and to draw close to those affected by war "through prayer and concrete acts of charity."

As we prepare to mark Family Fast Day in the week ahead, may we recognise the call in this Sunday's Gospel to live our lives with empathy, generosity and a commitment to justice. May we allow ourselves to be moved by encounter with the stories of our neighbours, like that of Waré, who walks for hours to fetch water during a long-running drought in southern Ethiopia. And may we be witnesses of Christ's love and compassion in our world today.

We ask the Lord for the grace of not falling into indifference, the grace that all information we have about human suffering might penetrate our hearts and move us to do something for others. (Prayer intention from Pope Francis)



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

No place is too distant, no heart too closed, no tomb is too tightly sealed to keep out God's love.



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel we read about poor Lazarus, suffering at the rich man's gate - and the rich man does nothing to help him.

It's easy for us to become so caught up in the busyness of life that we don't even notice the needs of others or, worse still, ignore them. But Jesus repeatedly teaches us about fairness, sharing and kindness to others, particularly to the poor.

Wednesday 24th September 2025

The question of a successful life is not: "How much did I accumulate?" but rather, "How did I use what God had given me to help others?"

So, let's not put off until tomorrow the good that we can do today. Enjoy your week and help share God's love.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Give something, however small, to the person in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing." St Gregory Nazianus

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 28th September 2025



Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. He looked up from Hades and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering in this heat.' 'My son,' Abraham replied, 'remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here.'"

Adapted from Luke 16:19-31
The 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

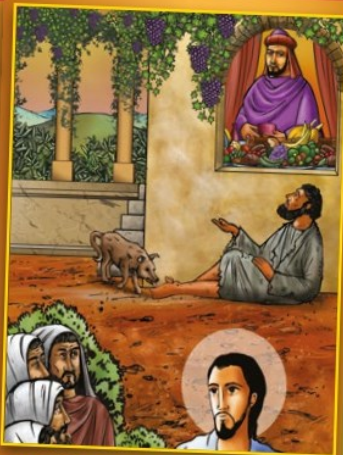
Having Hope
in our Families

God wants each one of us to share with people who are in need - people around us and people all over the world and, just like Lazarus, to share in God's everlasting happiness now and forever.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who always wore the most expensive clothes and always ate the best food every day. There was also a very poor man, named Lazarus, covered with sores, who used to sit outside the rich man's house. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the scraps of left-over food that the rich man didn't want. When Lazarus died, he was carried away by the angels to heaven. But the rich man, who had ignored poor Lazarus and did not help him, was not taken to heaven."

Why did Lazarus sit outside the rich man's house?

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...

"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community."

Saint Baldwin of Canterbury

Ask your child what the word 'sharing' means to them. Ask them to talk about a time when they shared something. Is it easy or difficult for them to share things, and why? Sharing is part of everyday life, particularly family life. Talk about when your family shares with others. Who has recently shared something with your child? How did your child feel to be on the receiving end of someone's generosity?



Even small, everyday acts of sharing around the home, school or in the workplace are most valuable in God's eyes. What difference would it make to our school and to the world if we shared more? Each of you choose a way in which you can share at home, at school or in the community in the coming week. Why not visit the CAFOD and MISSION-TOGETHER websites for ideas about how to share and help the poorest in the world? See: kidzzone.cafod.org.uk & missiontogether.co.uk

SHARING



3 * Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for blessing us with many good things. Please help us to see the needs of others and to share with anyone in need. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HUNGRY MAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SORES GATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ANGELS CARRIED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAZARUS HEAVEN	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **o b t** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

tabngoels hoeatvebn tabwaoy Latzoarbus

"When _____ died, he was carried _____ by the _____ to _____."

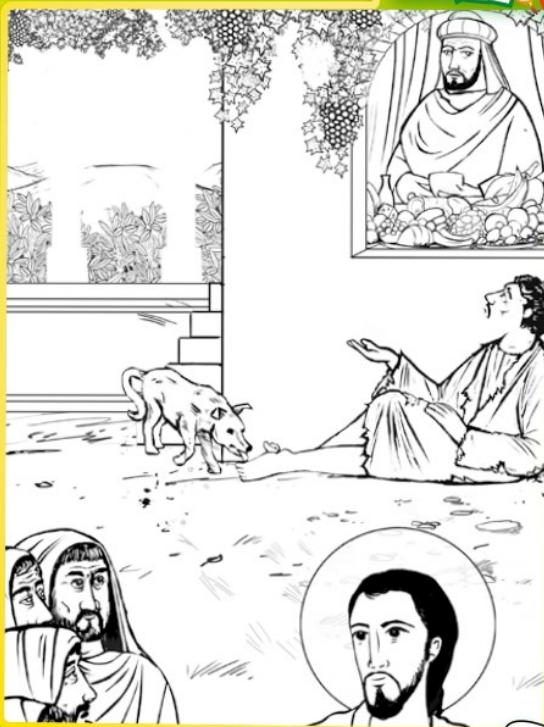
Jesus told the story of Lazarus so that we would understand how important it is to share and to be kind. True happiness comes from sharing and giving, just as much as it comes from receiving.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley





Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 28th September 2025
 The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – Luke 16:19-31

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 RICH MAN AND LAZARUS



Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 'My son,' Abraham replied, 'remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours.' The rich man replied, 'Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too.' 'They have Moses and the prophets,' said Abraham, 'let them listen to them.' 'Ah no, father Abraham,' said the rich man, 'but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.' Then Abraham said to him, 'If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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 story told by Jesus occurs only in Luke. It is another of those dreadful warnings about the danger of wealth, for Luke's Gospel is often known as the Gospel to the Poor. Luke shows us those who blithely turn down their invitation to the banquet of the Kingdom in order to try out their new holiday cottage, their latest Porsche or the re-fitted yacht. Through the Crafty Steward he reminds us that those who want to make money are often sharper than those who want to make the Kingdom. Through the Rich Fool he teaches us that well-stocked barns are no remedy against death. For me there are three particularly horrible features of this parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man: firstly, the flea-ridden dogs licking Lazarus' sores: there are no pets in Palestine - dogs are either bristling guard-dogs or mangy curs. Secondly, the Rich Man's continuing self-absorption even after death: he still does not recognise Lazarus' existence and thinks only of his own burning tongue. Contrast this with Abraham's gentleness: it almost looks as though he would cross the chasm if he could. Thirdly, the obdurate brothers: they are just not willing to listen, even to the most startling news; nothing will distract them from their own selfish pre-occupations.

When was the last time I turned my back on someone who needed my help?

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 **SHARING!**
 (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.

Wednesday Word Plus †

If you'd like to spend more prayerful time with God through the First and Second Readings, follow the same process for praying with the Gospel (overleaf). Gently place the First or Second Reading and Fr Henry's reflection into that same prayerful rhythm for more fruitful meditation with God's Word.



First Reading: *Couch-potatoes*



Amos 6:1. 4-7

The almighty Lord says this: **Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.**

'Alas for those who lounge in front of the telly, munching their crisps and slurping their lager. Alas for those who zoom the streets, singing raucously along with their blaring radios.' Is Amos simply a middle-aged spoil-sport, castigating the evils of his time? The real question is whether such "sprawlers" would ever manoeuvre

themselves off the couch for the sake of the needy person at the door, whether they spring out of the car to help the blind person across the road. Following on from this: what about our own society? What can I do to help remedy the fundamental ills within society? What can I, helpless and half-hearted as I am, do to build on the ruins? How far can Jesus push me? One thing is sure, it is always one step further than my comfort-zone. The Lord may not be calling me to be a Charles de Foucauld, an Oscar Romero, a Mother Teresa, but he always wants me to go one step nearer him, whatever my state of life, one step at a time out of my comfort-zone in response to his challenge. I can never say I have done all I need to do.

What more am I able and willing to do for someone in need? Is there something I can do for my community – or indeed to help the wider society?



Second Reading: *Sevenfold Praise*



1 Timothy 6:11-16

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

The letters to Timothy contain several little hymns of praise to Christ. After his final exhortation to Timothy to perseverance and to witness, the author gives a concluding doxology (after he mentions the Appearing of the Lord) as an inspiration for his - and our - devotion to Christ, enumerating seven titles of Christ's pre-eminence. In this egalitarian world, where TV has almost abolished the mystique of royalty, the first three titles of royalty (Ruler, King of kings and Lord of lords) may not move us too much. But who would absent themselves if even a 'minor royal' was coming on a visit to office or factory? So how would we respond if it were to be the Lord of all lords himself arriving? The other awesome titles used for Christ cannot fail to move us. Christ possesses as his own the immortality for which we crave. He dwells in the sphere of faultless light which lies beyond our comprehension. He is beyond our sight, our understanding, even our imagination; his are power and honour without end. We can only be amazed at how far he is beyond us, and yet that he walked beside the Lake of Galilee with his chosen friends, and allowed himself to be humiliated in suffering and death before his exaltation.

In what small ways may we envisage God's glory?

“ He is beyond our sight, our understanding, even our imagination. ”

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Sophie & Kezia



Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Archie, for working hard in his phonics.
Grasshoppers: P.J, for his excellent effort in his learning this week.
Hedgehogs: Zakary, for excellent work on the 'Wild Things'.
Squirrels: Chloe, for the fantastic use of adjectives in her writing.
Badgers: Reg, for persevering at swimming and showing real courage.
Foxes: Alexander, for settling in well to Year 3 and trying hard with his writing.
Hares: Jemimah, for having a great attitude in all subjects.
Rabbits: Declan, for trying very hard with all subjects and showing resilience.
Kingfishers: Summer, for her fantastic suspense writing.
Robins: Abigail, for her fantastic sentence writing.
Eagles: Vienna-Baye, for fantastic R.E. work this week. Well done.
Owls: Blake, for giving great answers in reading comprehension.

House Points

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

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 29th September

Badgers swimming

* Drama club

Art club

Scrapbook club

Lego club

Coding club

Mindfulness and Yoga club

Board Games club

Girls football team

Boys football team

Year 6 Boosters

Tuesday 30th September

* Multisports club

* Dance club

Year 6 Boosters

Young Carers club

Wednesday 1st October

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 2nd October

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Cafod club

Wednesday 3rd October

Celebration assembly 2 pm

* Musical Theatre club

* External club, fees apply

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE