



3rd October 2025



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection.

In the Gospel this coming weekend, we hear about the importance of doing our duty simply because that is what God asks us to do every day. The message in the Gospel is that we should give our all to everything that we do not because we are expecting a reward but because we are fulfilled in doing our best and giving of ourselves. This can be hard, as it feels good when others recognise us for our efforts and encourages us to do our best. We teach the children that life is a balance between 'getting on' with the mundane, routine and basic things but when we go above and beyond this, this is when we have reward.

This week we have been saying prayers to St Francis to ask him for the strength and support to look after our Common Home. Thinking of the Gospel, when we work together to do the simple things to look after our planet, they make a big difference. We do this not because it gives us a huge obvious reward, but because we know that when we make small changes, they make a big difference.



Have a wonderful weekend

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Clubs

Clubs got off to a great start this week. Please make sure that if your child has a place that they attend every week unless there is a good reason as to why they cannot go. If your child is absent they may forfeit their place.

Year 6 Boosters

Year 6 Boosters started last week and some of the children walk home after the session. Children will not be allowed to walk home after half term because it will be getting dark much earlier. Please plan to collect your child after half term. Also, please ensure that your child knows if they are attending a Booster session as we had some children, who walk home, leave straight after school this week and not go to their Booster group.

Year 6 Prefect Badges

We will give out our Year 6 Prefect Badges in assembly on Friday 17th September. There will not be an awards assembly that day. Year 6 parents are welcome to attend this assembly at 2:15pm.

Library Books

We are starting our Library Visits again this year to the local library at Tye Green. Unfortunately, lots of the children are unable to take out books as they have books that are overdue. We are therefore offering a library book amnesty. Please look for library books at home and bring them into the school office by next Friday and we will arrange for them to be returned. Please do not bring in any other books. Children will now only be allowed to take out one book at a time when they visit the library to stop this situation arising again.

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.

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>

Secondary School Applications for September 2026 - Reminder

The new secondary school admissions are open, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2025. Any applications made after this date will be treated as late applications and will only be allocated once all other applications have been processed.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Parents applying for St Mark's must also complete and return the gold Supplementary Information Form. This is in the pack sent home earlier this week, following Year 6's visit to St Mark's.

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.

Mini Vinnies Food Collection 2025

Harvest FESTIVAL

collecting for
Streets 2 Homes charity
13th to 24th October



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Temi	Squirrels:	Zuriel
Badgers:	Grace	Foxes:	Alexandra
Hares:	Filip	Rabbits:	Flynn
Kingfishers:	Maya	Robins:	Hayley
Eagles:	Jalynn	Owls:	Filip



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

**ACL****Learning**

Community & Family Learning Courses

Online Courses

COURSE TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	START TIME	END TIME
FL PARENTAL MENTAL HEALTH	09/10/2025	16/10/2025	09:30	11:30
FL SIBLING RIVALRY	10/10/2025	10/10/2025	12:30	14:30
FL ROUTINES RULE	17/10/2025	17/10/2025	12:30	14:30



If you would like to enrol on to a FREE course please Visit our website acessex.com and type the course title in the 'Find a course..' box

acessex.com

0345 603 7635

**ACL**

Essex County Council



ACL

Family First Aid at ACL Harlow

Come along and learn some lifesaving techniques to keep your family safe. This Family First Aid session is for families. Learn how to perform CPR, how to deal with choking, burns and poisoning and common childhood medical concerns.

Date: 15/10/2025 & 22/10/2025 Time: 10:00 - 12:00

**Scan the QR code, or
Visit our website
acessex.com and type
'FIRST AID' or "HO3A01FC25"
in the 'Find a course...' box**



acessex.com

0345 603 7635



Essex County Council

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Dragonflies achieving 99.5% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Robins, 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 8.55am.

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	96%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	99.5%
Grasshoppers	96%
Hedgehogs	92%
Squirrels	99%
Badgers	98%
Foxes	97%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	97%
Robins	99%
Eagles	97%
Owls	97%

Gospel Value Awards

Justice

fairness, equality, share for all

"The Lord is gracious and merciful: patient and plenteous in mercy. The Lord is sweet to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. The Lord is just in all his ways: and holy in all his works." Psalm 145: 8-9, 17



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

Dragonflies:	Mario	Grasshoppers:	Luna
Hedgehogs:	Kaleb	Squirrels:	Jayden
Badgers:	Chloe	Foxes:	Nellie
Hares:	Hanley	Rabbits:	Melisa
Kingfishers:	Elizabeth	Robins:	Kodie
Eagles:	Riley	Owls:	Caiden



Based on the gospel for Sunday 5 October, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 17:5-10

"Increase our faith."

There may be times when our hopes for a world of justice and fairness for all seem even further away. There are conflicts which have no end. The cry of the earth is not heard. Many of our sisters and brothers still lack water, food and other essentials of life. Migrants and refugees seeking a better life are not welcomed. Loud voices preach hate not love.

This might cause us to feel doubt and despair, questioning if things will ever change. As we strive for what is good, do we ever feel like giving up?

Taken from his homily on this Gospel, St Oscar Romero's words can give us strength:

"Where injustice, violence, and brute force seem to hold sway, the just person can feel helpless. Nevertheless, we have the vigorous force of God, which is faith. If we who are tiny before the forces of the world have faith in God, then we are more powerful than all the armies of the world."

Waré in Ethiopia faced many difficulties getting water for her family during times of drought. But she did not give up. She carried on walking despite being pregnant, feeling weak and worrying her children would lose their mother.

Thanks to CAFOD supporters, Waré now has a much shorter walk to an underground storage tank providing water for her community.

May our faith sustain our hope of a better world, as we respond to the call to bring about God's Kingdom on earth.

Lord Jesus,
in a world which can seem ever farther from being your Kingdom on earth,
let us not feel disheartened or helpless,
but strengthened by our faith,
to respond to your call through word and deed.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

We are one family, with the same Father, who makes the sun to rise and send rain on everyone (Mt5:45). We live on the same planet, and must care for it together. I renew my heartfelt appeal for unity around integral ecology and for peace!



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 5th October 2025
 The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C – Luke 17:5-10

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 REWARD OF FAITH



The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, 'Come and have your meal immediately?' Would he not be more likely to say, 'Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards?' Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.'"

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...



The two sections of this Gospel reading appear at first sight to be entirely separate, the first about faith, the second about the reward of service; but they do fit together. The faith required consists not in reciting a creed but in hanging on by one's finger-tips, through thick and thin, to God's power and will to save. In nothing else is there any hope, not in my own power or ability. That is why, in the second section, we have no right to expect any sort of reward as our due from God. The value of our work in itself is secondary to our admission of helplessness and our trust in God's to save us. However, not all parables should be taken as allegories. The severe master here is not necessarily God, any more than the master who in another parable praises his crooked steward. When we hear the unyielding command of the master to the slave to expect nothing and to set about serving at supper, we cannot forget that at the Last Supper it was Jesus who put on his apron and washed his disciples' feet. We may be unworthy slaves, but Our Lord's action at the Last Supper gives us confidence that our Master ministers to us.

How do I best serve God and others?

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 **FAITH!**
 (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: *Keep Going*



Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry "Oppression!" in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see; all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, "Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness."

This fascinating passage has two very different meanings; the first is the meaning of the original Hebrew prophet, the second is as a reflection on the meaning of 'faith' as mentioned in the gospel passage with which the Church pairs this first reading. The drift of the passage in the

*Hebrew prophet Habakkuk is endurance. 'Make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it' the original Hebrew reads – that is, as you whisk past, running your Marathon, you see an encouraging placard in the crowd, 'Keep going!' So the message in the last line is that, however tough and unpromising the course, the righteous person should live by endurance, perseverance, fidelity. The message was originally intended to keep up the spirits of the Jews as the Babylonian armies approached: it will be tough, but stick it out, for the Lord will not desert you. However, the Apostle Paul is using the Greek translation of the Hebrew text – of course he is writing in Greek – which reads 'the righteous person lives by fidelity/faith'. Paul uses the text in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11 to prove that justification is by faith. Luther adds a further complication by adding, 'alone': 'the righteous person lives by faith alone'. But for Paul, faith expresses itself in action. **How does Christian faith and hope make life different?***



Second Reading: *Sound Teaching*



2 Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God. Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Today we start with the first of four Sunday readings from Second Timothy. The letters addressed to Timothy and Titus, those two central members of Paul's staff, are generally considered not to have been written by Paul himself. However, they are all part of the inspired word of God,

and a handful of reputable scholars considers that Second Timothy is indeed by Paul. In 1 Corinthians 16:10-11 the Corinthians are urged to treat Timothy gently, and in today's passage the author seems to be encouraging Timothy himself against timidity; perhaps he was a naturally hesitant person. One of the principal emphases of all three letters to Timothy and Titus is the adherence to 'sound teaching': they are encouraged to think and act within the tradition of the teaching which they have received and to uphold its fundamental vision. This is, of course, already implied by the laying on of Paul's hands, for a Jewish rabbi would learn much by heart, and at the end of his training was commissioned to carry on the tradition in the name of his own teacher. Such methods would have been important for the preservation of the teaching of Jesus during the Pauline period, before it came to be written down in the gospels.

What is the "sound teaching" to which Paul refers?

“Keep to the tradition already established.”

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is said that faith can 'move mountains'. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the power and the responsibility that comes with having faith in God.

Faith and love go hand in hand. Helping our children to grow in faith, to know and love God, is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Putting our faith in Jesus helps us to know God as our loving Father, and this changes how

Wednesday 1st October 2025

we see the world – it can free us from anxiety, give us confidence and inner strength, and help us keep growing in our love for one another.

A family full of faith is a family full of joy. Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FAITH**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough

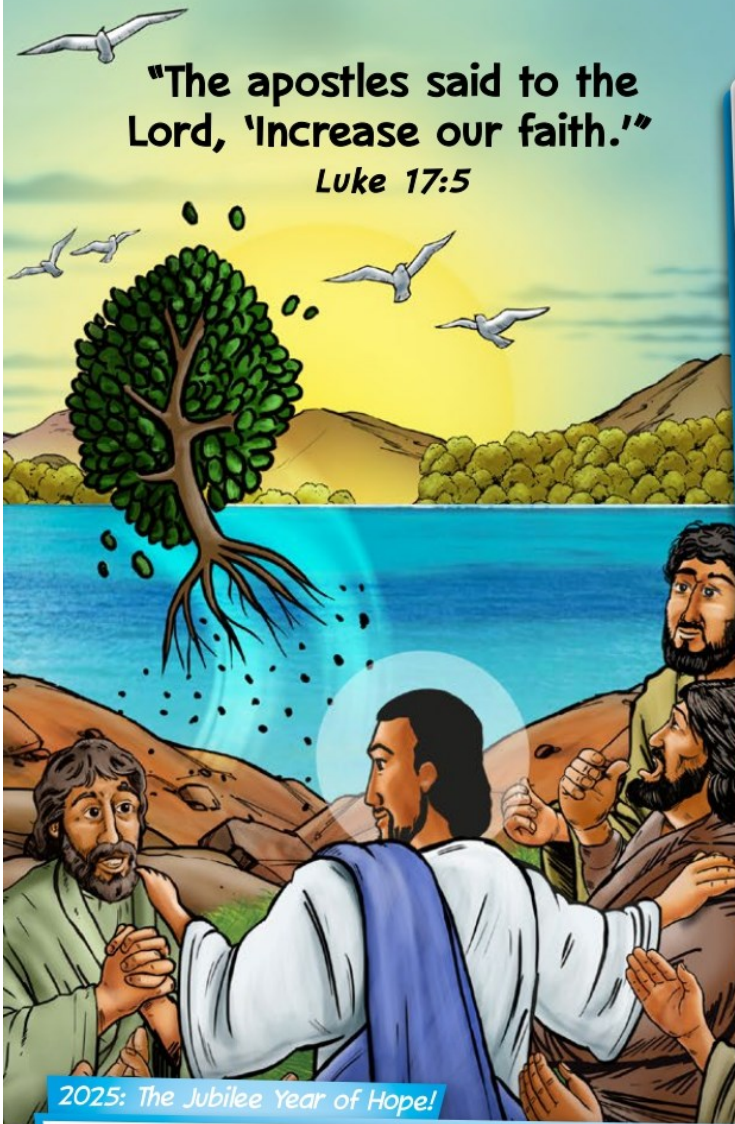


A Word from the Saints

"Faith is the union of God with the soul." St John of the Cross

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'"

Luke 17:5



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 5th October 2025



The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "Were your faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, 'Come and have your meal immediately'? Would he not be more likely to say, 'Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards'? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty.'"

Adapted from Luke 17: 5-10
The 27th 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!

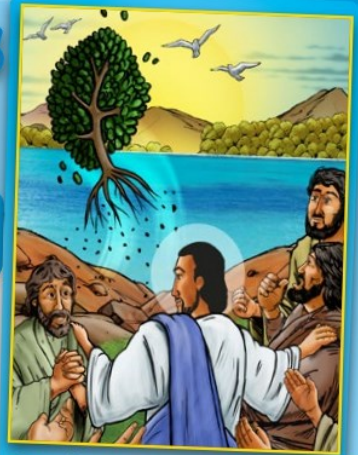
Having Hope
in our **Families**

Having faith is to believe and trust in God's love for us. Faith is one of life's greatest blessings – it is a gift to be shared. The Church exists to help people to grow in their faith. You can find out more at: cbcew.org.uk



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

One day Jesus' friends, the apostles, said to him, "Please increase our faith. Make our faith grow stronger." So to help them understand how small their faith really was, and how real faith helps us to do amazing things, Jesus said to them, "If your faith was the size of a tiny mustard seed, you could do astonishing things. You could even tell this mulberry tree to pull itself out of the ground, roots and all, and to plant itself in the sea, and the tree would obey you!"

What did the apostles ask Jesus to do for them?

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...

"Faith and love are everything, and nothing is more precious than these." *St Ignatius of Antioch*

FAITH



Faith greatly enriches our lives and helps happiness and love to grow in our families. Ask your child what the word 'faith' means to them. Ask your child who they turn to in times of trouble. Who do they have faith in to be there for them always (e.g. parents, carers, relatives, friends, Jesus)? You may want to tell your child about someone in the family, at school or in the parish who helped you grow in faith when you were young.



As a family, talk about the faith you have in God. What can we do, in these coming weeks, to help our family's faith to grow? Perhaps we can: regularly talk about God together; worship God together; pray together; read the Bible. Why not agree to pray for each other throughout this coming week, asking God to increase your family's faith? Decide which family member you will pray for. Can you think of any other ways to help your family's faith to grow?

3

Dear Lord Jesus, please increase our faith and move us to action - sharing God's love with everyone we meet. Amen.

FINDING THREE!

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JESUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	APOSTLES	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	INCREASE FAITH	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	MUSTARD SEED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TREE OBEY	<input type="checkbox"/>

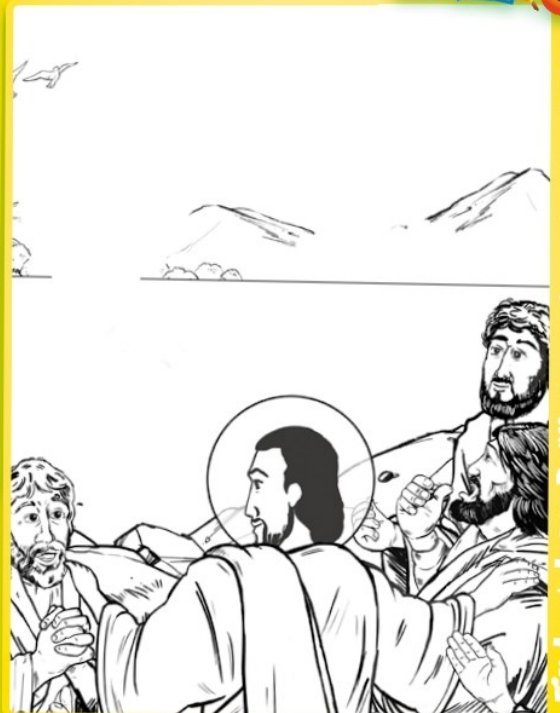
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

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

flamdith molurd glrodwm dincremasel

The apostles said to Jesus, "Please _____ our _____. Make _____ faith _____ stronger."

Jesus tells us that faith is a powerful thing and it can help us to do great things. Jesus wants us to have faith in God's help and faith in ourselves. Let's be thankful to God for the great gift of faith.



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Amelia, Anayah, Aimee,
Joshua, Alexandra, Obalowuwa,
Lexi, Elissa & Eliana



Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Jude, for trying so hard in all of his learning.
Grasshoppers: Camron, for showing excellent behaviour and effort in all learning.
Hedgehogs: Marco, for really trying to be a great friend and learner.
Squirrels: Lilah, for an amazing piece of homework on the Great Fire of London.
Badgers: Braven, for working hard to learn his weekly spellings.
Foxes: Leroy, for being a kind and helpful friend.
Hares: Arribella, for a fantastic attitude when writing a buddy story.
Rabbits: Aidan, for being a fantastic role model in our class.
Kingfishers: Aoife, for her fantastic work in R.E. and for being a shining example in our class.
Robins: Enoch, for his terrific attitude towards homework.
Eagles: Oliver, for always working hard and trying his best in all that we do.
Owls: Priscilla, for a great debate in R.E.

House Points

Congratulations to the winning
house this week, St Andrew'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 2

Diary Dates

Monday 6th October

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 7th October

Year 6 reading zone 9 am

Robins library visit

Kingfishers library visit

* Multisports club

* Dance club

Year 6 Boosters

Young Carers club

Wednesday 8th October

Year 6 reading zone 2:45 pm

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 9th October

Year 6 reading zone 9 am

Squirrels library visit

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Cafod club

Friday 10th October



World Mental Health Day -

Non-uniform, wear yellow

Celebration assembly 2 pm

* Musical Theatre club

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE