



17th October 2025



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

### Weekly Reflection.

In the Gospel this coming weekend, we hear the parable of the unjust judge, who is pestered day and night by a woman who wants him to do a good deed for her. Jesus is telling us about the importance of asking God through prayer, to help us through our difficulties and our struggles and that we should never lose faith in Him. He is always close to us, knows our every need and hears our every prayer.



Have a wonderful weekend

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

### St Marks-Year 7 Mass

It was an absolute privilege to attend the Year 7 Mass at St Marks this week. Mrs Noonan, Mrs Ennifer and I attended the Mass and it was wonderful to see our past Holy Cross pupils so grown up and on the next step of their school journey. We were very proud (and a little emotional!).

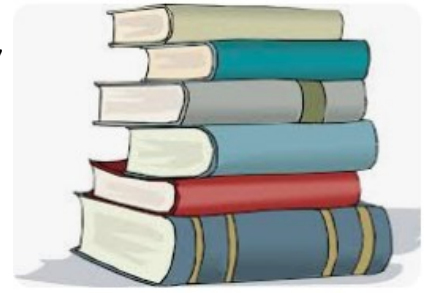
### Year 6 Prefect Certificates

Well done to our wonderful year 6 pupils who were awarded their Year 6 Prefect certificates today-badges to follow. Thank you to parents and family members who attended.



## 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.

## Livewire Visit to Year 6

On Tuesday Livewire a community theatre for young people in Harlow visited Year 6.

They held a drama workshop and then started on writing their own song. Livewire will be returning later in the year.



## The Words of Pope Leo XIV

We were created to rejoice in life, and life in abundance (Jn 10:10). This deep desire of our hearts never finds its ultimate answer in power or possession. Only the Risen Jesus is the wellspring that satisfies our infinite thirst for fullness, which the Holy Spirit imbues into our hearts.

## World Mental Health Day—We Wore It Yellow!

Thank you to everyone who donated in our bucket collection, on World Mental Health Day. We raised over £300 for charity Mind.

The children took part in special workshops, run by Mind, focusing on how are brains work when we experience different feeling and emotions.





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.

Badgers:	Grace	Foxes:	Dilara
Hares:	Stephanie	Rabbits:	Caliyah
Kingfishers:	River	Robins:	Hannah
Eagles:	Riley	Owls:	Adaora

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

## Gospel Value Awards

### Compassion

kindness, patience, empathy, helpfulness

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:1



"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Matthew 25: 14-30

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

Dragonflies:	Halle	Grasshoppers:	Anna
Hedgehogs:	Dillon	Squirrels:	Elijah
Badgers:	Basil	Foxes:	Nihin
Hares:	Edie	Rabbits:	Gabriella
Kingfishers:	Ivy	Robins:	Freddie
Eagles:	Freya	Owls:	Jaden



**Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
 The 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C — Luke 18:1-8

**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 ANSWER TO PRAYER**



Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. "There was a judge in a certain town," he said, "who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, 'I want justice from you against my enemy!' For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, 'Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death.'" And the Lord said, "You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?"

**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...



We often think of prayer as mere asking, and this parable encourages us to pester God as the wronged widow pestered the Unjust Judge. But that is only one aspect of Luke's teaching on prayer. He also shows us what our attitude in prayer should be in the parable which immediately follows today's passage from the gospel: the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector. The tax-collector wins approval because he just stands there, admitting his sins. Most instructive, however, is Luke's teaching on Jesus at prayer: he reminds us that Jesus is always quietly at prayer to his Father. He needs to slip away to spend the night in prayer. Especially he prays at the most important moments of his life: at his Baptism, when he chooses his team of disciples, before he teaches them to pray, at the approach of his Passion, finally forgiving and comforting others at his death. Paul tells us we should pray continually. The prayer of asking must be built on a relationship of love and dependence, just as the request of child to parents is built on their loving relationship. It does not matter if the child is at times naughty; the deep relationship between parent and child is one of love. So too we do not need to be perfect to make our requests to our Father. **When and how do you find it best to pray?**

**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 **PRAYER!**  
 (To see the Family Version, please visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://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: *Perseverance in Prayer*



#### Exodus 17:8-13

**The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, "Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand." Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.**

*The battle scene in this passage seems to us nowadays a bit of odd to choose to reinforce the gospel lesson of perseverance in prayer. Can we still pray for the slaughter of our enemies? An important*

*lesson of these bloodthirsty passages of the Old Testament is to remind us that revelation is gradual: we cannot take in everything at once. Look how long it took us to realise that the logical consequence of Paul's little letter to Philemon is the total abolition of slavery! Paul didn't realise it, and nor did most Christians for 1,700 years. Future generations may think our morality primitive too, as we or our successors come to understand Christ ever more fully. Moreover, although prayer can be exciting and uplifting, this reading reminds us that it can also be boring and wearying: we too may experience that sinking feeling of exhaustion, 'I can't hold my hands up any longer'. That is when we really need to get on and hang on in there, thus expressing our belief that God is not just one Mr Fix-it among many others, but he is our only hope, the one on whom we can always depend. Cupboard-love alone will not do, nor a last-minute turn to someone about whose existence we had practically forgotten.*

**When is it important to turn to prayer?**



### Second Reading: *The Uses of Scripture*



#### 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2

**You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures - from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work. Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience - but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.**

*The inspired writer of the letter seems to be devoting much of his space to the use of scripture in preaching and in discussion and argument with others, but most of all he stresses that the scriptures instruct us for salvation. We have to receive the message and take it into our own hearts before we can pass it on to others. This we do by recognising the multiplicity of ways in which the scriptures shows us that God cares for us, revealing his ever-present forgiveness even in all those times when we mistrust*

*him and shy away from him and search for happiness by ourselves. Only by immersing ourselves regularly in the scriptures and by growing to love the varied glimpses of God contained within them can we then come to appreciate the richness and fascination of these writings. But there are also plenty of difficulties to be overcome when reading them: the strangeness of language and ancient ways of thought, the sometimes barbaric primitiveness of the God's Chosen People, the seemingly tedious instructions on sacrifice and purity. Don't rush your reading. Go at your own pace, and remember that it began as God's Word to Abraham, Moses, David and many others, or with Jesus helping his contemporaries to understand what God's Kingdom is all about, or with Paul responding to the queries of his half-instructed converts. But now it is God's Word to you.*

**What is your favourite passage of scripture, and why?**

**“ We receive the ”  
message, and take it  
into our own hearts.**

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

**Wednesday**  
**15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Good News for Families**  
**TOGETHER TIME** 

# 1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel


Jesus wanted to teach his disciples that they should always pray and never give up. So he told them a story. Jesus said, "There was a judge in a certain town who had neither fear of God nor respect for any other person. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, 'I want justice from you against my enemy!' For a long time the judge refused, but at last he said to himself, 'Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for any other person, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will continue coming and worry me to death.'" Then Jesus said, "If even the unjust judge eventually helped this woman who didn't give up, then how much more will God, who is good, help those who pray to him every day."



From the Gospel of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October Cf. Luke 18:1-8. (The 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page. 



**"Prayer brings us not only nearer to God but also nearer to one another."** *Pope Benedict XVI*

What was Jesus teaching his disciples? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us that God is not like the unjust judge who is irritated by the woman pestering him. No matter how much we pray to God, he doesn't think we are pestering him - he is our loving Father. There are many kinds of prayer. This Gospel reminds us about the value of 'Asking Prayer' and not giving up in our prayer requests. Ask your child what the word 'prayer' means to them. Does your child like to pray aloud or quietly, alone or with others? What is their favourite prayer?

Prayer, at its simplest, is spending time with God - talking, listening, being together - telling God all about our lives. We can trust that God always hears our prayers and will always do what is best for us and those we pray for. We can pray anywhere, anytime. Each of you say when and where you like to pray (e.g. at home, in bed, at church, at school, outside, elsewhere). What would you like to pray and ask God for this week? Who can you pray for throughout the coming week (e.g. a family member, a friend, your teacher, your priest, a poorly, hungry or lonely person)? How else can you help that person?

# 3

For tonight's closing prayer, ask your child if they know **'The Lord's Prayer'**: Our Father, who art in heaven...

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

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- 
- 
- 

**POOR WIDOW**

**CONSTANT REQUESTS**

**JUDGE HELPED**

**PRAY ALWAYS**

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- 
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- 
- 

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

J	W	Y	I	W	A	L	W	A	Y	S
U	H	I	P	R	A	Y	A	S	A	W
D	E	P	L	E	H	J	Y	T	O	A
G	L	E	E	Q	U	E	N	D	C	Y
E	P	G	J	U	C	A	I	G	E	W
P	E	D	L	E	T	W	L	E	Y	I
L	D	S	T	S	E	U	Q	E	R	D
E	R	J	N	T	U	Q	Y	H	P	O
D	C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	Q	W
U	C	P	O	O	R	E	G	D	U	J
S	O	C	P	P	S	Y	A	W	L	A

Cross out the letters

**i m b**

in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

pirbamy wabnitemd tebamchi simhoubld  
 Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his disciples  
 that they \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_.

God wants us to spend time with him through prayer. Just as we need to put oil in a car to make it work properly, so prayer helps us to work properly - keeping us in good order.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Freya, Jacob, Autumn,  
Nick, Elsie, Gerald,  
Cameron James & Lillian.



### Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Blake, for trying his best in all his learning.
- Grasshoppers: Kenzo, for excellent work with 1 more and 1 less of a number .
- Hedgehogs: Olivia, for excellent work on God's creation.
- Squirrels: Reuel, for a fantastic story map using symbols to retell Jack and the Beanstalk.
- Badgers: Indila, for always following the rules and expectations and helping others.
- Foxes: Allison, for writing an excellent letter explaining the importance of Laudato Si.
- Hares: Hugo, for great effort in maths, especially when using the column method for addition.
- Rabbits: Javonte, for trying very hard with maths , especially when adding using the column method with exchange.
- Kingfishers: Sebastian, for his fantastic writing linked to Explanation Texts this week—well done!
- Robins: Layla, for writing a tremendous finding story.
- Eagles: Luna, for fantastic English work, especially her diary entry.
- Owls: Indiana, for excellent teaching (and beautiful presentation) of short division.

### House Points

Congratulations to the winning  
house this week, St David'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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)

### Menu week 2

### Diary Dates

#### Monday 20th October

Foxes 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 21st October

Year 2 History off the  
Page

Year 4 reading zone 9 am

Flu Vaccinations

Hares library visit

Rabbits library visit

\* Multisports club

\* Dance club

Year 6 Boosters

Young Carers  
club

#### Harvest Collection

#### Wednesday 22nd October

Year 4 reading zone 2:45 pm

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 2 & 3

#### Thursday 23rd October

Year 4 reading zone 9 am

Squirrels library visit

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Cafod club

\* External club, fees apply

#### Friday 24th October

Harvest Festival assembly  
2:00 pm

\* Musical Theatre club

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell



JUBILEE 2025  
PILGRIMS OF HOPE