



7th November 2025



# Newsletter



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

## Weekly Reflection.

We have been reflecting on the words of the Gospel this week, the Beatitudes and thinking of how they are a guide for life. In this time of Remembrance, we can also summarise the 10 Commandments into 2 easy things for us to remember. If we are doing these 2 things then we are keeping our Gospel Values and leading a good life. Jesus tells us to 'Love God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength' AND, 'To love our neighbour as our self'. We strive and pray for Peace in world



I wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## November-Remember

This week we have been focusing on learning about servicemen, servicewomen and animals who have lost their lives in war and conflict and the sacrifices they have made for our freedom. The children have been learning about the significance of the different colours of poppies and wearing them to show our thanks and respect as the community of Holy Cross school.

Our Year 6 pupils walked to the War Memorial at Potter Street and our Head Girls and Head Boys laid a poppy wreath on behalf of our school community.

November is also the month of All Souls where we remember people close to us who have passed away. Ms Dodd has thought of the idea of placing an 'In Loving Memory' book in the entrance hall for people to write a special message of remembrance in.



## Parent Consultations

Many thanks to parents and families who were able to come along to meet with your child's Class Teacher at Parent Consultations this week. It is such a good opportunity to meet face to face and discuss how your child has settled in to their new class this year and what targets they have to work on.

However, It was disappointing that we had 14 appointments where parents/ carers didn't show up and didn't cancel so someone else could have the appointment. I politely ask, out of courtesy and respect for others, that if you cannot make an appointment in school, that you cancel it so that someone else can have the time.

## Uniform

Halloween, the school disco and half term last week mean that children have had lots of freedom to dress as they want and have different hair styles, which is wonderful! However, I have noticed a few different colours of hair clips, bows and beads this week and this is not part of the Holy Cross Uniform Policy. Thank you to parents who make sure that the children's hair accessories are the correct colours in line with our uniform policy. Hair accessories (bows, clips and elastics etc) and beads must be Holy Cross green, black, gold white or cream. Hair braids must also be these colours.

It is important to see the children looking smart and consistent as they represent our school. It is very important that parents support us by ensuring the children follow all aspects of our uniform policy.

Please ensure that all items of School Uniform: PE Kit, Coat, Hats, Scarves, Gloves, School Bag, Lunch Box and Drink Bottle are clearly labelled with your child's name.

## PE Kit

Children may only wear the Holy Cross PE kit for school. As the colder weather comes in I am noticing that not all children have the green PE Jacket and are wearing different coloured hoodies, jackets and sweatshirts. This is not permitted as they are not part of the PE kit. Your child must have the full PE Kit, including long black track pants (not joggers) please.

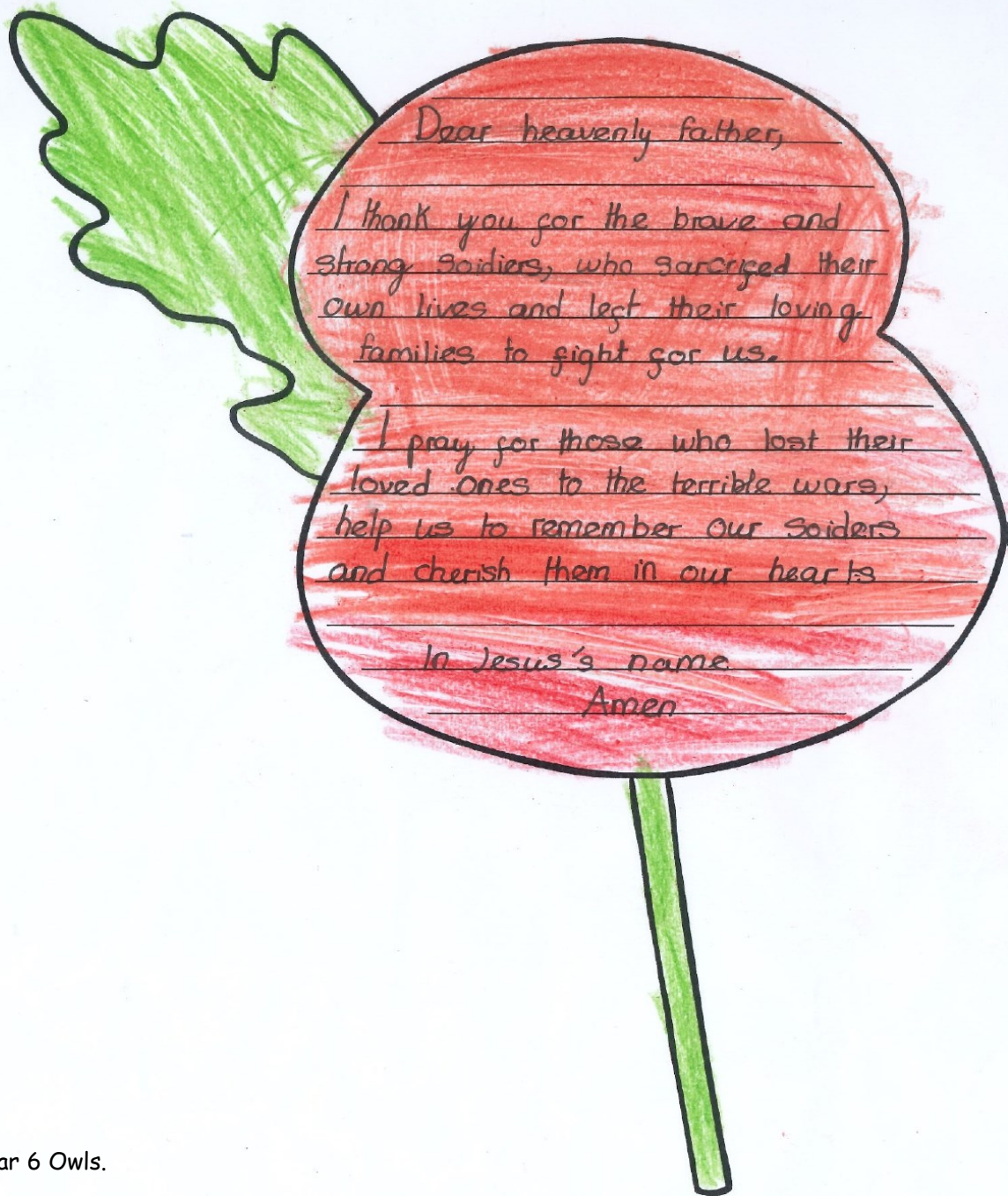


## Family Mass

We will be sharing in a Family Mass with the children from St Lukes primary school on Saturday 15th November. If you are attending with your child it would be wonderful if they could represent Holy Cross by wearing their School Uniform.

## School Disco

Unfortunately, we have had some disappointed children over the last few days. The disco is a ticketed event so that we have the correct ratios of staff and volunteers to supervise the children and we know how many children we are catering for. We have advertised it for that last few weeks in the newsletter and sent reminders this week, including a notification of when the cut off point would be for tickets. We are sorry that children are upset because they can't go therefore for future events, please make sure that you get your child's ticket early.



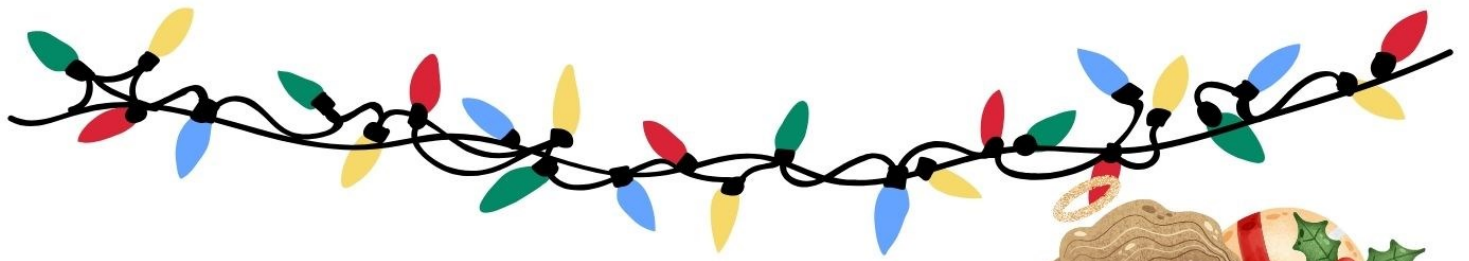
Hillary, Year 6 Owls.



### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Blane	Squirrels:	Lilah
Badgers:	Tharani	Foxes:	Samuel
Hares:	Elaeh	Rabbits:	Melisa
Kingfishers:	Maya	Robins:	Jayden
Eagles:	Andriya	Owls:	Axel



# THE GIVING TREE



Pick a tag off the tree  
and buy a gift for someone in  
need



**12<sup>th</sup> November  
to 10th December**

This year all our tags are for  
the local children's home,  
Abbot Care home, Manor  
Hatch and the Women's  
refuge.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers achieving a fantastic 100% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Badgers, 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	99%
Dragonflies	98%
Grasshoppers	100%
Hedgehogs	98%
Squirrels	99%
Badgers	99%
Foxes	96%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	95%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	96%
Eagles	93%
Owls	95%

## Gospel Value Awards

### Love

**joy, commitment, dedication, sacrifice**

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. Matthew 23: 10-12



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

Dragonflies:	Oliver	Grasshoppers:	Resemiah
Hedgehogs:	Denis	Squirrels:	Cameron
Badgers:	Jacob	Foxes:	Harley
Hares:	Munenyasha	Rabbits:	Jonny
Kingfishers:	Tilly	Robins:	Eliora
Eagles:	Jalynn	Owls:	Feodora



Based on the gospel for Sunday 9 November, Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, John 2:13-22

**"Do not make my Father's house a house of trade."**

I find the image of Jesus presented here quite shocking - not the gentle, caring Jesus we are used to. Here he makes a whip, drives those selling animals out of the Temple, pours out the money-changers' coins and overturns their tables. What a scene and imagine all the noise! Jesus was angry. The Temple, a place where his Father should be respected and honoured, had become "a house of trade".

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians we read, "God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." Yes, it is important to have special places to honour God, but God is not restricted to churches and places of worship. God is present in all of God's creation.

And how do we react when we see God's creation becoming an object of trade? When people are trafficked, the cheap prices in our shops come at the expense of other people's lives and ecosystems are disrupted because of our demand for more of everything. Are we complacent? Complicit? Shouldn't we be angry and take some action?

We can feel powerless in the face of so much injustice, but we do not need to act alone. Together we can form a community for change, respecting the holy present in all.

Omnipresent God,  
praise and honour are due to you  
in all creation.  
Embolden us,  
so that we may have the courage  
to foster justice and integrity for all.  
Amen.



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

During the month of November, we pray in particular for the eternal repose of the faithful departed. May the Risen Lord show them His mercy, and may the hope brought by our faith in the Resurrection keep our eyes and our hearts turned towards the joy of Heaven. #GeneralAudience



**Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica — John 2.13-22

**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 : REBUILDING THE TEMPLE**



Just before the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

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 Temple at Jerusalem was an amazing complex of buildings, covering the area of 20 football pitches. At the end of the 46 years of construction, 38,000 workers were made redundant. And Jesus says he will re-build 'this Temple' in three days! In the Gospel of John Jesus often plays with misunderstanding ('living water', 'born again', 'true bread') to reach a deeper meaning. So the Temple was only the symbol of Jesus himself, the meeting-place between God and human beings, the channel of divine life. The really important Temple is the Risen Christ, filled with the Spirit which also gives the same life to the Church. The Feast of the Lateran Basilica is the feast of the one life of the whole Church, in which the Risen Christ promised that he would always be present, strengthening the whole. Of that presence and that corner-stone, and the unity which it provides to the Church, the Bishop of Rome is the symbol. The symbolic 'rubbishing' of the Jerusalem Temple by Jesus reminds us that it is a Church of sinners, always in need of purification, of throwing out the rubbish and letting the fresh air in through the windows.

**What can be done to further the unity of the Christian Church?**

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

**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 **ENTHUSIASM!**  
 (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.

## 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: *The Water of Life*



#### Ezekiel 47.1-2. 8-9. 12

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. The man went to the east holding his measuring line and measured off a thousand cubits; he then made me wade across the stream; the water reached my ankles. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across the stream again; the water reached my knees. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across again; the water reached my waist. He measured off another thousand; it was now a river which I could not cross; the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross. He then said, 'Do you see, son of man?' He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river. When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never

wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

*In a hot, arid country water is an obvious sign of life. Even in Britain many people carry a bottle of water with them! Ezekiel presents a marvellous picture of water flowing from the Temple. The water brings life and fertility to the wastelands and dusty deserts, and even to the hot, salty, smelly Dead Sea. It brings unexpected and unbelievable beauty and fruitfulness to what had been useless and infertile. Ezekiel meant this as an image of all the richness and productiveness which would flow from the new Temple at Jerusalem. The Lateran Basilica in Rome (not St Peter's) is the Pope's own church, and so the sign of the unity of the Church built on the apostles, a unity sealed by union with the Bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter. On this feast of that Lateran Basilica, the Church applies this image to the fruitfulness which the Church brings to all life. Do I see the tradition of the Church as bringing life and richness to all activity and being? As a representative of the Church am I seen as enriching life, a messenger of good news?*

**Does your local Church community really enrich the surrounding society?**



### Second Reading: *The Master Builder*



#### 1 Corinthians 3.9-11. 16-17

You are God's building. By the grace God gave me, I succeeded as an architect and laid the foundations, on which someone else is doing the building. Everyone doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ. Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

*In the Bible there are many enlivening images of the Church (a flock of sheep, a vineyard, a cultivated field) and here St Paul uses the image of a building. Each stone makes its own contribution. Pull one out and*

*the whole building may collapse! Every stone rests on another and forms the basis for a further stone. But it isn't the building of stone and metal, the solid Basilica, that matters, but the living stones which make it functional. The point of this building is that it is a living and breathing building, heaving and bursting with life, each stone winking at each other and breathing in unison, because it lives with the life breathed into it by the Spirit of God. Paul writes all this to the Christian community at Corinth, an extraordinarily disunited and disparate group (dockers and professors, magistrates, athletes, teachers and slaves) to remind them that they form a single building on the foundation-stone which is Christ. If they, with all their quirks and oddities, could constitute a single building with one common purpose, any community can manage it!*

**What are you doing about building blocks that don't quite fit your plan?**

“...they form a single building on the foundation-stone which is Christ.”

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Enthusiasm is one of life's most important ingredients. The word 'enthusiasm' comes from the Greek word 'entheos' which means 'God-filled'. Life really is joyful when we are enthusiastic about the right things.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how the people had actually lost sight of God by getting caught up in their buying and selling. Jesus' enthusiastic action was a

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

protest that things had gone seriously wrong with how they were relating to God; something needed to change.

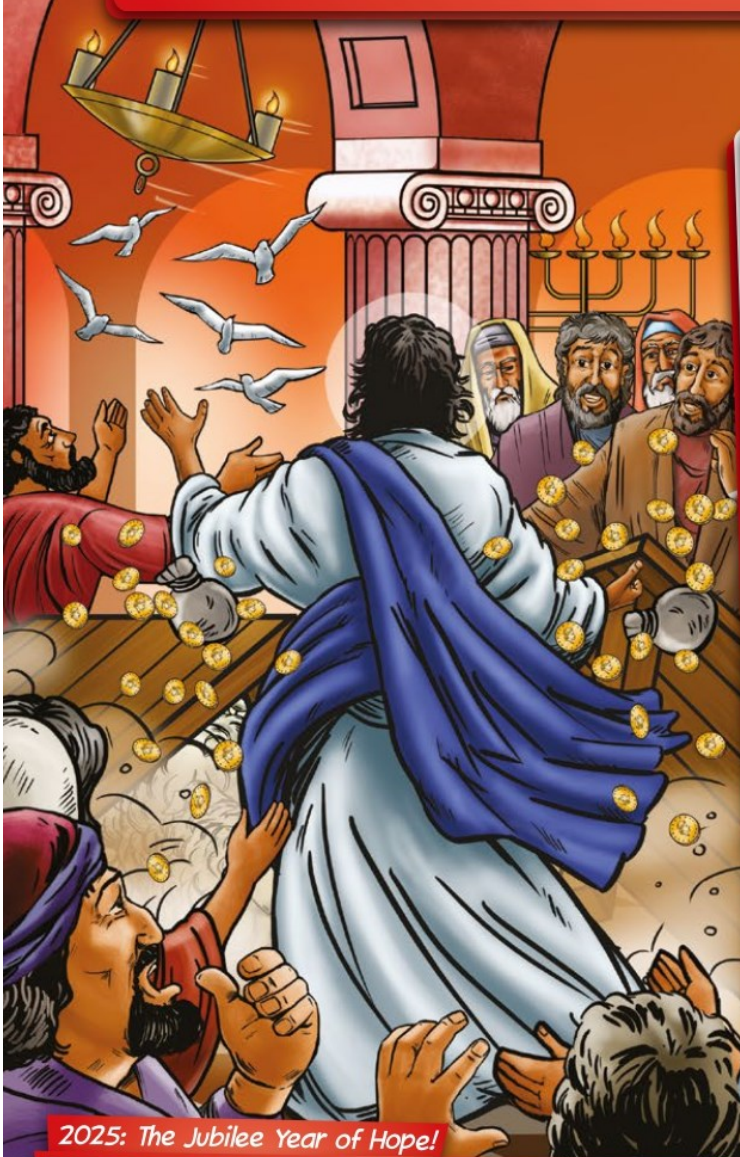
Right here - right now - we can begin or renew our relationship with God and be filled with fresh enthusiasm for life. Enjoy your week together, and help share God's love - with **ENTHUSIASM!**

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



**A Word from the Saints**

*"Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, look forward to the future with confidence." Pope Saint John Paul II*



**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025**



Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple there he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and money changers sitting at their counters. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins,

knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The people in the Temple said to Jesus, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The people replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple: are you going to raise it up in three days?" Now the Temple Jesus was talking about was his own body. And later when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had told them.

*Adapted from John 2:13-22  
Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

**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**

Enthusiasm is an attractive quality. As we become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives, we become happier and more filled with energy and enthusiasm. God wants us to pray: to ask him to fill us with enthusiasm for the right, good and lasting things in life.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. Inside the Temple, he saw people selling animals, and among them sat the money changers. So Jesus made a whip and chased them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well. Jesus knocked over the money tables, scattering the coins and said to the pigeon sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market."

#### What did Jesus do in the Temple?

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...

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" *St Catherine of Siena*

Jesus was a very enthusiastic person. He was passionate for people to worship God in a true and proper way. He saw that many had become so interested in money that they were losing respect for God and for God's ways. Ask your child what the word 'enthusiasm' means to them. Which person or group of people do they know who is enthusiastic and full of energy for doing the right thing? What is your child enthusiastic about? What gives them energy to do good?

Each new day presents us with an opportunity to stop and think if there are any unhelpful things that we need to clear out from our lives, so that we can grow in our enthusiasm for God. To help us to do this, perhaps we can: each night before we go to sleep, say sorry to God for anything that we may have done wrong (examine our conscience) and ask God to forgive us; be enthusiastic to say our family prayers together; avoid any temptation to be greedy, but rather give cheerfully to charity.

## ENTHUSIASM



3 Dear Lord Jesus, please fill us with enthusiasm to love you, to serve you, and to help others to know you too. Amen.

### FINDING THREE

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

PASSEOVER

TEMPLE

MARKET MONEY

JESUS CLEARED

FATHER'S HOUSE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

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

**tulronding omdarkelt loherde Tadokle**

Jesus said, " \_\_\_\_\_ all this out of \_\_\_\_\_ and stop

\_\_\_\_\_ my Father's house into a \_\_\_\_\_ ."

Sometimes the best moments come from small acts done with great enthusiasm. Saying thank you, giving a big smile, helping Mum or Dad – these little things can make someone's day better and help us to become more like Jesus.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Oliwier, Dredon-Reign,  
Layla & Riley



### Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Sean, for trying hard in his phonics.  
Grasshoppers: Liora, for always having a positive attitude to learning.  
Hedgehogs: J.J. for an excellent attitude to learning.  
Squirrels: Jax, for putting fantastic effort into his presentation.  
Badgers: Arthur, for a superb construction of a castle.  
Foxes: Olivier, for writing an excellent Haiku poem about autumn.  
Hares: Raysa, for fantastic effort in maths when adding and subtracting.  
Rabbits: Ama, for her amazing work in maths.  
Kingfishers: Krzysztof, for his fantastic letter in R.E. - well done!  
Robins: Rufus, for excellent effort in writing tasks.  
Eagles: Anayah, for an excellent harvest Renga poem.  
Owls: Axel, for an excellent propaganda poster.

### House Points

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

New menu week 2

## Diary Dates

Monday 10th November

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 11th November

Year 3 reading zone -  
09:00

Year 1 Parents phonics  
meeting - 9:00

\* Multisports club

\* Dance club

Year 6 Boosters

Young Carers club

Wednesday 12th November

Individual school photographs

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Year 3 reading zone - 2:45

Thursday 13th November

Year 3 reading zone - 09:00

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Cafod club

Friday 14th November

Year 3 trip to Celtic Harmony  
Celebration assembly 2:15 pm

\* Musical Theatre club

\* External club, fees apply

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