



21st November 2025



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

Weekly Reflection

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Here, we stand at the foot of the cross where Jesus, our King, reigns - not with a golden crown, but with a crown of thorns. Jesus shows us that true kingship is found in service, mercy and solidarity and we see that Jesus is there with those who are broken, poor and forgotten. He identifies with everyone who suffers injustice: those who are homeless, oppressed, migrants, those who struggle to make their voices heard. His kingdom is not about privilege but about lifting up those the world casts aside. We are called to walk in the footsteps of Christ our king and to follow his example.



I wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Jubilee Celebration

We were delighted to welcome pupils from St Albans and St Luke's today, along with Mrs Black (Headteacher of St Albans) and Mr Kendal (CEO of the Fatima Trust) to our special Jubilee celebration. It was fantastic to join together as a Catholic School community to celebrate this special year. We have been called by Pope Francis to be in Solidarity with each other and with the world. To be Pilgrims of Hope to everyone around us and to bring Justice, Peace and Love to the lives of others, especially the most vulnerable and oppressed.

PE Kit

A very firm reminder please, especially to our older girls, that leggings and cycling shorts are not part of the Holy Cross school uniform. There were numerous Year 6 girls in leggings this week for the PE day. Also boys are not permitted to wear skins under their P.E. shorts. Children are expected to wear black, sports track pants for P.E. They will not be allowed to take part in the P.E. lesson if they are not wearing the correct PE kit. The list is available on the school website and we ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school in the correct school uniform and PE Kit.

Cold Weather

It has been bitterly cold this week and we still have children in school, without a coat. Your child will not be allowed outside in this freezing weather without a coat that they can zip up and we ask that children also have hats and gloves.

Reception - September 2026 Applications

Applications are now open for parents to apply for a Reception school place for the September 2026 academic year.

The closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions and by completing a Supplementary Information Form (available from the school office).

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Holy Cross finishes second... then gets the call for first!

The girls and boys basketball team had an exciting day at the basketball school qualifiers last Friday! After playing their hearts out and scoring lots of goals, we achieved 2nd place! But then something surprising happened! Due to a drop out from another school, we have now been called back to the court to play in the finals next week!

The children have worked hard and are very excited. We wish them all the best of luck. Well done!



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Marcel	Squirrels:	Nana
Badgers:	Chloe	Foxes:	Dilara
Hares:	Arnas	Rabbits:	Myles
Kingfishers:	Athea	Robins:	Hayley
Eagles:	Kenna-Kah	Owls:	Zofia

Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS
programme

Friday 28th November
Non Uniform day for the Christmas Extravaganza

Monday 1st December at 2pm
EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity

Tuesday 2nd December at 2pm and 6pm
EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity

Wednesday 3rd December at 2.30pm
Violin concert

Thursday 4th December - 3.30pm to 5.30pm
Christmas Extravaganza

Friday 5th December
9.15am EYFS and Year 1 Christingle
2pm KS2 Christingle



Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS
programme

Saturday 6th December at 11am
Choir to sing at Abbott Care Home

Tuesday 9th December
EYFS AND KS1 Christmas lunch

Wednesday 10th December
Whole School Christmas Pantomime

Wednesday 10th December at 2pm
Rocky Steady concert

Thursday 11th December
Christmas jumper day

Thursday 11th December
KS2 Christmas lunch



Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS
programme

Monday 15th December at 6pm
Year 2 and Choir Christmas concert

Tuesday 16th December at 6pm
Year 3 Christmas Carol concert

Thursday 18th December
Non uniform day
Class Christmas celebrations

Friday 19th December
School finishes at 1.30pm

Monday 5th January
Back to school



Christmas HAMPERS

Please bring items in for our class hamper.
Hamper items need to be in by Monday 8th December



MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025
AT 3PM

Jolly Christmas Jumper sale

The Eco Council will be having a
PRE LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE.
Any Christmas jumpers that you no longer
need please bring them into school.





HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
PRIMARY ACADEMY


CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

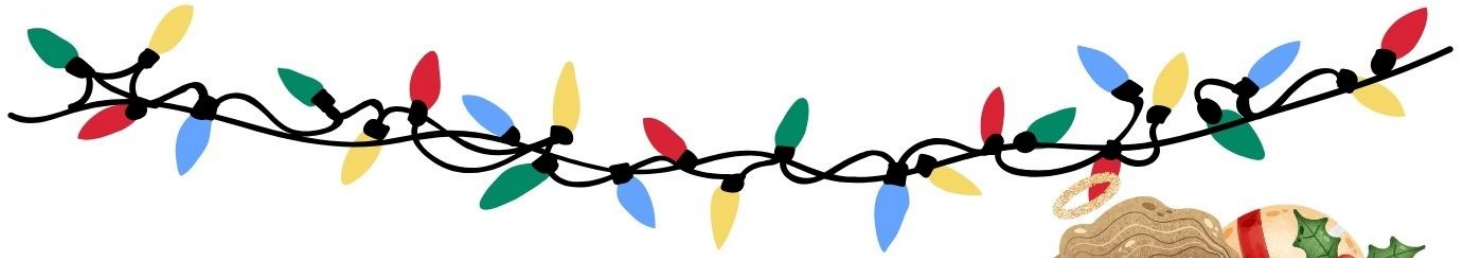
Have a jolly holly holiday season at our extravaganza

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER
3.30PM TO 5.30PM

Admission is completely free, so bring your entire
family!

Come and enjoy our Christmas stalls and crafts and
even a visit to Father Christmas!!
Refreshments will also be available.





THE GIVING TREE



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



**12th 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 98% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are 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	96%
Ladybirds	97%
Dragonflies	97%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	97%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	97%
Eagles	96%
Owls	96%

Gospel Value Awards

Hope

optimism, newness, resilience, perseverance

"May He enlighten the eyes of your mind, so that you can see what hope His call holds for you" Ephesians 1: 3-6



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

Dragonflies:	Ronan	Grasshoppers:	Dredon-Reign
Hedgehogs:	Aminda	Squirrels:	Aiden
Badgers:	Keziah	Foxes:	Oluoma
Hares:	Luca	Rabbits:	Ava
Kingfishers:	Thabo	Robins:	Lucas
Eagles:	Jacob	Owls:	Dominik



Based on the gospel for Sunday 23 November, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe: Luke 23:35-43

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Here, we stand at the foot of the cross where Jesus, our King, reigns - not with a golden crown, but with a crown of thorns. Unlike earthly rulers who value power and control, Jesus shows us that true kingship is found in service, mercy and solidarity.

As Jesus hangs on the cross, mocked and humiliated, we see that he is not alone. Jesus is there with those who are broken, poor and forgotten. In this moment, he identifies with everyone who suffers injustice: those who are homeless, oppressed, migrants, those who struggle to make their voices heard. His kingdom is not about privilege but about lifting up those the world casts aside.

One of the criminals beside him sees this and calls out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus responds with mercy: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

This is the heart of Christ's kingship: a kingdom where no one is excluded, where dignity is restored, and where love triumphs over violence and fear. To celebrate Christ the King is to celebrate a different kind of kingdom - and to commit ourselves to his mission: to defend those who are poor, challenge injustice, and share hope where there is despair.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you reign not with power but with love.
Teach us to look for you in the faces
of those who are poor or forgotten.
Give us courage to speak for justice,
compassion to serve others,
and faith to trust in your kingdom of peace.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

The poorest are not only objects of the Gospel. It is not a question of "bringing" God to them, but of encountering Him among them, Serving the poor is not a gesture to be made "from above," but an encounter between equals, where Christ is revealed and adored. #JubileeOfThePoor #DilexiTe



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 23rd November 2025
 Christ the King – Luke 23:35-43

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 KING OF FORGIVENESS



The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

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 crucifixion scene in Luke, as in all the gospels, is the climax of the story of Jesus. Emphasis is placed on the role of Jesus as King. The soldiers mock him as such, but the Gospel's use of irony ensures that we understand that they are saying more than they realise. Jesus is also ridiculed as Saviour ('Save yourself and us as well!'): especially in Luke (from the Infancy Stories onwards) Jesus is presented as the true Saviour – who is God. In Luke the crucifixion scene is primarily a scene of forgiveness, where Jesus carries on to the very end his work of forgiveness, which Luke has underlined throughout his Gospel. The scene begins with the women of Jerusalem mourning for Jesus, and ends with all the spectators departing, beating their breasts, recognizing their universal guilt. Jesus spontaneously forgives his executioners, asking God's forgiveness for them before they even ask it for themselves. He welcomes into his kingdom of Paradise the bandit who spontaneously acknowledges his wrongdoing. Here we see the culmination of all those scenes throughout Luke's Gospel where values are reversed: the King presented as a wretched figure dying on the Cross, to whom homage is paid not by dignified courtiers, but by another wretched figure dying by his side.

What sort of person should a citizen of the kingdom of forgiveness be?

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 **MERCY!**
 (To see the Family Version, please visit: wednesdayword.org)



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

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



First Reading: *David Anointed King*



2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look', they said, 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king of Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

David is a fascinating character. As a leader he had a charm and charisma which were irresistible. There is no doubt that he was ambitious. When the women sang, 'Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands,' it was music to his ears. The king's son fell in love with him and gave him his own prince's gear.

The king's daughter fell in love with him, and he accepted her as a good dynastic marriage; but he never had children by her, though he was not lacking in sexual drive (Bathsheba was to come later). He set up a protection racket in Judah and so, having won the loyalty of the tribal leaders there, they first anointed him king of Judah at Hebron, the southern tribal capital. Finally, after Saul's death, the elders of the northern tribes (known collectively as Israel) came to anoint him king as well, to reign over the whole country. Nevertheless, David also took the first steps to setting up the Temple cult, and was ever after remembered for that. It was to David that the promises of God's eternal monarchy were given which were to be fulfilled in Jesus. These promises echo down and down the scriptures; they were the basis of all Israel's hope.

What do you consider leadership-qualities before God?



Second Reading: *The Kingdom of Forgiveness*



Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Way back in July, on the fourteenth Ordinary Sunday of the Year, we heard all but the first part of this reading which celebrates the unrivalled position of Jesus as first-born not only in the order of creation, but also in the resurrection. In the order of creation, Christ is the image of the unseen God, the model or template on which God created the world, the Wisdom of God, so he is the first-born and yet himself uncreated. In the order of the resurrection also he is the first-born, bringing all things to perfection, and so he is the crown of creation. In today's reading, before we hear about Jesus as the first-born, we have a significant preface. Paul is writing, with a slight air of surprise, to the gentiles: the gentiles too are enabled to enter into the inheritance, to join Christ in the kingdom promised to David and fulfilled in Jesus. As this year's gospel readings have taught us again and again, it is not a kingdom that we can earn. What we need to do is to submit ourselves for forgiveness. Not all that easy, perhaps! Put it the other way round: what we need to do is stop pretending to others and ourselves that we are perfect.

What attitude in myself is the most frequent cause of my falling?

“Jesus is the Crown of Creation.”

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. In this Sunday's Gospel, the leaders, the soldiers and the people all mock Jesus as God's Chosen One and as king.

Jesus' kingship is not one of military or political power, but one of love and mercy. Jesus forgave those who crucified him. He also showed mercy to the criminal who was sorry and called him to share in his kingdom - an offer Jesus also makes to us today.

Wednesday 19th November 2025

In life, we all make mistakes, but we never have to be afraid to ask God for forgiveness – God is pure mercy. Each one of us receives mercy as a gift from God, and it is a gift we are called to share with others too.

Enjoy a special time together this evening exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **MERCY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from the Saints

"Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love and the future to His providence." St Augustine of Hippo

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 23rd November 2025



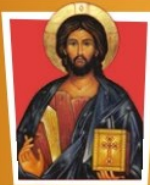
The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. "Are you not the Christ?" he said. "Save yourself and us as well." But the other spoke up and rebuked him. "Have you no fear of God at all?" he said. "You received the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus," he said, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." "Indeed, I promise you," Jesus replied, "today you will be with me in paradise."

Adapted from Luke 23:35-43
The Feast of Christ the King

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.

Having Hope
in our Families

Many people who came into contact with Jesus felt the healing power and joy of God's mercy. Today, the Church helps us to experience this mercy (especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation) and encourages us to be 'merciful' to others.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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?

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

While Jesus was on the cross, the leaders of the people insulted him saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also mocked and made fun of him saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." Above Jesus was a sign which said, 'This is the King of the Jews.' There were two criminals who were also on crosses alongside Jesus, and one of them said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "I promise you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

What did Jesus say to the criminal?

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.

2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Do not doubt, do not hesitate, never despair of the mercy of God."

St Isidore of Seville

MERCY



Mercy is a virtue. Ask your child what the word 'mercy' means to them. You may want to share with your child what the word 'mercy' means to you. Ask your child who they know to be a 'merciful' person. Can you or your child remember a time when you have been merciful - when you gave someone another chance? How did it feel?

Each time we show 'mercy', we open ourselves to receive mercy from God. Being compassionate, being patient with others even if we are being treated unfairly, forgiving others (even if we feel they don't deserve forgiveness), sometimes giving people more than they deserve, these are just some ways of showing mercy. Is there someone to whom you could show mercy? Each of you choose one way in which you will try to show mercy at home, at school or in the community in this coming week.

3 * Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to grow in the virtue of **mercy** - to be open to receiving your **mercy** and showing mercy to others. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

L A S K E D K Y A C W A
P M C R I M I N A L S S
A R N W B N L A A D P K
J E S U S Y S N D G O M
P M K A D K I N B P T T
R E B M E M E R A A W O
M M C D I Y C R V R M D
A B W R F R A J N A I A
V E C T I D E O K D P Y
P R O M I S E D W I C M
W L I S U K I N G S N S
E D E S I M O R P E W G

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- JESUS**
- KING**
- CRIMINAL**
- ASKED**
- REMEMBER TODAY**
- PROMISED PARADISE**

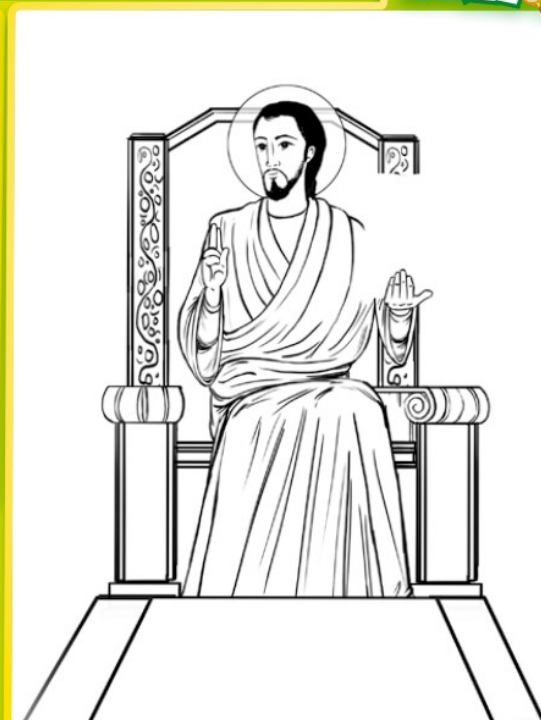
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **h n v** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

tondvahy Jevshuns Panravidishe provmishen

_____ said, "I _____ you, _____
you will be with me in _____."

Throughout the gospels, Jesus reminds us that God wants us to forgive and show mercy - just like he did. Merciful people do things out of their love and care for others and this helps make the world a better place.



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...

Rose, Dennis, Nana,
Tilly, Kayla & Tobi



Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Million, for trying hard during carpet time.
Grasshoppers: Michael, for having a really positive attitude to learning.
Hedgehogs: Ilinca, for mastering column addition and not giving up!
Squirrels: Emily-Mia, for a great start in Squirrels class.
Badgers: Nathan, for recognising the qualities of a good friend.
Foxes: Salem, for excellent participation on the school trip.
Hares: Amara, for great participation in R.E. lessons.
Rabbits: Neave, for actively participating during lesson to challenge herself.
Kingfishers: Elsie, for her fantastic letter in R.E. this week - amazing work.
Robins: Isla, for her excellent descriptive writing about the war.
Eagles: Oliver, for his excellent persuasive letter in English.
Owls: Yannick, for excellent work with percentages in maths.

House Points

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

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 24th 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 25th November

Year 1 reading zone - 09:00
* Multisports club
* Dance club
Year 6 Boosters
Young Carers club

Wednesday 26th November

* Football club
* Karate - Years 2 & 3
Year 1 reading zone - 2:45

Thursday 27th November

Year 1 reading zone - 09:00
* Football club
* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6
Cafod club

Friday 28th November

* External club, fees apply
Non uniform day for items for the Christmas Extravagnaza
Celebration assembly 2:15 pm
* Musical Theatre club

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE