



23rd January 2026



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

### Weekly Reflection

This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time and the focus of the Gospel is bringing light to others. We may feel a huge sense of relief as we come to the end of January and come out of this dark month into the light of spring. We have completed the darkest 10 weeks of the year! This we hear in the Gospel,

***"The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."***

Keeping Jesus at the centre of our lives and following our Gospel Values means that we are following in His footsteps and bringing His light to everyone.



You Made It Through  
the 10 darkest weeks of the year



Have a lovely, light filled weekend

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention

Each month Pope Leo will have a new Prayer Intention and this January -you may wish to follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1CBCcEIkME> We are praying along with our Holy Father:

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



### Glimmers-Jesus is the Light of the World

We have chosen a new liturgical theme for our school that we will be following through 2026. The theme is Glimmers. We are thinking of how Jesus brings glimmers of light into our lives and how he encourages us to see glimmers of light in others, in our world and in ourselves. We will think of the joy of light in nature as the days change from dark to light and the light of warm sunshine wakes up the earth as we move through the spring. Each class will choose a different interpretation of this and will produce a beautiful display showing reflections of scripture.

We are remembering that Jesus is the centre of our lives and that He is The Light of the world.

#### Year 5 to St Mark's

Year 5 will be visiting St Mark's on Tuesday to watch the school production of Sister Act.

## Gospel Value Awards

### Gentleness

**Softness, beauty, serenity, peacefulness**

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29



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

Butterflies:	Lydia	Ladybirds:	Tiago
Dragonflies:	Kai	Grasshoppers:	Isabella
Hedgehogs:	Adele	Squirrels:	Olivia
Badgers:	Gray	Foxes:	Elissa
Hares:	Cristina	Rabbits:	Milo
Kingfishers:	Sophie	Robins:	Tawana
Eagles:	Kojo	Owls:	Liana

# Cross Country Trials

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

It's your time to shine!

We are ready for 2026

If you like running long distances and have good stamina, come and try out!

If you are not sure, have a go anyway as it is great for your fitness and mental health.

The key details

When? Thursday 29th January 2026

Where? Our school field

What do you need to bring? A sports tracksuit, this can be either your own tracksuit or PE kit but it will get muddy. A pair of trainers or football boots you can run in. A water bottle.

Times;

Year 3 and 4 boys 9.15 A.M.

Year 3 and 4 girls 9.30 A.M.

Year 5 and 6 boys 9.45 A.M.

Year 5 and 6 girls 10 A.M.



# raise

## £20.26 IN 2026!

### HOW? However you like!

### Whether that's...



- Something sporty? A sponsored swim, bike-ride, walk, run, skip, goals scored, climb or even bounce
  - Something crafty? Sell your artwork, crafts or cakes
  - Something helpful? Helping with some chores or a litter pick up
  - Or even a sponsored read-a-thon or month with no sweets!
- Whatever you want!

Money can be paid on line at Holy Cross School PTA a/c: 66911260, s/c: 30-90-91 or cash or card payments can be handed in at the office. Please let your teacher know when you achieve your goal so that this can be celebrated.

**£20.26 is not compulsory, all donations under or over £20.26 are welcome, just give yourself a challenge and have fun!**

$$M = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

Come to our  
Maths workshops and  
enjoy some fun maths  
with your child

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

Reception and KS1 9.10am to 10.10am  
KS2 11am to 12pm

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

# Number Day 2026

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
IN AID OF NSPCC



On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February all children can come to school wearing something number related



We will be holding a bucket collection on this day for the NSPCC



**Let's Celebrate**

# **Valentine's Disco**

**We are holding a Valentines disco on  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

**3.30pm to 4.45pm - Reception, Years 1 to 2**

**5pm to 6.30pm - Years 3 to 6**

**£4 per child includes a snacks and  
unlimited juice or water**

**Have a favourite song, let us know by Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
January and hopefully the DJ will be able to play it  
for you.**

**If your child would like to attend you can pay by  
card, cash or payment link.**

**Payments need to be made by  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers achieving 99% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Foxes 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	97%
Ladybirds	97%
Dragonflies	95%
Grasshoppers	99%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	98%
Hares	90%
Rabbits	93%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	97%
Eagles	97%
Owls	97%



## Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Skyla	Squirrels:	Malique
Badgers:	Chloe	Foxes:	Kweku
Hares:	Hermione	Rabbits:	Emilia
Kingfishers:	Ivy	Robins:	Kiera
Eagles:	Riley	Owls:	Dominik



Based on the gospel for Sunday 25 January, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 4:12-17

**"The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned."**

Darkness cannot extinguish the light of Christ. When Herod imprisons John to silence him, Jesus rises to the challenge. Obedient to his Father's calling, Jesus embraces his life's mission. The message is no longer "The Kingdom is coming," but rather: "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

As Jesus relocates to Capernaum, Matthew recognises this as the moment Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled. The Assyrians had brutally destroyed this area some 700 years earlier, leaving behind a legacy of devastation. By starting his ministry at this "Galilee of the Gentiles," Jesus shows that he is the fulfilment of hope - a light shining for all people.

As we observe the world around us today, there are many places in need of the light of hope. Loneliness, mental health and social conditions cause many to feel like they personally are living in darkness.

As baptised Christians we too have a mission to bring God's love to others, to shine his light and keep hope alive. Some of us may have the gift of preaching, some the gift of being loving companions. Whatever our gift we all have a calling to proclaim, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," by our words or our actions.

In Dilexi Te Pope Leo XIV reminds us: "All the members of the people of God have a duty to make their voices heard albeit in different ways...Unjust structures need to be recognised and eradicated by the force of good, by changing mindsets...Both Christian preaching and life, then, are meant to have an impact on society. We are seeking God's Kingdom." (#97)

God of light, Emmanuel, God with us, help us to be obedient to your calling and to embrace our life's mission. May your Kingdom come here on earth as in Heaven. May we make our voices heard in ways that will impact our society. Amen.



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

Our joy and greatness are not founded on passing illusions of success or fame, but on knowing ourselves to be loved and wanted by our heavenly Father.



**Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
 The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 4: 12-23

**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 CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES**



Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned." From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

**Did any words or phrases stand out to you in the Gospel? If so, take a few moments to meditate on them.**

**Reflect**

Now read the Gospel again and consider what the Lord might be saying to you, or asking of you, through it. Then continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection...



This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Matthew first introduces us to Galilee, characteristically quoting the scriptures to show that they are being fulfilled, and in what way. Galilee is called 'Galilee of the gentiles' only in this passage, and the presence of gentiles was not a particularly notable feature of Galilee. Archaeology shows that Jewish observance was strong in the region. Contemporary literature indicates that there was a lively tradition of prayerful charismatic rabbis with a warm devotion to the Lord. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the imminence of the Kingdom of God, and this will be the subject of all his activity. Then he begins to form the new Israel by calling his team together. The Christian imagination tends to combine this scene with the scene of the Baptist in the Jordan Valley in the Gospel of John, which suggests that at least Peter and Andrew among the disciples had already some knowledge of Jesus. But today's narrative must be heard on its own, and the staggering factor is that this is the first time at any rate the sons of Zebedee have set eyes on Jesus. As he passes by, Jesus calls them, and such is the electrifying power of his charismatic personality that they simply drop everything and follow this total stranger – immediately, as the evangelist stresses each time.

**Do I ever follow Jesus' call immediately and unconditionally?**

*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 **COMMUNITY**  
 (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: *Light in the Land of Darkness*



#### Isaiah 8: 23 – 9: 3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

*This prophecy of Isaiah is chosen as the first reading today because in the gospel reading Matthew sees its fulfilment in the healing activity of Jesus in Galilee, the region once allotted to the two northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali. Not long before*

*the total collapse of the Northern Kingdom of Israel their area was invaded and devastated by the mighty power of Assyria. They are therefore given as the archetype of the ruined territory which will be restored to light, joy and rich harvest when God comes to save his people. In fact Galilee has rich soil and wide plains. The Jewish historian at the time of Jesus is lyrical about the abundance and variety of fruit grown there. The prophecy of restoration is expressed in the past tense ('have seen a great light') to emphasize its certainty: it is so sure that it can be described as though it had already happened, a tense known as 'the prophetic past'. The passage of Isaiah goes on, after our reading, to speak of the child to be born, who will bring about this transformation. He will be 'Wonder Counsellor, Prince of Peace'.*

**What is the most important element which would restore our country to God's service?**



### Second Reading: *A Divided Community*



#### 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul,' 'I am for Apollos,' 'I am for Cephas,' 'I am for Christ.' Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

*It is hardly surprising that the Christians at Corinth were a divided community; there were so many different levels of employment and wealth: financiers, dockers, tent-makers, administrators and many others in that town with its double port, its booming*

*trade, its biennial games and supporting trades. Paul shows us that there were also cliques claiming different personal loyalties. Some claimed to be Paul's own followers. Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria and a notable orator; perhaps he had the intellectual following. Cephas is the Aramaic name for Peter; his following may have been Christians sprung from Judaism who wanted to keep their Jewish practices in food, circumcision and Sabbath-observance. Paul will have none of this party politics, one group hurling slogans at another. They would not even come together as a genuine community at the Eucharist. Paul had baptised people to be not his own followers but followers of Christ. Later in the letter he will explain that Christians must form a single organic body, all working together in harmony, each with a special task and special gifts, but all contributing to the well-being of the whole. This is his basic vision of the Christian body, all living with the one life of Christ.*

**Are there any echoes of such disunity in your community?**

**“All working together in harmony...  
all living with the one life of Christ.”**

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community.

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect - even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school - together.

Enjoy a special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMMUNITY**.

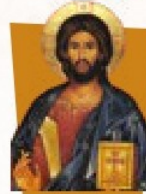
Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from the Saints

*"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community."* St Baldwin of Canterbury

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

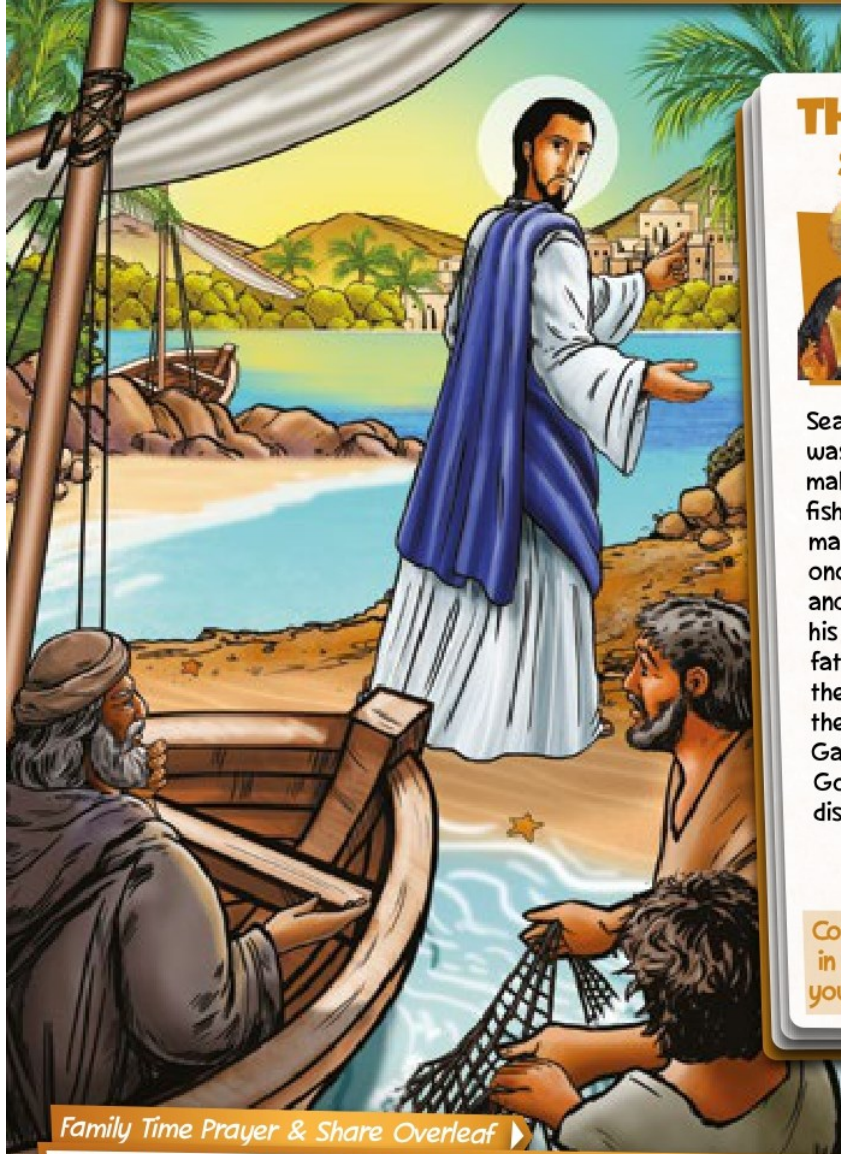


Hearing that John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." As he was walking beside the

Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there, he saw another pair of brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

*Adapted from Matt. 4:12-23*  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

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.



Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

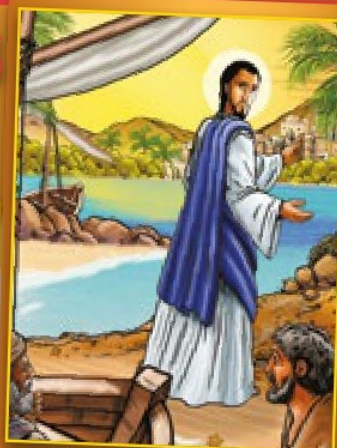
### Good News for Everyone

When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus gathers round him a community which receives his word, follows it, shares in his journey and becomes his family. Jesus came for everyone and with him we, and our children, will never be on our own.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

One day, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew. They were fishing and Jesus called to them, "Follow me. From now on you will be gathering people instead of fish." Straightaway they left their nets and followed Jesus. Then Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John, who were also fishermen. When Jesus called them to follow him, they were in a boat with their father, Zebedee. But they too followed Jesus at once.

**What did Jesus say the fishermen would be gathering from now on?**

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...

"Community is the place where love is proven, where we learn to forgive, to begin again, and to serve one another."

*St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus starts to form a community. Ask your child what the word 'community' means to them. Which communities do they belong to (e.g. family, clubs, brownies, football, etc.)? Another word we could use for our school is 'community'. What does your child enjoy most about their school community? Can they remember who made them feel really welcome when they started school?

## COMMUNITY



Each of you name at least one thing that other family members are good at, which could help strengthen the family community. Without our own unique contribution to our community, something valuable will be missing. How can we also use our gifts for the good of the different communities we belong to? Perhaps we can: join a school team; welcome new people into our community; volunteer to use a gift or skill to help out with a project; join with others to organise a family fun night at school; support a fundraising event.

3 \* Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our school and parish communities. Please help me say 'Yes' to you, and enrich the communities to which I belong. Amen.

### FINDING THREE

G	A	R	E	E	L	I	L	A	G	L	N
E	W	N	T	L	E	A	G	N	A	E	G
J	J	E	S	U	S	S	I	L	T	W	T
D	E	T	L	U	W	R	P	S	H	F	L
E	R	S	S	P	E	O	P	L	E	L	F
W	M	E	D	H	R	G	E	L	R	F	O
O	J	S	T	L	W	I	T	D	I	T	L
L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	T	N	L	L
L	G	R	G	E	R	L	F	W	G	E	O
O	T	N	E	M	R	E	H	S	I	F	W
F	I	S	H	E	R	M	E	N	D	T	E
N	E	L	P	O	E	P	L	P	O	S	D

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- GALILEE
- FISHERMEN
- LEFT NETS
- FOLLOWED JESUS
- GATHERING PEOPLE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **U N M** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

wuemren camlulend Fomlunlow uhinsm

Peter and \_\_\_\_\_ brother Andrew \_\_\_\_\_ fishing

and Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to them, "\_\_\_\_\_ me".

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him. Today, Jesus calls people, like you and me, to help him - to build his community - a community built on love.



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...

**Anna, Kivarly-Lavelle,  
Jimmy & Reuel-Nathan**



### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Ana-Christine, for making a huge effort in phonics and making great progress.
- Ladybirds: Arianna, for matching amounts to numerals.
- Dragonflies: Darius, for working hard on his writing.
- Grasshoppers: Dredon-Reign, for excellent comprehension in our Little Wandle session.
- Hedgehogs: Dillion, for developing and editing a fantastic recount.
- Squirrels: Sofia, for being a fantastic work on arrays in maths.
- Badgers: Autumn, for persevering with her maths work and working hard.
- Foxes: Alexandra, for her fantastic maths.
- Hares: Lottie, for great effort in English to write and edit a myth .
- Rabbits: Daniel, for being proactive during maths lessons and contributing to the class with his knowledge.
- Kingfishers: Ivy, for her fantastic diary entry linked to the Poem of the Highwayman - well done!
- Robins: Vikto, for his excellent writing from the perspective of Tim the Ostler.
- Eagles: Jalynn, for always being a good friend and a great example to the rest of the school.
- Owls: Keaton, for always being enthusiastic in lessons.

### House Points

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

Menu week 2

## Diary Dates

\* External club, fees apply

<u>Monday 19th January</u>	<u>Tuesday 20th January</u>	<u>Wednesday 21st January</u>	<u>Thursday 29th January</u>	<u>Friday 23rd January</u>
Hares swimming	Year 5 Reading Zone 9:00 am	Year 5 Reading Zone 2:45 pm	Year 5 Reading Zone 9:00 am	Celebration assembly 2:15 pm
* Drama club	Squirrels library	* Football club	Cross country trials	* Musical Theatre club
Girls football team	Hedgehogs library	* Karate - Years 2 & 3	Cafod club	
Boys football team	Year 5 to St Mark's		Year 2 booster	
Year 1 booster	* Multisports club		* Football club	
Year 3 booster	* Dance club		* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6	
Year 6 booster	Year 6 booster			

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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