



6th February 2026



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

This Sunday is the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time and we hear in St Matthew's Gospel that Jesus is the Light of the World. This is the focus of our school year, thinking of the Glimmers of Light that Jesus and following him in our Faith, brings to our lives.

On Wednesday 11th February it is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. For many of us we have special devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and we pray to Mary to intercede for us, to Jesus, when we are experiencing times of trouble and difficulties in our lives.



Maths Week!

Thanks to parents and families for your support with Maths Week. It was brilliant to welcome you into Maths lessons earlier in the week and thanks for coming along, if you attended one of the Maths Parent workshops. We hope you found it useful. We have been raising money for the NSPCC today and have raised £105.

Cold Weather

We are still experiencing very cold and wet weather. We want the children to be outside as much as possible and therefore ask you to remember to send your child in with a scarf, hat and gloves as we had a few cold fingers earlier in the week.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention

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

Our Lady of Lourdes

Novena Dates February 2-10, Feast Day February 11

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comfort to the Afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings. Deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the granting of my requests.

Through gratitude for favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen.

Pope's Prayer Intentions
February 2026

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

New Playground Outdoor Gym Equipment

We are very excited that through a generous donation and your support through fundraising, that we have been able to install some beautiful new outdoor gym equipment. This cost almost £7,000 and we could not afford this in our school budget so every bit of money we raise really does benefit the children. We hope to keep going and add more to it.



Mrs Gallagher

As you will remember, I wrote to you at the beginning of the term to let you know the sad news that Mrs Gallagher has been offered and accepted another job. We had thought that she would leave us before half term, but there is a hold up with processing her paperwork. Therefore, Mrs Gallagher will continue on with us after half term until her start date in her new job comes through.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

I encourage you to join my World Prayer Network, which unites diverse cultures, languages, and charisms in the common mission. I especially invite young people to take part, so that they may form the next generation of intercessors for the needs of the whole world.

<https://www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/>

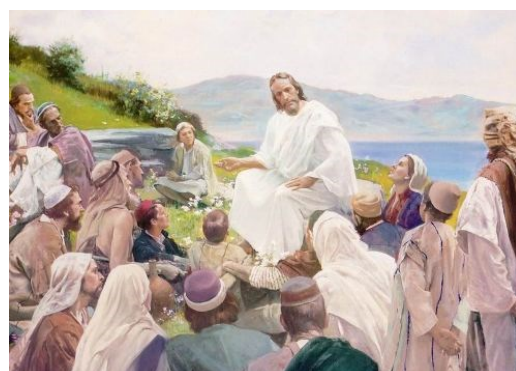
Gospel Value Awards

Integrity

honesty, truth, honour, faithfulness

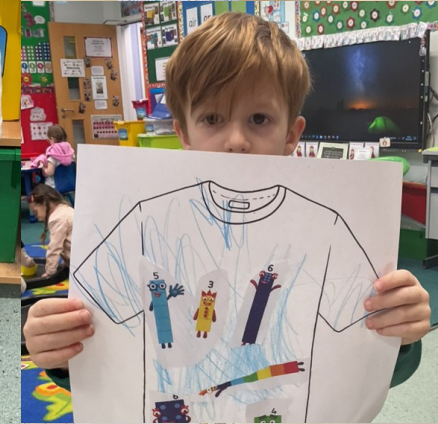
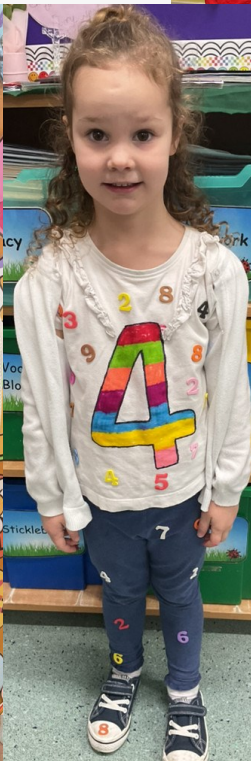
"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Matthew 25: 14-30

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



| | | | |
|--------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| Butterflies: | Lola | Ladybirds: | Matthew |
| Dragonflies: | Ksawery | Grasshoppers: | Anna |
| Hedgehogs: | Chloe | Squirrels: | Chloe |
| Badgers: | Tharani | Foxes: | Mina |
| Hares: | Elaeh | Rabbits: | Aidan |
| Kingfishers: | Lucas | Robins: | Leonardo |
| Eagles: | Barry | Owls: | Luke |

Number Day 2026



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!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies achieving 98% attendance. The joint 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 | 98% |
| Ladybirds | 97% |
| Dragonflies | 96% |
| Grasshoppers | 94% |
| Hedgehogs | 97% |
| Squirrels | 97% |
| Badgers | 97% |
| Foxes | 99% |
| Hares | 89% |
| Rabbits | 96% |
| Kingfishers | 99% |
| Robins | 96% |
| Eagles | 94% |
| Owls | 97% |



Times Tables Rockstars

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

| | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|---------|
| Hedgehogs: | Charles | Squirrels: | Riley |
| Badgers: | Basil | Foxes: | Kweku |
| Hares: | Olivia | Rabbits: | Ava |
| Kingfishers: | Athea | Robins: | Hayley |
| Eagles: | Kojo | Owls: | Dominik |



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 8th February 2026
 The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Matthew 5: 13-16

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 : SALT AND LIGHT



Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

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...



Matthew here takes two piquant images from the words of Jesus which he found in Mark's Gospel and builds on them. This text follows immediately after the Beatitudes, with which he began the Sermon on the Mount; now he shows that these Christian attitudes are not just for our own benefit but are to change the world. The first teaching is a warning, the second a promise. Christians are to be salt for the whole world. Imagine a perpetual diet of food without any tang or taste, soggy and insipid! This would be the world if Christians did not spread the good news of Christ, did not impart to the world the flavour brought by Christ's message. What would the world be without that message and without the challenge of the generosity and salvation of Christ which we profess? Yes, of course much of the same message may come to the world through other great world-faiths, but the full challenge and the full promise is in Christ. The same is true for the second image, that of light. Imagine a world of darkness, where we had to feel our way and are never quite sure of shapes and purposes! And then what a difference occurs when the sun rises over the horizon or the light is switched on. Such is the difference which Christianity – and our Christianity – must make to the world.

What is the best way that I can share with my friends the joy of knowing Jesus?

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 **GOODNESS**
 (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: *Authentic Conversion*



Isaiah 58: 7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor; clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

Look out! Lent is not far away! We need to start thinking again about genuine conversion, turning back to the Lord. This passage comes far on in the Book of Isaiah, written when the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon; but still things were not going right for them, still the favour of the Lord did not seem to be upon them.

This reading makes a good examination of conscience: do I invite the homeless poor to shelter; do I share my advantages with others? Am I at peace with my family? Do I seek to dominate by the 'clenched fist', the wounding word, the put-down which can shrivel someone up? Isaiah is contrasting genuine service of the Lord with the merely exterior practices of religion, the conventional ways in which we may seem to be 'holy' people. In fact, however, holiness is all a matter of the heart, and – at any rate in this text – mostly a matter of seeing and serving God in other people. That is the only way our light can really shine in the darkness, and our own wounds be healed over. As in the Beatitudes, this text reminds us that God's demands always have a promise attached.

Why not use this reading to make your examination of conscience?



Second Reading: *The Secret of Paul's Success*



1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

What was the secret of Paul's success? At times he seems to us boastful, 'Take me as your pattern' (4:16) or 'Be united in imitating me' (Philippians 3:17). He boasts of his faultless Jewish ancestry: 'Are they Hebrews? So am I' (2 Corinthians 11:22 etc.).

He claims to have undergone for Christ more sufferings and persecutions than others (2 Corinthians 12), to have been perfect in the Law (Philippians 3:6), to have outstripped his contemporaries in his zeal for the Law (Galatians 1:14). He claims that he speaks in tongues more than any of them, and yet he does not make much of it (1 Corinthians 14:18). Yet here he insists that he came among the Corinthians in weakness, in great fear and trembling in order to make known the power of the Spirit. In the same way he will later admit that he holds the treasure of the light of Christ in fragile pots made of earthenware (2 Corinthians 4:7). There are some wonderful rhetorical passages in Paul, where he exploits to the full the literary and oratorical training he had received, but in the last analysis one must admit that his power consists simply in the power of his message and the promises of Christ.

In this passage, St Paul mentions knowing Jesus as the crucified Christ. For you, what does it mean to know Jesus?

“The power of the message
and the promises of Christ.”

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday's Gospel shows how the message of Jesus can change everything in the world. Jesus reminds us that we are not here only for ourselves – we're here for others: to improve the lives of those around us with love, care and goodness.

Whenever we perform an act of goodness, even the smallest good deed, it pleases God and sets an example for others to see and to follow.

Wednesday 4th February 2026

So this Gospel reminds us of the importance of our role in life: to bring God's light to others and to be 'the salt of the earth'. Now let's go and bring that taste and that light of Jesus to everyone we meet.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Happy are the young, because they have time before them to do good." St Philip Neri

*"How good God is!
In His goodness He seeks
only our happiness."
St. Alphonsus Liguori*



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 8th February 2026



Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all people, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven."

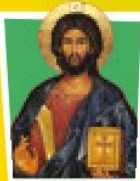
*Adapted from Matthew 5:13-16
The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A*

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

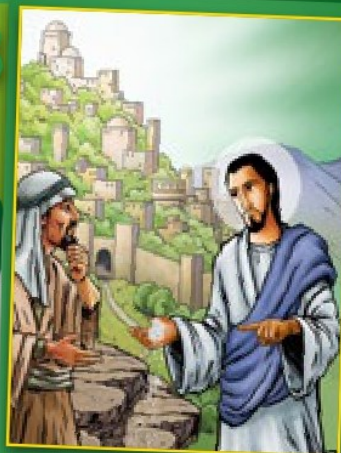
**Good News
for Everyone**

People can see God at work through the goodness in others. Living in the way that Jesus taught us, knowing that we are loved forever by God and responding to that love by our good deeds, we bring praise to God and become a light for others.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. You are like a light shining for the whole world to see, just like a city built high on top of a hill which cannot be hidden from view. No one lights a lamp and then covers it up; they put it where it shines and gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, you must let your light shine for others, so that people will see the good that you do, and give thanks and praise to God for sharing his goodness through you."

What did Jesus say would make people want to give praise to God?

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...

"Each person, according to their ability, should be a pattern of goodness to others." *St Basil the Great*

GOODNESS



Ask your child what the word 'goodness' means to them. Who stands out for them as being full of goodness? How do they show that goodness? As a family, name a quality of goodness that you can see in each other (perhaps helpfulness, thoughtfulness, generosity, patience, gentleness, kindness). Are there any qualities of goodness that you would like to have more of?



We can show our love for God through trying our best to grow in goodness. Each of you decide on a particular act of goodness to let your 'light shine' - to make life better for others. Perhaps you can: be more compassionate and caring; share sweets or other favourite things; make a phone call to someone who may be lonely; be a kind and patient listener; ask God to help you grow in goodness.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, you are the source of all goodness. Thank you for all the people who help us to grow in goodness and become the best that we can be. Amen.*

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SALT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EARTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIGHT | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SHINING | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SHOW | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GOODNESS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GOD | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PRAISED | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **u k m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

wokrumld limgukht kearmuth smaklut

You are the _____ of the _____. You are like a _____ shining for the whole _____ to see.

God is good - all goodness comes from God.

Whenever we are truthful, loving and caring we are on the path to goodness and we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and a light for the world.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

**Melisa, Ronan, Ciaran, Lucas, Phoebe,
Santino, Hendrix, Jemimah & Jackson**



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Olivia, for a great effort to chunk longer words for reading.
- Ladybirds: Leonardo, for his enthusiasm with his maths learning.
- Dragonflies: Mila, for excellent work in her maths learning.
- Grasshoppers: Albi, for being an excellent role model in class.
- Hedgehogs: Kivarly, for an amazing effort and attitude in all areas of his learning - so proud!
- Squirrels: Nana, for her fantastic writing for her losing story.
- Badgers: Basil, for wanting to help everyone when learning French.
- Foxes: Oliwier, for his fantastic history work on Stonehenge.
- Hares: Hanley, for great effort in English when writing metaphors.
- Rabbits: Melisa, for amazing writing of sentences using metaphors.
- Kingfishers: Christabel, for her fantastic work in English, this week.
- Robins: Jayden, for his incredible running in the cross country trials.
- Eagles: Archie, for fantastic effort with his character description about Grimy Nick.
- Owls: Feodora, for her beautiful handwriting.

House Points

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

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

* External club, fees apply

Monday 9th February

Hares swimming

* Drama club

Girls football team

Boys football team

Year 1 booster

Year 3 booster

Year 6 booster

Tuesday 10th February

Year 4 reading zone 9:00 am

* Multisports club

* Dance club

Year 6 booster

Wednesday 11th February

Year 4 reading zone 2:45 pm

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 12th February

Last day before half term

Year 4 reading zone 9:00 am

Cafod club

Year 2 booster

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 13th February

Inset day - school closed to pupils

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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