



27th February 2026



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

This week our Gospel Value is Forgiveness which sits alongside the theme of this week's Gospel. We hear the message to reconcile with others. In this season of Lent, Pope Leo has called us to think about how we use our words and thoughts when we talk to others. God calls us to make reparation with others who have hurt us but also lets us know that this can be challenging. Through prayer we can find a way forwards and repair broken relationships with others as we walk and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.



Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

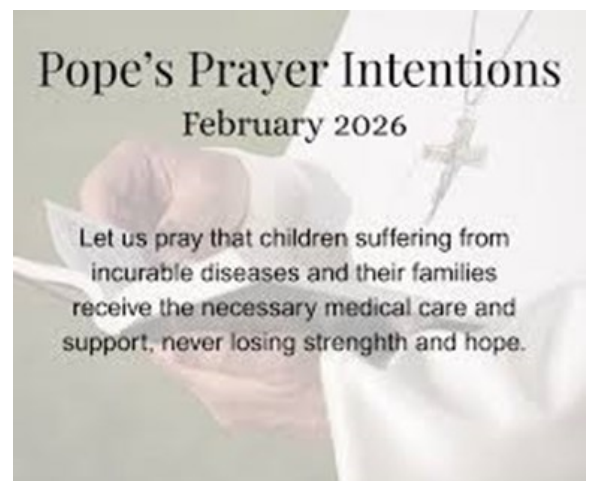
Parents Evening Appointments

We will be having our parent consultations on the 10th and 12th of March and appointments are open to be booked on Arbor.

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:



Uniform and representing Holy Cross

Please remember that we are proud of our school and our uniform is the identity of our school. We want our children to wear our school uniform with pride. I ask that parents please support us by following the uniform policy which is on our school website; please follow this link: [Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy - Uniform](#) We are still in our winter uniform until Easter. Please remember that pupils are not allowed to wear jewellery including earrings, so please do not have your child's ears pierced until the start of the summer holidays as they will not be able to have the gold studs in for the 6-week healing period. Also, that hair accessories must be Holy Cross colours only.

Mrs Gallagher

We have sadly had confirmation that Mrs Gallagher will be leaving us at the end of next week. She has been such a wonderful support for so many of our children and she will be sorely missed by us at Holy Cross. She has had a big impact on the lives of so many of our families. We wish her lots of luck in her new role with Young Carers.

Mrs Huggett

Mrs Huggett is going off on her maternity leave today and we wish her lots of luck with the birth of her new baby. We will be excited to meet the new arrival!

Lunches

There will be a temporary reduction in the number of catering staff and therefore we will be making some adjustments to the lunch menu, from next week. This has been sent out to you today.

I have noticed that some of our children have large, family sized packets of sweets, crisps and chocolate in their lunchbox. I ask that parents please follow our healthy eating guidelines and limit the size of the sweet or savoury treat in their child's lunch.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Olivia	Squirrels:	Lilah
Badgers:	Hudson	Foxes:	Nellie
Hares:	Amanda	Rabbits:	Maurice
Kingfishers:	Mayah	Robins:	Poppy
Eagles:	Kenna-Kah	Owls:	Dominik

Epic battles vs St Nicks!

Our girls and boys football teams have been busy the past couple of weeks as they were both drawn to play St Nicks in the Stacey Pardoe Trophy.

Our girls, who are coached by Miss Cargill, played brilliantly last week in their first ever competitive game at Passmores. The game ended 3-3, as we managed to find a last gasp equaliser to stay in the cup! Diana 2 and Vienna were the goalscorers and we had earned a replay at St Nicks.

Today, this took place and we gave it absolutely everything on a very big pitch. Gracie made a string of superb saves to keep us in the game, Amelia H, Tawana, Kenna and our captain Aoife were outstanding in defence, making many blocks and tackles to keep the opposition out. Keziah, Tilly, Kiera and Amelia O worked relentlessly in midfield, while Vienna and Blousey made some great runs in attack. Kodie and Diana were unable to play today due to injury, but they both played very well last week. Unfortunately, we lost the game 1-0, with St Nicks scoring a fine goal with only two minutes left, but we keep our heads held high and look forward to arranging some friendly matches to keep improving. Well done girls!

Our boys team, who are the current holders of the trophy, also did us proud as they played at Passmores last week and put in a really good performance. We came up against a very good St Nicks side and an entertaining game ended in a 2-2 draw, with Filip and Hendrix scoring our goals. Archie made a fantastic save in the first half from a tremendous volley! The game went to penalties and we were narrowly defeated 5-4. This was tough to take but we gave it our all. Well done boys!

Super goalkeeping from Archie, great defensive effort from Jack, Ciaran and captain Kojo, tenacious midfield work from Diale, Parker, Tadhg, Caiden and Hendrix and impressive attacking play from Filip and Jayden. We now look to finish strong in the Harlow Champions League!

Mr Clarke



Eamonn's St Clare 10K 2026



Sponsor Eamonn as he takes on the St Clare 10k which will be held on 12th April 2026, raising vital funds for St Clare Hospice.



SCAN HERE
TO DONATE



stclarehospice



hospicestclare



stclarehospice

stclarehospice.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1063631

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!

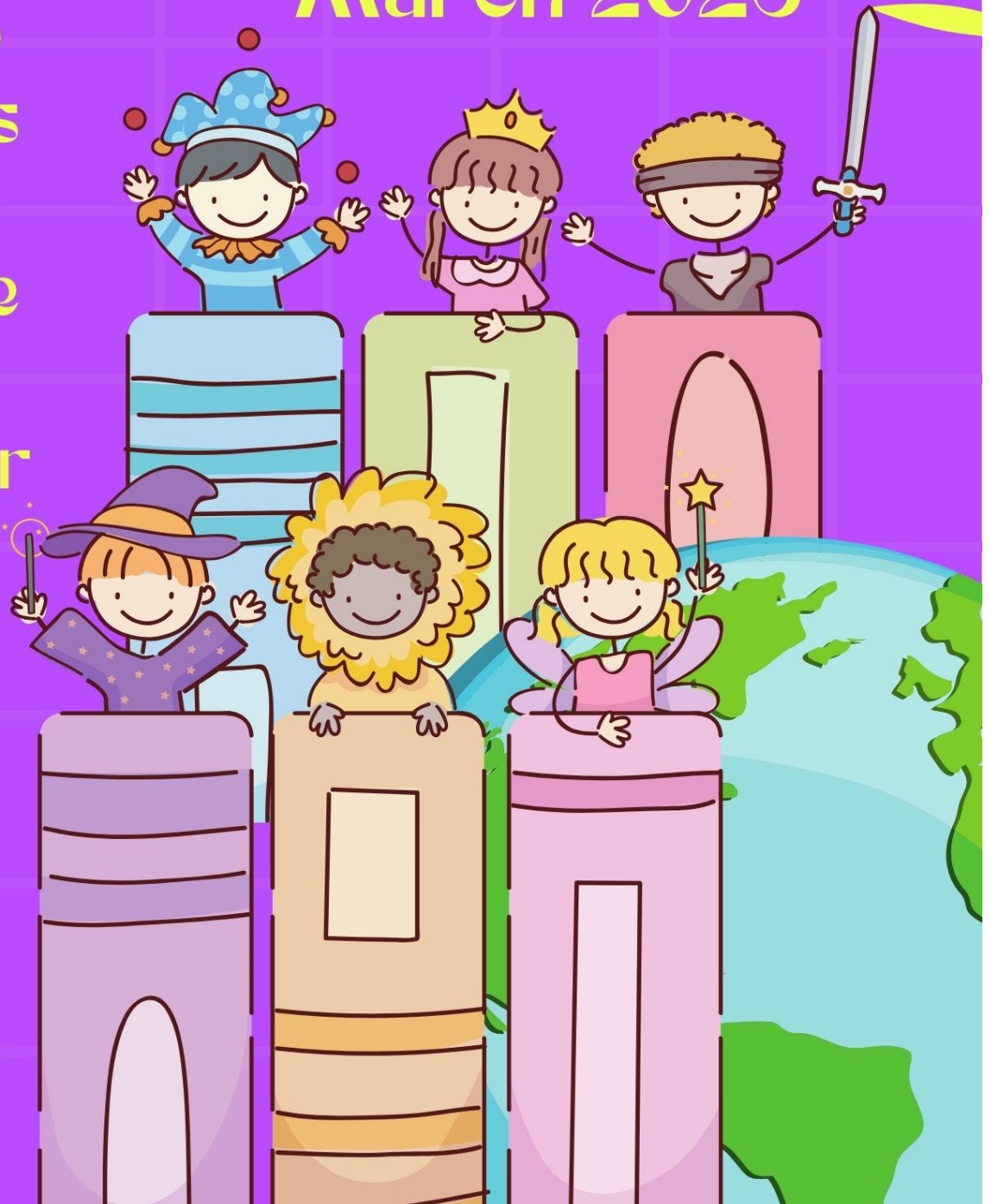
Money can be paid on line at Holy Cross School PTA a/c: 66911260, s/c: 30-90-91 or cash or card payments can be handed in at the office. Please let your teacher know when you achieve your goal so that this can be celebrated.

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

World Book

Day ✨ Thursday 5th
March 2026

Come to
school as
your
Favourite
book
character





Mother's Day gift sale

£3 for a wrapped gift

Monday 9th March (Reception, years 1 and 2)

Tuesday 10th March (years 3 and 4)

Wednesday 11th March (years 5 and 6)

cash or card payments

EASTER

fundraising

Hamper
raffle £1
per strip.

Many
hampers to
be won

Easter Egg
hunt £1 to
enter.

Everyone that
enters will get
an egg

Cash or card payment





EASTER RAFFLE

We are holding an Easter hamper raffle

Please check your child's Tapestry or Seesaw to see what they need to bring in.

Please send items in by Monday 16th March



Tickets will be on sale
from 18th March
£1 per strip

Holy Cross Academy

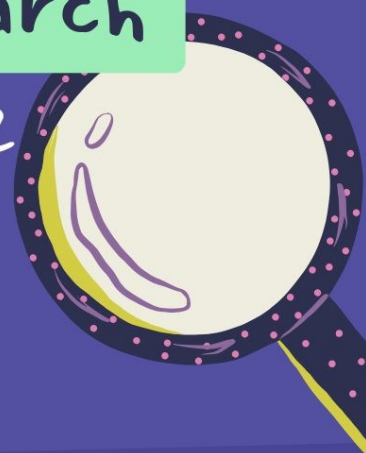
Science workshops



Tuesday 17th March

Reception, Years 1 and 2
9.10am to 10.10am

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
11am to 12pm



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Gospel Value Awards

Compassion

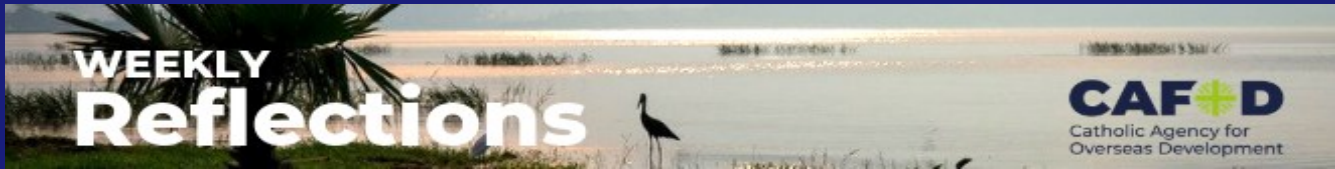
kindness, patience, empathy, helpfulness

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12



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

Butterflies:	Oliver	Ladybirds:	Braylen
Dragonflies:	Aoife	Grasshoppers:	Isabella
Hedgehogs:	Justin	Squirrels:	Jude
Badgers:	Braven	Foxes:	Gwenda
Hares:	Raysa	Rabbits:	Declan
Kingfishers:	William	Robins:	Abigail
Eagles:	Luna	Owls:	Zachary



Based on the gospel for Sunday 1 March, Second Sunday of Lent: Matthew 17:1-9

"He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."

"There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun," wrote the monk and mystic, Thomas Merton, who on an ordinary day in an unremarkable shopping district in Louisville, had a profound experience of the glory and solidarity of the human family. "It was as if I could suddenly see the secret beauty of their hearts," he wrote.

In this Sunday's gospel the disciples witness Jesus transfigured. Has he changed or have their eyes been opened to see him as he truly is? Here is an invitation for us to see the world in a new light.

What if we could, like Thomas Merton, suddenly recognise the belovedness of every person? Or if we could see the signs of God's power to bring new life, just as the digging, weeding and pruning of a patient gardener is rewarded by glimpses of beauty as shoots sprout and buds open?

In this season of Lent, as we seek to listen more deeply to Jesus, may we strive to see each person through God's eyes, recognising the beauty in our sisters and brothers.

Prayer
Glorious God,
we give you thanks
for glimpses of grace,
for your abundant generosity
and for the strength of your love.
May we reflect your glory
as we walk in your way.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

The Gospel of the day (MT4:1-11) invites us to view Lent as a luminous path. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can renew our cooperation with the Lord, so He can craft our lives as unique masterpieces.

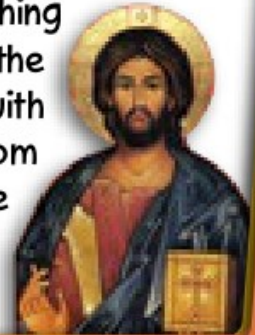
Wednesday
25th February

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME 

1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel


Peter, James and John went with Jesus to pray on a mountain top. While they were there, Jesus was transformed. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as dazzling as the light, whiter than any normal clothing could ever be. Suddenly Moses and Elijah, the great teacher and the great prophet of the Old Testament, appeared and were talking with Jesus. Then a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Then suddenly, when the disciples looked round, they saw only Jesus was left there with them.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 1st March 2026 Cf. Matthew 17:1-9 (the 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A)

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



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



"The invitation at the Transfiguration is to listen to Jesus and to follow him." Pope Francis (Pope from 2013 - 2025)

Where did Jesus go to pray? In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples received a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus through the change in the way he looked (his transfiguration). This sacred encounter took place on the Holy Mountain - Mt Tabor. Often in the Bible, mountains are described as sacred places. Ask your child what the word 'sacred' means to them. Our churches are sacred places, dedicated to the worship of God, but other places are sacred too: a home filled with the love of God. Where's your sacred space? Where do you pray or feel most at peace or closest to God (e.g. your house, your bedroom, your church, your garden or somewhere else)?

The Holy Mountain experience was a sacred moment. To be sacred is to be holy - to be dedicated to God. God wants us to be his sacred people - to be holy and to try to live and love like Jesus did. Praying at home helps us to recognise and respect our homes as sacred places, full of God's love. What else can help to remind us of God's sacred presence in our home (e.g. a Bible, candles, a cross, icons or something else)? As a family, talk about which sacred images you find most helpful. What can you do to help you recognise your home as a sacred place this Lent?



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the **sacred** places where you are worshipped and praised, and for making our homes **sacred** through your presence among us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



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

- JESUS CHANGED
- FACE SHONE
- MOSES ELIJAH
- CLOUD VOICE

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

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

Cross out the letters **a d k** in the jumbled words to find 4 real words.

acklothdes klidghat askund sahokned

Jesus' face _____ like the _____ and his

_____ became as dazzling as the _____.

This Friday is CAFOD'S Lent Fast Day.

Why not do something special this Lent and help some of the world's poorest people? Find out more at:

cafod.org.uk/primary



Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....





Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 1st March 2026
 The Second Sunday in Lent – Matthew 17: 1-9

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 TRANSFIGURATION



Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said. 'Do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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...



Each year on this second Sunday of Lent we read the account of the Transfiguration. It was the moment when the disciples were shown the divinity of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Sinai, when his face, too, shone like the sun. Moses and Elijah are present because they are the two Old Testament figures who experienced the presence of God on the Holy Mountain. With his usual impetuous generosity Peter attempts to 'freeze' the moment. The public declaration of Jesus as God's Son at the Baptism is repeated, but with the addition that Jesus is the authorized divine teacher; Matthew is alert to the implications for the Church of the presence of Christ as Teacher. The cloud is also a symbol of God's presence, to which the human response can only be to fall to the ground in fear and reverence. The awesome moment of revelation cannot, however, last, and Jesus brings his disciples back to the dire realities before them with the reminder that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. Until they have experienced the limitless generosity of his death, and the vindication by God of this love, they are not ready to spread the message of Jesus.

What stands out for you in this account of the Transfiguration? How may it help you to deepen your own relationship with Christ?

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 **SACRED**
 (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: *The Call of Abraham*



Genesis 12: 1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Each year on this Sunday we have a reading about Abraham, for it is with him that the history of salvation begins: God prepares a people, the family of Abraham, from which will eventually issue his Messiah, Jesus. Here we have the account of that beginning. God calls Abram to leave his country, his family, his comfort-zone, to go out into an unknown land and an unknown future. Abram has no security beyond the

simple promise of God that God will bless him and his family, with a blessing so great that all nations will recognise it and use the very name of 'Abram' as a blessing. In a fierce and arid land, which offers no protection to strangers, he has no family, no children to support him. He is to become a wanderer over the earth, not knowing the goal of his wanderings. He does not ask for the credentials of this Voice which calls him. He does not seem even to have any concept of God, and yet he follows this call. Just so, the first disciples at the lakeside will, without a word or a question, follow God's Son when he calls them. Abram's trust in this Voice is the model for all personal trust.

What for me are the real implications of unconditional trust in God?



Second Reading: *The Response to God's Love*



2 Timothy 1: 8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

This reading is put before us by the Church as an encouragement to persevere in our Lenten resolutions. In his earlier writings Paul had often seen his own sufferings and those of other Christians as completing those of Christ. Not that there was anything faulty about the sufferings of Christ, but the members of Christ's Body, the Church, must share in the destiny of the

suffering Christ. Now the recipients of this letter are also called upon to share the sufferings of Paul in prison, not to earn salvation but as a response to the grace of salvation. The word 'grace' has been much misunderstood, as though 'grace' were an independent gift, a thing in itself. In fact the word is used in the New Testament to express the love of God or of Christ, particularly the burning human love of Christ. Primarily it is a loving divine or human relationship. When Mary is addressed as 'engraced' or 'full of grace', it means that she is the special recipient of God's love, which in turn makes her more lovable. So here the 'grace granted to us in Christ Jesus' is the loving way in which God has regarded us from the beginning of time, though its fullness has become visible only at the Appearing of Christ Jesus.

How can I best respond to the grace of salvation?

“Grace is the loving way in which God has regarded us from the beginning of time.”

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Keziah, Priscilla, Braven, Blane,
Ollie & Raysa



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Aria, for a very detailed recall and understanding of this term's R.E. learning.
- Ladybirds: Elijah, for his super effort in all learning .
- Dragonflies: Freddie, for trying hard in his maths learning.
- Grasshoppers: Malakai, for excellent art work to support retelling a story.
- Hedgehogs: Felicity, for an outstanding effort in all areas of her English.
- Squirrels: Jimmy, for amazing work on money!
- Badgers: Grace, for super problem solving during maths week.
- Foxes: Kweku, for his amazing maths work on money.
- Hares: Oba, for writing a fantastic setting description using metaphors.
- Rabbits: Millie, for trying very hard with her writing and spelling.
- Kingfishers: River, for his super maths problem solving.
- Robins: Freddie, for his amazing attitude towards all maths lessons.
- Eagles: Gracie, for her hard work in all lessons.
- Owls: Harry, for always being so enthusiastic in every lesson.

House Points

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

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

* External club, fees apply

Monday 2nd March

St David's house (only)
non uniform

Rabbits swimming

* Drama club

Girls football team

Boys football team

Year 1 booster

Year 3 booster

Year 6 booster

Tuesday 3rd March

Year 2 reading zone 9:00
am

Hares library visit

Rabbits library visit

* Dance club

Year 6 booster

Wednesday 4th March

Year 2 reading zone 2:45 pm

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day - come
dressed as your favourite
book character

Year 2 reading zone 9:00 am

Cafod club

Year 2 booster

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 6th March

Celebration assembly 2:15

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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