



6th March 2026



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

Weekly Reflection

This week our Gospel Value is Hope which seems timely as we are slowly beginning to see the glimmers of sun returning and the days are beginning to feel a little warmer. In this week's Gospel we hear the story of the woman at the well. Jesus has been out in the hot sun with the disciples and we see him have needs just like us as he becomes thirsty and tired and needs to sit down. It is the hottest part of the day and he has sent the disciples on into the town. At that moment a woman appears at a well to get some water and Jesus begins to talk to her. He hears that she is a woman outcast from the town and this is the reason why she is at the well at the hottest time of the day. She finds Hope in what Jesus tells her, that he is living water and anyone who drinks this water and believes in him will find a pathway to God.

Like the woman at the well, we are called to drink in the living water of Jesus by following in his footsteps.



Have a lovely weekend

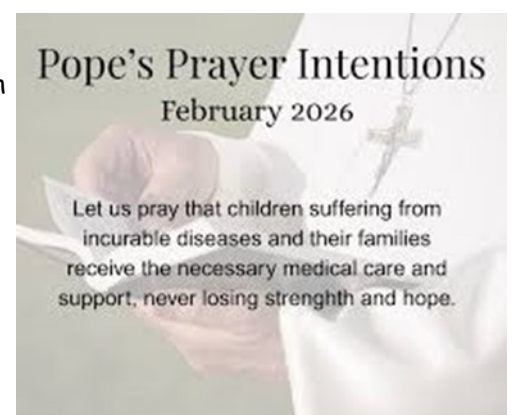
Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Parents Evening Appointments

We will be having our parent consultations on the 10th and 12th of March and appointments have been sent out this week. Please book an appointment if you haven't already, as it is an important opportunity to talk to your child's class teacher.

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: [uniform](#). **There are lots of children without ties and this is an essential part of our Winter uniform.** Please remember that 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.

Healthy Snack

I would like to remind parents that at Holy Cross we have a healthy snack policy. This means that pupils may only have Fruit and Vegetables for snack. No cereal bars or other such foods are allowed at breaktime. I kindly ask that you follow our policy and if children do not have a snack which follows this policy, they will have this taken away and it will be substituted with fruit if it is available.

Mrs Gallagher

We are saying a very sad farewell to Mrs Gallagher today. 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. She will always be a part of our Holy Cross family and I know that we will all look forward to seeing her soon.

We will be not be appointing a new member of staff into this role due to restrictions in our school budget. However, I am very pleased to let you know that Ms Dodd will be taking on the role of SEMH Lead. She will do this alongside her Deputy Head and Year 3 teacher role.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Let us pray together that nations move toward effective disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Find out about help available for children and young people (aged 0-25).

This is called the Local Offer.



Date: Monday 9th March 2026

Time: Drop in anytime

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM (all ages) Quieter times: Prefer a quieter visit? Pop in after 11:30

AM.Location: Harlow Playhouse, College Gate, Harlow, CM20 1LS

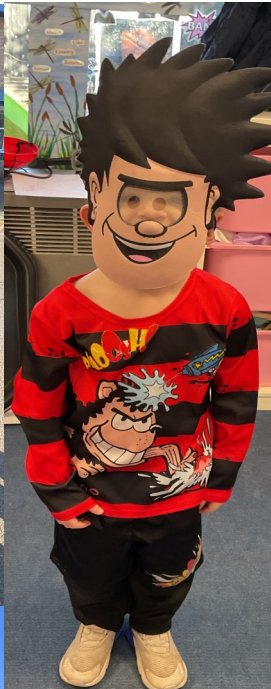
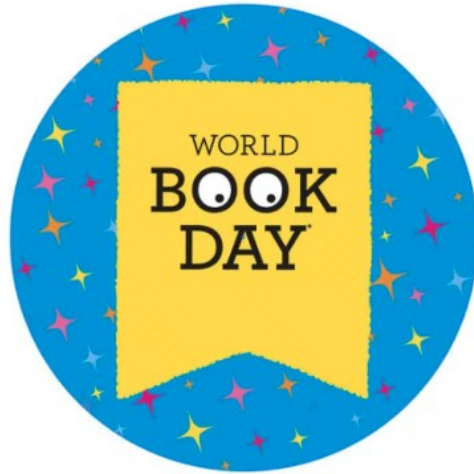
Cost: FREE

What to Expect:

Have questions about your child's needs and the best support available? The SEND Roadshow brings together a variety of professionals under one roof, including local support groups, education professionals, health teams, and social care teams.

You can:

- access support and information
- understand the different services available
- discover local support, such as parent groups and inclusive activities
- attend free talks





Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Holly	Squirrels:	Nana
Badgers:	Grace	Foxes:	Noah
Hares:	Dennis	Rabbits:	Flynn
Kingfishers:	Mayah	Robins:	Eva
Eagles:	Amelia	Owls:	Zofia

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!



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

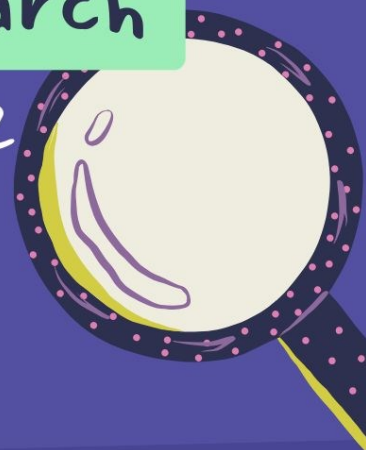
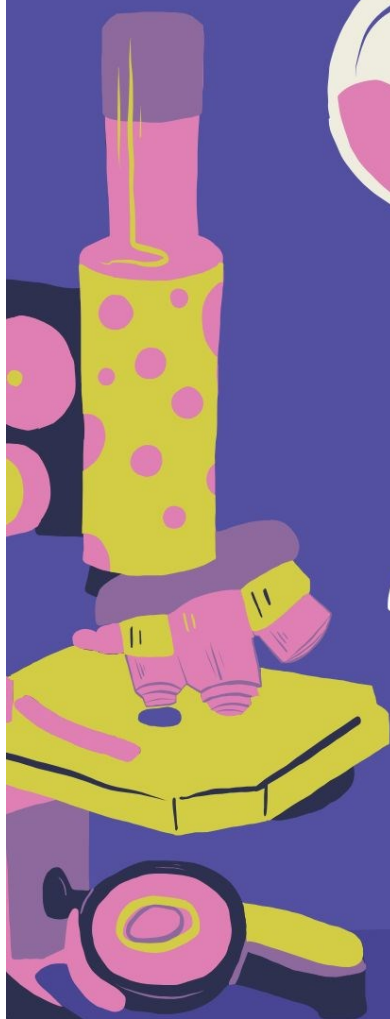
Science workshops



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, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. The 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	96%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	98%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	98%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	93%
Foxes	99%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	97%
Eagles	97%
Owls	98%

Gospel Value Awards

Humility

trust and faith in our Lord God our Father

"Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour" Psalm 24:4



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

Butterflies:	Elizabeth	Ladybirds:	Rozelin
Dragonflies:	Isabel	Grasshoppers:	Griffin
Hedgehogs:	J.J.	Squirrels:	Zuriel
Badgers:	Indila	Foxes:	Lemuel
Hares:	Stephanie	Rabbits:	Lyla
Kingfishers:	Aoife	Robins:	Isla
Eagles:	Jackson	Owls:	Axel



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel we have a witty dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman drawing water at the well, where each seems to be teasing the other.

Water is a sign of life. The 'living water' is the sign of everything that Jesus offers us to satisfy our need of God's love and guidance. With its serious message, this Sunday's Gospel is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people just as they are - and that includes us too!

Wednesday 4th March 2026

God has no favourites; we are all loved equally by God. The season of Lent presents a great opportunity for everyone to enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's words, which are **GOD'S LOVE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"God's love is a spring of living water which flows constantly into the hearts of those who pray." St Louis de Montfort

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 8th March 2026



Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat straight down at Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." She was taken by surprise because Jews and Samaritans rarely spoke to each other. She replied, "What? You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans don't have anything to do with each other?" Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: 'Give me a drink,' you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket, sir," she answered, "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life." "Sir," said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

Adapted from John 4:5-15.19-26.39-42
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A

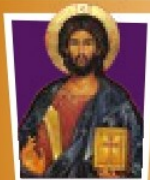
Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.



Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

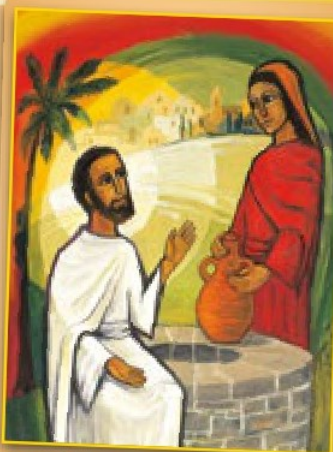
Good News for Everyone

The living water which Jesus talks about in this Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the powerful way that God's love flows into people when they are baptised. As we hear of Jesus' love for people throughout the Gospel stories, we can be certain of God's love for each one of us today.



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!

Jesus came to a town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat down besides Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to fill her jug with water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink and said: "Whoever drinks the water from this well will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the living water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will be like a spring of flowing water inside them that gives everlasting life." "Sir," said the woman, "please give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

What is special about the water that Jesus offers?

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 Words...

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love." *St Augustine of Hippo*

God is love and all love comes from God. Ask your child what the words 'God's love' mean to them. We can often see God's love at work through the goodness in people around us. Where does your child see God's love in action? Who does your child know who stands out as someone who shares God's love with others? How does that person show love? It may help your child if you can give an example of your own.



GOD'S LOVE

The more we experience and share God's love, the happier we become. Each of you say how you usually experience God's love. Perhaps it is through: the love of your family or other people; help from others; the sacraments; spending time with Jesus in prayer, at home or in Church. Then each of you choose a way in which you will especially share God's love with someone in this coming week.

3 * Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to grow in your love and to * share your love with others through the way we live our lives. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

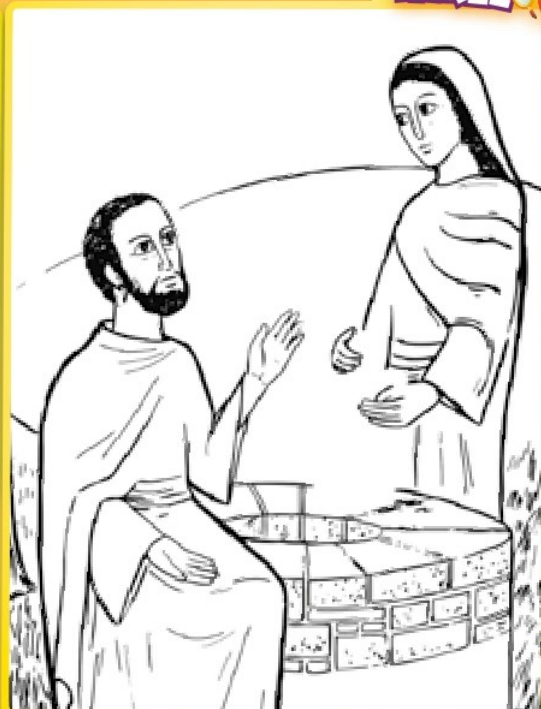
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- SAMARITAN
- WOMAN
- JESUS
- GIVES
- LIVING
- WATER
- EVERLASTING
- LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

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

wolaterm thimrsolty lodrimnks gimovel

"Anyone who _____ the living _____ that I shall _____ will never be _____ again."



Through the person he was, and through his teaching and miracles, Jesus showed people that God's love is for everyone. God shares his love with us and calls us to share it with others too.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 8th March 2026
 The Third Sunday in Lent — John 4:5-15.19-26.39-42

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 SAMARITAN AT THE WELL



Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied, 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you "Give me a drink", you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered, 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied, 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said, 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus, 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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...



In this lively dialogue Jesus almost seems to be teasing the Samaritan woman, deliberately leading her into misunderstanding about what he means by living water or about the conditions of worship. Nothing daunted, she gives as good as she gets, replying with a cheeky series of sarcastic questions, gradually edging nearer to the truth: an open-minded Jew – greater than our father Jacob – a prophet – and finally acknowledging him as the Messiah. With its serious message it is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people as they are, and of his openness with women. On these last three Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday in Cycle A, the Church lays before us the three great symbols of the baptisms which will be celebrated at Easter. This concerns not only those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, but all those who are invited to renew our baptismal promise and commitment at Easter. By so doing we enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink (the teaching given to the Samaritan woman), into the light which enlightens the blind (the Cure of the Man Born Blind) and true life (the Raising of Lazarus).

What does Jesus really mean by 'living water'? What is the real life that God gives us?

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 words for our families are **GOD'S LOVE**
 (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: *Water from the Rock*



Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Throughout Lent the first readings dwell on the history of salvation narrated in the Old Testament; the third Sunday is always about Moses. In this year, Cycle A, the incident at

*Massah and Meribah is chosen to pair with the gospel-reading about living water. Christ is the living water of salvation, an image of which is the water God provided for his people when they were tortured by thirst in the desert. It was not just that they could do with a bit of a drink, which we in a well-watered country have the fortune to experience. When you run out of water in the desert you lose all strength, all will to advance, and eventually wilt to death. On two separate occasions in the Old Testament the story of Moses striking the rock is told, and the rabbis held that it was the rock that followed them through the desert. Paul interprets the rock as Christ, who always provides for his people, but in the Old Testament God was not well pleased with most of his people. They continued to rebel and complain about their hardships and to long for 'the leeks and onions' of their slave-life in Egypt. With the same ingratitude we continue to neglect the salvation offered us, absorbed in any passing pleasures we can find. **How do you use water? Is water of life a good image for the gifts of God?***



Second Reading: *Peace with God through Jesus*



Romans 5:1-2.5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gradually explaining the mystery of salvation in his great Letter to the Romans, Paul has described a world sunk in evil. Then he meditates on Abraham's trust in God's promises, the same unwavering trust which is our only way to salvation,

an unshaken conviction that God will come to our rescue in our shame and our failures. But what is the means by which God fulfils his promise of obliterating the evil which grips the human race? It can only be the obedience of Jesus, shown in his loving and obedient death on the Cross, which outdoes the disobedience of the whole human race, represented in Adam's sin. It is not the gore and suffering which are in themselves salvific - like a price paid for human delinquency - but the total extent of the love shown in unflinching obedience to the Father's will. He did this out of love for the Father, and also out of love for us, for whom he established the Kingship of God on earth. Paul seems to argue that, though in normal terms we were not worth dying for, Christ did die for us, just as in his ministry he did not wait for sinners to repent, but actively and unconditionally called them to himself.

What evils grip the human race today, and what can Jesus' work do to solve them?

“ An unshaken conviction that God will come to our rescue. ”

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Harper, Ezriah, Afi, Olivier,
Grace, Darius & Harry



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Alina, for her fantastic contributions and sharing ideas in all lessons.
- Ladybirds: Ezriah, for always trying her best with her learning.
- Dragonflies: Azari, for trying his best in his R.E. learning.
- Grasshoppers: Isabella, for describing what is the same and different about historical life in Harlow.
- Hedgehogs: Kaleb, for extra effort with handwriting and presentation.
Kivarly, for amazing persuasive writing for a toy shop
- Squirrels: Liam, for coming back to school with a mature attitude.
- Badgers: Jacob, for always following the rules and expectations.
- Foxes: Elissa, for her fantastic contributions to our R.E. lessons.
- Hares: Gerald, for independently retelling The Parable of the Prodigal Son, with fantastic details.
- Rabbits: Andreas, for great work on calculating the perimeter of a shape.
- Kingfishers: Yohane, for working incredibly hard in all lessons - well done Yohane!
- Robins: Dominic, for his excellent maths work about perimeters.
- Eagles: Margaret, for excellent work in maths.
- Owls: Livia, for an excellent attitude to her learning.

House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

* External club, fees apply

Monday 9th March

Rabbits swimming

* Drama club

Girls football team

Boys football team

Year 1 booster

Year 3 booster

Year 6 booster

Tuesday 10th March

Parent/teacher consultations

9:00 - 11:30 am

* Dance club

Year 6 booster

Wednesday 11th March

Year 1 reading zone 2:45 pm

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 12th March

Year 1 reading zone 9:00 am

Parent/teacher consultations

3:40 - 7:00 pm

Cafod club

Year 2 booster

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 13th March

Year 6 Crucial Crew

Celebration assembly 2:15

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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