



27th March 2026

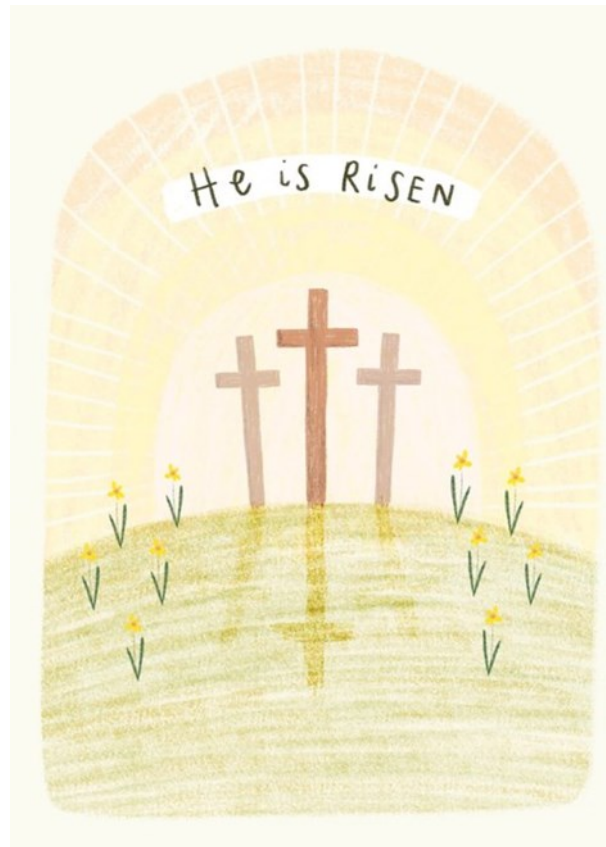


**GOSPEL VALUE:** Our Gospel Value for this week is Peace. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

### Weekly Reflection

This weekend we are reflecting on Palm Sunday. Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey and was hailed as a king with everyone waving Palms and shouting Hosanna. They crowd were delighted to see him. However, we know that because of the jealousy of the Scribes and Pharisees that things took a very dark turn. We think of this as we enter Holy Week next week.

Let us remember that Jesus endured unimaginable pain and suffering for us before he died on the cross. We remember this on Good Friday but then look forward to the joy of the resurrection and the risen Lord on Easter Sunday.



**We adore you O Christ and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world**

I would like to wish all of our families, staff and Governors and wonderful and peaceful Easter.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## **Year 5 and 6 Swimming**

After Easter, we are focusing swimming lessons on Year 5 and 6 students who can't yet swim 25 metres. Parents were asked to complete a short questionnaire and we have created a group who will go swimming. Please be aware that not all children in Year 5 will swim only those pupils who have had an email from Mrs Slater. Swimming for these children will begin on Monday 20th April.

## **School Uniform**

When we return to school, children may wear the school uniform and part of this is a Polo shirt. This does not have to have the Holy Cross Logo. We ask that the summer and winter uniform are not mixed together eg: it is either a Polo Shirt with shorts/ skirt/ pinafore or shirt and tie with Trousers, skirt, pinafore. Green Gingham dresses, all in ones or skirts can also be worn. I know that sometimes girls like to wear cycling shorts beneath the dress and these must be white or black. Please be aware that the PE kit remains the same with the school PE shorts or the equivalent nylon sports shorts. Cycling shorts and leggings are not permitted.

Footwear: children may wear closed sandals but Crocs and trainers are not allowed. Pupils must wear socks at all times.

Jewellery: We have a very strict no jewellery policy at Holy Cross. Please do not have your child's ears pierced during the 2-week break as they will not have time to heal and children will have to remove their sleeper earrings. **It is best to wait until the beginning of the summer holidays to have ears pierced so that they have time to heal.**

## **Clubs and Boosters**

We will be sending out the new Club information in the next few days. Clubs will start on Monday 20th April.

Year 6 Boosters will continue as normal straight after the holidays and there will be sessions in the first week back as we begin the last run up to the SATs in May.

## **Term Dates 27-28**

The term dates for the academic year 2027-2028 will be added to the website this week.

## **Welcome Back Miss Seers**

We are excited to welcome back Miss Seers after her sabbatical. She has literally had a Race Across the World and seen many countries and sights! We are looking forward to hearing about all her adventures. Ms Dodd and I have really enjoyed teaching Grasshoppers and would like to thank all the Year 1 team and Grasshopper parents for their support over these last 6 weeks.

## **SEMH Role**

Ms Dodd will be taking on the role of SEMH Lead after half term and will be on the front gate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays when she will have her dedicated time for this role. Please feel that you can approach her or make an appointment to see her if you have any worries or concerns about your child. She is here to help the children and you, where possible.

## **Summer term**

The summer term is always very exciting with lots of great things to look forward to. Please do check in with the School News app so that you know what is coming up. We also try to post as much as possible on our school Facebook page. We return to school after the Easter break on Monday 13th April

## **Passion Play and Stations of the Cross**

Our Year 4 and 5 pupils were outstanding in their delivery of The Passion play this week. I could not have been prouder of them. They read very clearly and sang with such strength and skill; it was very moving. Also well done to our Year 6 pupils, who led us in the Stations of the Cross, in the church, this morning.

## **Tye Green Library - Easter Holiday**

There will be a crafting table for the children at Tye Green Library throughout the Spring Holiday, with activities, quizzes and colourings. Everybody is welcome

## **Rocksteady Concert**

On Wednesday our Rocksteady pupils took part in a concert for their parents and families. Each band performed a song that they have been practising this term.



## Reception Trip to Barleylands

Reception had a lovely day at the farm this week despite the up and down weather! One minute we had sunshine and the next hailstones! We enjoyed a bumpy tractor ride around the farm, saw wallabies, cows, horses and chickens. We loved feeding the goats and sheep and got to see some playful baby piglets and lambs. We also watched a bird of prey show and visited the meerkats in their enclosure. We looked Inside the discovery centre and saw some of the old tractors and machinery before seeing lots of lizards, snakes, spiders, tortoises and insects. Finally we had a lovely play in the fantastic playground and a jump on the fun bouncy pillow before heading back to the coach and returning to school.



## Fantastic at the finals!

After a brilliant afternoon at the qualifiers last week, our year 5 and 6 tag rugby team had the chance to compete against Harlow's best school teams on Friday 20th March. 14 teams had made it through and were split into three groups. Only the top team from each group would progress to the semi finals, plus the best runner up overall.

Holy Cross were backed by many parents and grandparents, who supported us superbly by cheering the team loudly and giving them a round of applause after each game. Thanks so much, this really helped us!

We played four matches as we had last week. In our first match, we drew 2-2 with Henry Moore's 3rd team and we really deserved to win. Next, we earned a 4-1 win vs Hare Street and played some superb rugby. Then, it was time to play Henry Moore. They were very strong but we certainly gave them a scare! In the end we lost this game 3-1. Finally, we came up against a very impressive Hatfield Heath side, who had excellent, pacy individuals. We arguably put in our best performance and managed to defeat them 2-1! We had a last gasp diving challenge from our captain Axel to thank for preserving our lead.

Mr Stacey announced the results and ironically we ended up in joint 2nd with 9 points, just as we had the previous week. Unfortunately, this was not quite enough for the mighty Holy Cross to progress onto the semi finals as we missed out by a single point.

What a monumental effort from a team who had only trained together a few times and have different levels of experience in playing rugby. Not once did we look out of our depth in the finals as we won 2 games, drew 1 and lost 1, scoring 11 tries in the process!

Congratulations to;

Axel (Our inspirational captain, scoring and stopping tries)

Dylan (A real driving force who always picks the right pass)

Amelia (Incredible energy and heart in the middle)

Hendrix (Awesome speed and intelligence. A regular try scorer)

Hayley (Crucial defending, especially in the win vs Hatfield Heath)

Harry (Superb positioning and drove forward well to start attacks)

Filip (A pacy winger who the opposition really struggled to stop)

Tadhg (Awesome in the centre, passing with purpose)

Anayah (An incredible addition to our team, using her pace to score some vital tries)

Thanks to Miss Faulkner for her super support too.





Join us for free crafting activities on  
**Thursday 9 April**  
**11am – 12:15pm**

Harlow Town Park  
 Learning Centre (near Spurriers Café)  
 CM20 2QQ

Children must be accompanied by a suitable adult.  
 Suitable for children aged 3 – 8 years (siblings welcome)

Booking required  
 To book a place email [julie.cochrane@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:julie.cochrane@harlow.gov.uk)

The activities will be followed by a free session where you and your children can make their own fruit kebabs. 12:30pm – 1:30pm



Join us for free crafting activities on  
**Monday 30 March**  
**11am – 12:15pm**

Harlow Playhouse  
 College Gate Harlow CM20 1LS

Children must be accompanied by a suitable adult.  
 Suitable for children aged 3 – 8 years (siblings welcome)

Booking required  
 To book a place email [julie.cochrane@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:julie.cochrane@harlow.gov.uk)

The activities will be followed by a free session where you and your children can make their own fruit kebabs. 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Please state if you would like to attend both sessions at the time of booking.



# HOLY CROSS SCHOOL KARATE RESTARTS

**WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2026**  
**YEARS 2 & 3**  
**THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2026**  
**YEARS 4,5 & 6**

- ✔ Learn self-defense
- ✔ Improve fitness & flexibility
- ✔ Build confidence & discipline
- ✔ Fun for all ages!

TO BOOK GO TO BOOKWHEN:  
[HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/SHINSEIKYUACADEMY](https://bookwhen.com/shinseikyuaracademy)  
 USE CODE : HOLY CROSS

- 📍 Location  
Holy Cross school
- ☎ Phone Number  
07767452003
- 🌐 Website  
[www.shinseikyuarateacademy.co.uk](http://www.shinseikyuarateacademy.co.uk)





**ACL**

**FREE!**

# Easter Crafts

## ACL Harlow & The Library

Join us to have fun as a family and improve communication and wellbeing through creative activities.

**Date: 01/04/2026**

**Time: 13:00 - 15:00**

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and type "Easter Crafts" or "HO3B40FC25" in the 'Find a course...' box



**acessex.com**

**0345 603 7635**



Essex County Council

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

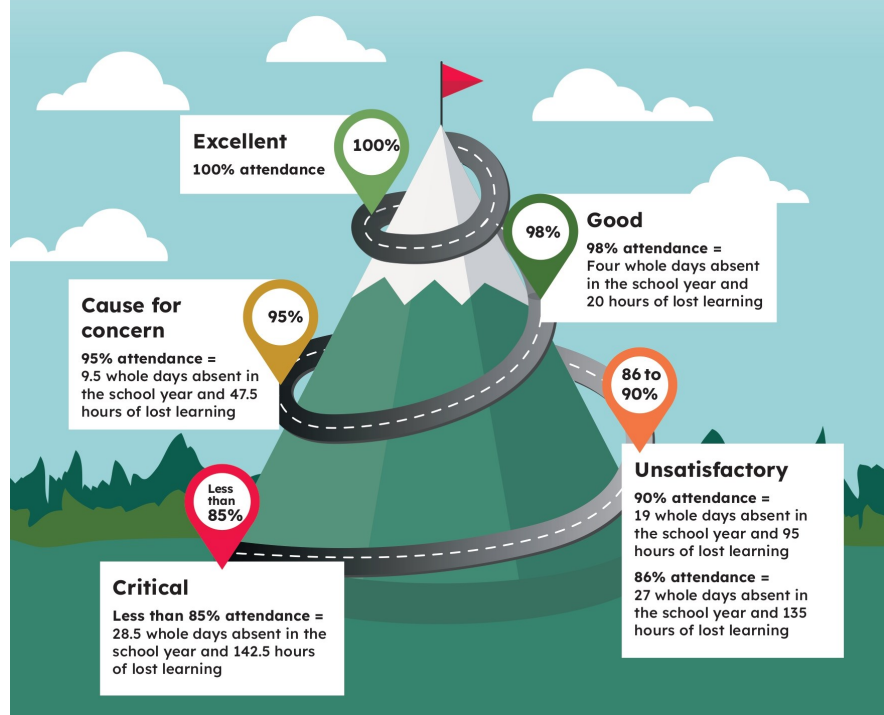
Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers achieving 96% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Kingfishers attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

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.

Butterflies	92%
Ladybirds	90%
Dragonflies	94%
Grasshoppers	96%
Hedgehogs	91%
Squirrels	93%
Badgers	90%
Foxes	97%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	99%
Robins	93%
Eagles	96%
Owls	92%

## Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?



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.

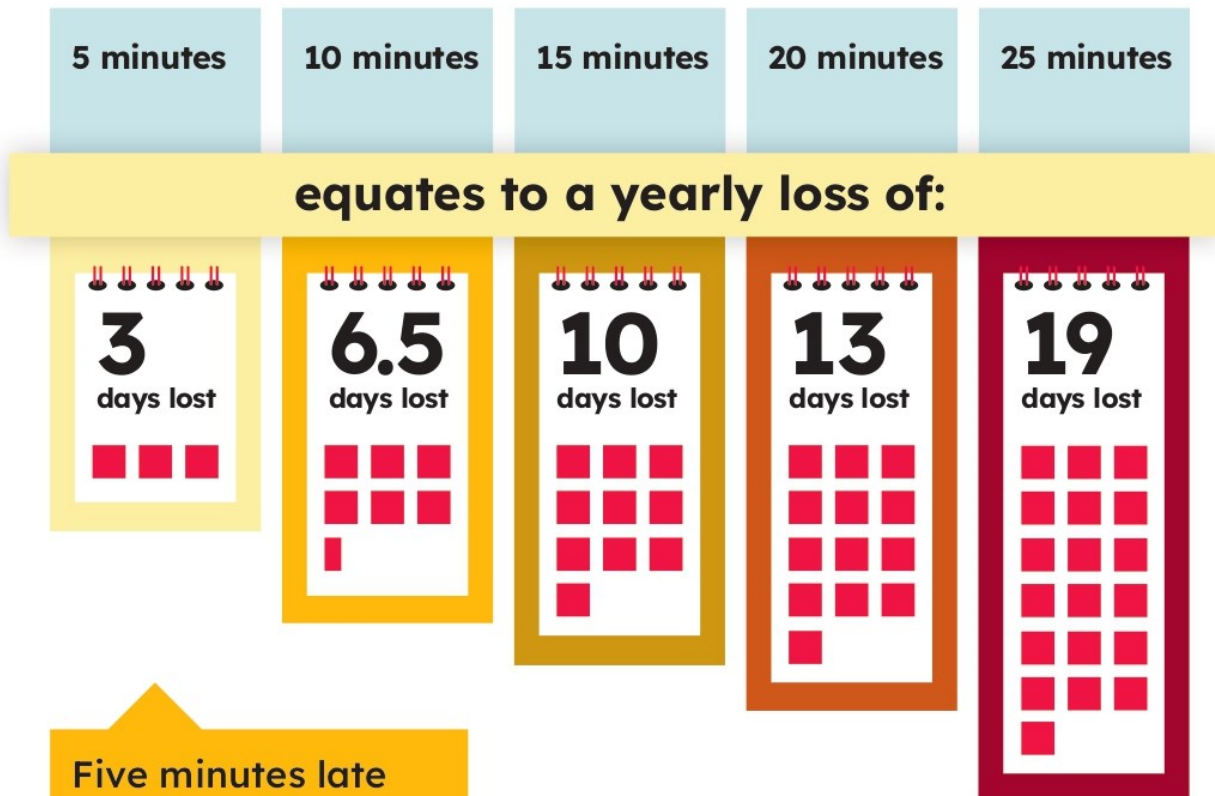
Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

Your child's attendance is available for you to view on Arbor. Compare it to the image, left, to see how many hours of lost learning it equates to over the academic year.

# HERO

**Here, every day, ready and on time**

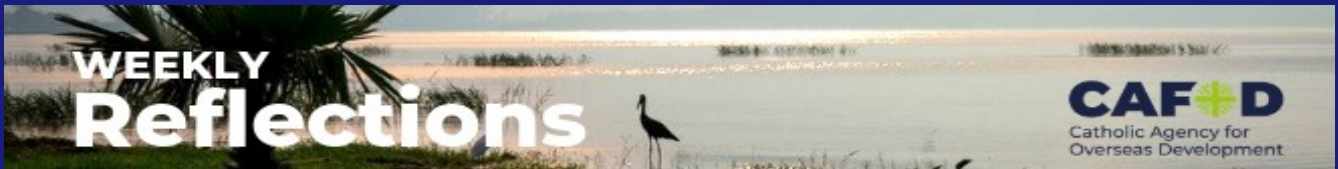
## Minutes lost per day



Five minutes late per day adds up to three learning days lost in a school year

If 15 minutes late each day you will miss two full weeks of school in one year

**Poor timekeeping means less chance of success!**



Based on the gospel for Sunday 29 March, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Matthew 21:1-11

**"Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey."**

There were perhaps two processions into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. New Testament scholars Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan suggest that as Jesus was entering the city of Jerusalem by the east gate, Pilate was entering by a different gate in another part of the city.

Pilate's procession would have been a striking display of state and military power, with soldiers and war horses. A warning perhaps, as the people celebrated their liberation from oppression at Passover, that they should not resist Rome's control.

By contrast, the carpenter's son from Nazareth rides in on a borrowed donkey. Matthew reminds us that this is in fulfilment of Zechariah's promise of the king in David's line: the king who will come riding a colt and banish the weapons of war, proclaiming peace to the nations.

On his way to carry out the saving work of the cross, Jesus once again shows the true power of non-violence and love. This Holy Week, as we prepare to journey with Jesus in his final days, may we, through our holy lives, seek to bring God's healing and reconciliation to our world.

Humble Saviour,  
walk with us this Holy Week,  
and grant us the grace  
and courage to walk with you.  
Amen.



**The Words of Pope Leo XIV**

God dwells in our hearts. Every vocation requires us to dialogue intimately with God, with true joy and generosity. He is the One who calls and invites us to respond, despite the deafening noise of the world.

Wednesday  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

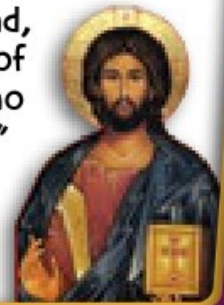


Good News  
for Families

1

## Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

When they were near Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples into a nearby village to collect a donkey. He said to them, "If anyone stops you, tell them that it is for the Lord, and that the donkey will be returned." So the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and Jesus sat on it. As he set off, great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were spreading palm branches on the path in front of him. The crowds were all shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, everyone was excited and some asked, "Who is this?" "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee," was the reply.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Matthew 21:1-11 (Passion/Palm Sunday)

Which words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why?  
Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's words, which are **HOLY WEEK**.



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



# 2

## This Wednesday's Words are ...

# HOLY WEEK



**"This week alone, unique in the full sense of the word, is the week of the Lord's Passion. It is Holy Week."** *St John Paul II*

What did the crowds spread on the path in front of Jesus? This coming Sunday is known as Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is the start of Holy Week. This is the week when the Church especially remembers Jesus' final days in Jerusalem. Palms will be handed out in Church in remembrance of the welcome and great praise that the people gave to Jesus when he entered the City. You might like to tell your child something that you know about Holy Week. As a family, look at these small pictures together. What do they remind you of or make you think about?



**"Holy Week is a time to give Jesus our hearts. On the Cross He gave us all of His love."** *St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Holy Week is a very special time: it includes Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the agony in the garden, Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection. Everybody is invited to come and join with the Church this Sunday and receive a palm leaf, blessed by the priest, to take home. As a family, share ideas about what else you could do, or join in with, to celebrate the start of Holy Week and make it special. To find out more about Holy Week, please see: [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)



Dear Lord Jesus, as Holy Week approaches, we thank you for giving your life for us, so that one day we too may know the joys of heaven. Amen.



### WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



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

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- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

- JESUS**
- JERUSALEM**
- RIDING DONKEY**
- PEOPLE PRAISING**
- WAVING PALMS**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

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

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

Cross out the letters **c b k** in the jumbled words to find 4 real words.

chibmk knabmec Lobcrdk Hocsaknnab

"\_\_\_\_\_! Blessings on \_\_\_\_\_ who comes in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_!"



**Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 29<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**  
**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion — Matthew 21:1-11**

**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 : JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**



When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'The Master needs them and will send them back directly.'" This took place to fulfill the prophecy: "Say to the daughter of Zion: look, your king comes to you: he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." So the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. "Who is this?" people asked, and the crowds answered, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

**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...**



Today's liturgy concentrates on two very different events, the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as Messianic King and the events of a few days later which culminated in his agonising and shameful death. This seeming end-point was to be reversed by the explosion of new life in the Resurrection after three days, an explosion which constituted God's vindication of Jesus' loving obedience and the affirmation that it has overcome and wiped out the sin of Adam, human sin. How much time did Jesus spend in Jerusalem? The Gospel of John recounts four separate visits to Jerusalem, whereas Mark (and Matthew and Luke, who follow Mark's outline) compresses all Jesus' Jerusalem ministry into one visit, inaugurated by the solemn entry, as narrated in the gospel we hear today before the procession with palms. This event is recounted by the evangelists in the light of their fuller understanding of Jesus after the Resurrection. We see the colourful, festal atmosphere of crowds going up to Jerusalem, waving palm branches as banners in their enthusiasm and singing as they march. Jesus and his disciples join in. But it may be only later that the significance of this event was grasped: this entry was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Zechariah about the Messiah coming into his inheritance, to complete his God-given mission and to proclaim peace to the nations. Matthew especially, writing for a community steeped in Judaism, actually quotes the prophecy and also the psalm-verse about 'him who comes in the name of the Lord'. He stresses that Jesus is this Son of David, whose eschatological kingship is about to be established. **Next week is known as Holy Week: how and when will you take time to listen to God and grow in holiness?**

*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 **HOLY WEEK**  
 (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: *The Song of the Servant*



#### Isaiah 50:4-7

**The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.**

*In the Book of Isaiah there are four songs (of which this is the third), sung by a mysterious Servant of the Lord. It is not clear who this Servant is, but he is totally dedicated to the service of the Lord; he is a disciple who listens devotedly. Through suffering, this Servant brings to fulfilment the salvation which the Lord intends for Israel and for the world. Jesus saw himself in terms of this Servant, and the four songs feature throughout the liturgy of Holy Week.*

**How can I be more positive about bearing suffering for the sake of Christ?**



### Second Reading: *Raised High through Suffering*



#### Philippians 2:6-11

**His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*This hymn was probably not written by Paul himself, but taken up by him and placed into his letter to the Philippians. It is a very early Christian hymn. It celebrates the triumph of Jesus through his selflessness. The assertions at the end of the hymn are staggering. The hymn claims for Jesus the titles and the worship which are due only to God. What is more, this acknowledgement of Jesus does not detract from the glory of God, but is precisely 'to the glory of God the Father'. This is perhaps the fullest statement in Paul of the divine glory of Jesus himself, and it is won by his humiliation in death.*

**What would it be like to meet Jesus, a human being, yet divine? How would I react?**

**“ To the glory of God the Father. ”**

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

**Piper-Willow, Andreas,  
Abdul-Aleem, Alice & Griffin**

Happy Birthday in the Easter holiday to...

**Phoebe, Zuzanna, Antoni, Hugo,  
Tharani, Kweku, Aoife, Bali,  
River, Azari, Isabel, Lucas, Jude & Hayley**



**Easter Services and Masses at Holy Cross Church**

The following Masses and services will be happening next week in Holy Week and then on Easter weekend:

Thursday 8pm: Maundy Thursday-the washing of feet and remembrance of The Last Supper

Friday: 12 noon-children's Stations of the Cross

3pm: The Passion of our Lord

Saturday: 8pm The Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday: 9:00am and 11:00am Mass



**Menu week 1** **Diary Dates**

**Science Week**

\* External club, fees apply

Monday 13th April

Rabbits swimming

Year 6 booster

Tuesday 14th April

\* Dance club

Year 6 booster

Wednesday 15th April

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 16th April

Cafod club

Year 2 booster

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 17th April

Celebration assembly 14:15

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at [www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

**House Points**  
Congratulations to the winning house this week, St David's