



1st May 2026



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

Weekly Reflection

Today is the first day of May and we are now moving into the month of Mary, Our Lady. This is a month where we especially pray to Mary and ask for her love, help and support in our good times and our times of struggle and sadness. She is here to lift us up and to make us feel loved.

Please join us in prayer this special month by praying The Rosary at home with your child. In school we will be having our special Coronation of Mary Liturgy on Thursday and we would love it if every child could bring a flower to school in the morning. This will allow us to create a beautiful carpet of flowers by Mary's statue at the front of the school, as a sign of our devotion.

We will be praying The Rosary every day at lunchtime and you may wish to follow this link so that you can share this at home together as a family: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary>



Sacred Heart of Mary we ask you to pray for us.

Wishing everyone a wonderful long weekend
(Please remember that school is closed on Monday for the Bank Holiday)

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Sun Safety

It has felt very warm today and the children have been outside much more this week. A reminder that now is the time for the children to bring a hat every day and have sun cream applied before they come to school in the morning. Children can bring a small named bottle in their bag but they must be able to apply it themselves, if they need to top up. Children can wear sunglasses to school but they must also be named and I would caution against anything expensive as they are very likely to get lost or broken.

It is very important that your child has a refillable water bottle with them in school every day so that they can stay hydrated in the heat.

Hair Accessories

Please remember that all hair accessories and hair beads must be Holy Cross Colours.

Summer Uniform

We are now in summer so I ask that all children wear the Holy Cross summer uniform to school so that they are comfortable in the warmer weather. School uniform rules are available on this link: [Uniform](#).

Air Tags

Please remember that Air Tags are not permitted on trips. We emailed you last week to explain the reason for this.

May Procession

On Thursday 7th May we will be celebrating the month of Mary, with a mass and a procession of flowers, each child will be given flowers to place in front of Mary.

Please send flowers into school, with your child on Thursday morning.

Cow Day

Cow day will be on 21st May. CAFOD club are raising money to buy a Cow for a village in a poorer country. Dress up as a cow, cowboy or cowgirl or something cow related,





Panathlon Games

Some children from key stage 1 and key stage 2 attended the Panathlon at Passmores. The children represented our school fabulously throughout the event. They showed great determination, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship in every activity. We are incredibly proud of all the children who took part. They walked away victorious, with two of our teams bringing home the trophy for 1st place!



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Temidayo	Squirrels:	Elijah
Badgers:	Autumn	Foxes:	Olivier
Hares:	Luca	Rabbits:	Myles
Kingfishers:	William	Robins:	Medeina
Eagles:		Owls:	Diana

-CAFOD-

-SALE-

BUY NOW!

Thursday
14th
2026



We sell :->

- Bracelets 50p
- Stickers 30p
- Keyrings 50p

AND MORE

By Tamara



FREE PARENT COURSE

SEND IASS PRESENT THE RAINBOW PARENT COURSE

EXPLORING AUTISM TOGETHER

Rainbow 5

A six-week course delivered live online for parents / carers

This course has been developed for parents / carers who have children or young people recently diagnosed as autistic, are on the diagnosis journey, and those who wish to explore more about autism.

The Rainbow course has been written by Angie Purdy and Hazel Smee, both highly experienced specialist teachers and consultants working with families and schools supporting autistic children and young people.

Check out their websites on: www.angiepurdystar.co.uk and www.autismsupportandtraining.co.uk

**The Rainbow course will be delivered in the Spring Term 2026
by Angie Purdy and Hazel Smee**

The course will be presented through live sessions via Zoom. Each session includes input through a PowerPoint presentation and the opportunity to share experiences, learn from each other and ask questions. A copy of the notes from the presentation are made available after each session.

Places will be limited to ensure tailored information and advice is provided.

Participants are encouraged to keep their camera on (if they are comfortable to do so).

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1 - Exploring autism – building on your understanding of your child.

Week 2 - The art of communication – understanding your child's communication skills and how to support them.

Week 3 - Being social – how to support your child's social understanding

Week 4 - Sensational senses – exploring differences in sensory processing and what it means for your child.

Week 5 - Nurturing well-being and emotional regulation – anxiety and helping your child understand how they feel.

Week 6 - Behaviour as communication – making sense of the tricky bits.

DATES FOR SUMMER TERM RAINBOW 5 - 2026

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS – 7.45pm – 9.30pm – 27th May, 3rd June, 10th June, 17th June, 24th June, 1st July.

Two family members may attend together on the same screen

Book you place or contact for any queries: iasspromotion.development@essex.gov.uk

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, Grasshoppers achieving 97% attendance. The 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	96%
Rabbits	95%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	96%
Eagles	96%
Owls	97%

Gospel Value Awards

Gentleness

Softness, beauty, serenity, peacefulness

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

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



Butterflies:	Darcie	Ladybirds:	Florence
Dragonflies:	Isabel	Grasshoppers:	Camron
Hedgehogs:	Bekah	Squirrels:	Lilah
Badgers:	Arabella	Foxes:	Malachi
Hares:	Lillian	Rabbits:	Ama
Kingfishers:	River	Robins:	Albie
Eagles:	Vienna	Owls:	Emmanuella



Based on the gospel for Sunday 3 May, Fifth Sunday of Easter: John 14:1-12

"Let not your hearts be troubled."

In Eastertide I sometimes feel unsure about how to move forwards. It can be hard to keep the good habits I've built during Lent and to stay close to God without the structure of the season.

But just as Jesus comforts the disciples in this passage, I feel he also comforts me. He reminds us to trust him when things feel uncertain. He encourages us to keep doing his works. It shows me that my goals don't end with Easter, but they continue and grow.

Because of this, the passage helps me to look at my path and the world around me differently. Jesus tells the disciples that his work will carry on through them, and that speaks to us now too.

When I see conflict, injustice or fear in the news, I remember that God is still present in those places. With this, I'm encouraged to bring the peace and courage I've been practising throughout Lent into the everyday situations around me. In this way, the spirit of Lent becomes something steady in my daily life.

Lord,
help me to trust in you
when my heart feels troubled.
Guide me in your way each day.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Entrusting ourselves to God's will brings joy and profound serenity. A life given to God is a happy life, but its offering must be renewed each day through prayer, the sacraments, and time spent with the brothers and sisters whom the Lord places along our path.



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus begins to prepare his disciples for his departure from the world. Jesus is returning to his Father and will make a place ready for each of them in heaven.

Jesus tells the disciples to trust in him. No amount of worrying will increase their safety or comfort; it's through trusting in Jesus that they will find security and hope. We too are called to trust in Jesus. Through the Holy Spirit we carry on his work and are empowered to do even greater works.

Wednesday 29th April 2026

This does not mean performing a series of great, flashy miracles. It means being Christ in the world around us, generously sharing the love he brings into our own lives with those we meet. This isn't easy - it never was - but trust in Jesus and see what happens!

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **TRUST**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Those who trust in God can do all things." St Alphonsus Liguori

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 3rd May 2026



On the night before he died, Jesus spoke to his friends, the disciples. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," he said. "Trust in God and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going now to prepare a place for you. I will come again and take you with me so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going." Then Thomas, a disciple, said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself; they will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father."

Adapted from John 14:1-12
The 5th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

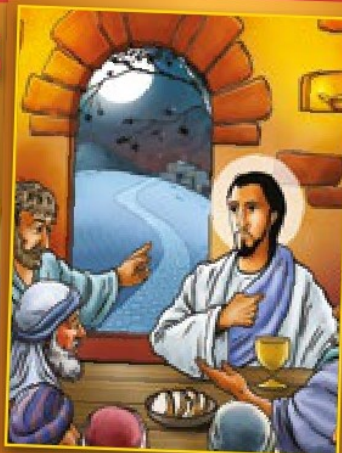
Good News for Everyone

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers not to be troubled, but to trust in him. Jesus also wants us to place all our trust in him. There can be many things that trouble our hearts, but following and trusting in Jesus frees us from worrying in this life, and is the way to the joys of everlasting life too.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

On the night before he died, Jesus spoke to his friends, the disciples. "Do not let your hearts be troubled, do not be worried. Trust in God and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going now to prepare a place for you. I will come back to take you with me and we will be together again. You know the way to the place where I am going." Then Thomas, a disciple, said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

Who did Jesus say we should trust in?

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...

"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's care." *St Augustine of Hippo*

Ask your child what the word 'trust' means to them. Knowing who to trust is really important. A friend who can be trusted is a gift from God! Who does your child really trust and why do they trust them? Ask your child if they can think of a time when they were trusted. Perhaps you can tell your child about those people in your life whom you trust the most, and say why you trust them.

TRUST



Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life and he asks us to place our trust in him. Each of you say how, in the days ahead, you can show your trust in God. Perhaps, rather than worry, pray and offer any concerns to Jesus. How can we show God, and others, that we are people who they can trust? Perhaps we can always try to: tell the truth; choose to do the right thing; be generous with our God-given gifts of time, talent and money; keep our promises.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for teaching us the truth and showing us the way to everlasting life. Please help us always to place our trust in you. Amen.

FINDING THREE

Y	C	S	L	H	T	S	U	S	E	J	H
N	H	R	E	P	R	O	H	U	S	E	P
Y	T	E	L	R	R	O	O	M	S	R	
A	O	H	O	U	S	E	T	C	U	E	
M	H	T	R	U	S	T	P	Y	N	S	P
P	L	A	C	E	S	L	R	A	N	L	E
W	L	F	D	N	M	L	E	N	R	E	T
O	M	A	N	Y	O	H	P	T	O	E	R
M	T	L	C	R	O	P	A	H	O	N	U
F	A	T	H	E	R	S	R	E	M	H	S
O	O	N	W	T	H	J	E	Z	S	S	R
H	H	L	Y	N	A	N	T	S	U	R	T

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH
SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- PREPARE PLACE
- MANY ROOMS
- FATHER'S HOUSE
- TRUST JESUS

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **m i c** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

tromucleid trumstic miheartcs Gimocd

"Do not let your _____ be _____
Trust in _____ and _____ in me."

In this Sunday's Gospel, the disciples were probably worried because Jesus would be leaving them. So Jesus comforts them by promising to prepare a place of everlasting happiness for them in his Father's house - that is in heaven.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 3rd May 2026
 The Fifth Sunday of Easter – John 14:1-12

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 WARNS OF HIS DEPARTURE



Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him, 'and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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...



As the festival of the Ascension approaches, Jesus begins to prepare his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects to this teaching. Firstly Jesus speaks of the final purpose, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. He says that there is a 'room' for each of them, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and maniacs), but that there is no lack of space in heaven. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case. The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus – but in the strength of his Spirit – his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church which shares its Master's trials. In the same way in every age the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John the 'works' of Jesus are the marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, works of grace and generosity.

What is the real joy and excitement of heaven? How may we best carry on the 'work' of 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 **TRUST**
 (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.

Wednesday Word Plus †

If you'd like to spend more prayerful time with God through the First and Second Readings, follow the same process for praying with the Gospel (overleaf). Gently place the First or Second Reading and Fr Henry's reflection into that same prayerful rhythm for more fruitful meditation with God's Word.



First Reading: *The Appointment of Deacons*



Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

There are two really striking features about this story. The first is that the first officials appointed in the Church are called 'servers' or 'servants', which is what 'deacons' means. St Paul will stress, writing to the Corinthian community, that any job in the Church is a service to the community. A role in the Church does not confer a dignity which we can boast of, except in so far as it is a sharing in the service given by Christ himself, the Servant of the Lord. The most important part of our job is to attend to the needs of the community, not to preen ourselves on obtaining a grand position. The second feature of the reading is that (even so early in the life of the ideal early community) a squabble occurs. One group feels that it is being neglected. The split may even be worse than Luke allows us to see, for all the new officials appointed belong to only one of the two parties mentioned, that is to the Hellenists. This is not going to ensure an even distribution of food between the two groups! Even in a good community reconciliation of differences needs to occur constantly. **Is there any split in your community which needs to be reconciled?**



Second Reading: *A Royal Priesthood*



1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The background of this reading is the covenant between God and his people of Israel on Mount Sinai. There the mountain was so sacred that the people were not allowed to approach it. Now the

author tells us that the new people of God, chosen by God, is so valuable itself that all of us (not just a leading figure) are invited to huddle close to the true sacred rock that is Christ himself. In the Old Dispensation Moses alone was holy enough to approach the mountain and offer sacrifice; now it is the whole people. It is the whole people which is now constituted as a royal priesthood and it is a consecrated people which can offer sacrifice. One of the principal emphases of the Second Vatican Council was to underline that the Eucharistic sacrifice is offered by the whole people, not by the priest alone. Yes, the priest does have a special function, that of presiding at the Eucharist, and without this presidency the Eucharist cannot take place. Nevertheless, the Eucharist is the sacrifice of the people as a whole, which the laity offer just as much as the priest. The reading also uses another Gospel image: the people of God is a house built of living stones, a living holy Temple, built on the foundation stone who is Christ and topped by the keystone who is Christ.

What does it mean to think of the Eucharist as 'our offering'?

“ The people of God is a house ”
built of living stones.

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Jalynn, Elena, Ethan, Naya,
Blousey, Luca, Damian,
Anaya & Kenzo



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Filip, for working hard to write words, forming the letters well.
Ladybirds: Holly, for settling in really well in Ladybirds class.
Dragonflies: Ksawery, for working hard in his science learning.
Grasshoppers: Milin, for excellent participation in class discussions.
Hedgehogs: Justin, for excellent effort and concentration during our statistics topic.
Squirrels: Elijah, for fantastic work on telling the time.
Badgers: Chloe, for super artwork on the Road to Emmaus.
Foxes: Tilly, for her fantastic artwork on the Road to Emmaus.
Hares: Cristina, for a great effort writing an explanation text.
Rabbits: Antoni, for great participation during all lessons.
Kingfishers: Tadhg, for his fantastic character description linked to myths and legends writing.
Robins: Hannah, for her excellent attitude in our P.E.
Eagles: Riley, for amazing R.E. work about doubting Thomas.
Owls: Caiden, for a lovely classroom Act of Worship about love.

House Points

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

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

* External club, fees apply

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday -
school closed

Tuesday 5th May

Year 6 booster
Year 6 SATs parent meeting
15:30

Wednesday 6th May

* Football club
* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 7th May

May Procession
Cafod club
Year 2 booster
* Football club
* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 8th May

* Musical Theatre club

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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

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