



8th May 2026



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

In the Gospel this Sunday, we hear Jesus continuing to reassure us. We hear Jesus tell his disciples that He is going to send them an advocate—a helper who will be with them to guide them when they can't see or be with Him. Jesus offers encouragement to His disciples. He reassures them that even though He will leave them, He will not abandon them. Instead He will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

We will attend Mass on Thursday on the Feast of The Ascension, when Jesus leaves the disciples and earth to return to the Father. Jesus tells us to not be afraid because the Holy Spirit will remain with us as our protector and our guide.



Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

First Holy Communion

We would like to wish, all of the Year 3 children who are making their First Holy Communion tomorrow, a wonderful and blessed day. We pray that God's love shines down upon you and blesses you on your special day.

SATs Week

Our Year 6 children have their much-anticipated SATs tests next week. They have all worked incredibly hard and shown great resilience and we could not be prouder of them. Please keep the children in your prayers as they enter this week-long week of tests.

We will be serving our well-loved SATs Breakfast on the Monday-Thursday mornings next week in SATs week and if you have a Year 6 child they are very welcome to come along and have a free breakfast. We encourage all our Year 6s (sorry no siblings) to do this and be at school for 8am.

IOW Meeting

Once the SATs are over we will turn our thoughts to the Year 6 Residential Visit to the Isle of Wight. We will hold a meeting for parents and Year 6 children on Wednesday 20th May at 3.30pm when we will give out some very important information about the trip. If you can't make this date and time we can send you the slides and I am always happy to chat to parents about the trip if you have any questions.

MAY-Month of Devotion to Our Lady.

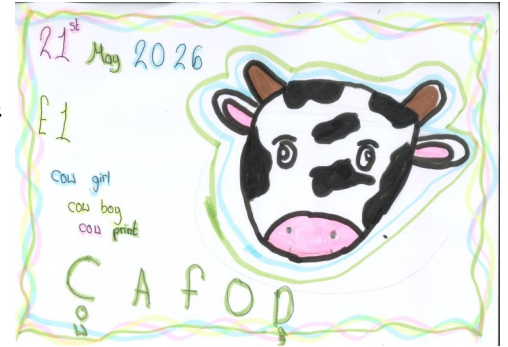
In May we have special devotion to Our Lady and we will pray the Rosary every day with the children at lunchtime. On Wednesdays just after drop off and at 3pm before pick up I would like to invite parents and families to join with me in praying the Rosary during the month of May.

You may also like to follow this link to access some resources for praying the Rosary together as a family:

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary>

Cow Day for Cafod

We will be having our annual Cow Day on Thursday 21st May. We ask the children to come to school dressed in Cow themed wear and this is to raise money for Cafod. As parents and families know part of being a Catholic school is that we follow the Catholic Social Teaching principles which ask us to think of our neighbour when we can see every day but to also think of our neighbours who we cannot see in far away places. We ask that everyone brings in £1.00 and with this money we hope to be able to buy at least 1 cow for a village in Africa.



Sir David Attenborough Day

The children have loved learning about Sir David Attenborough today as this inspirational man turns 100. They have been finding out about all of the things that he has done to try to protect God's creation: our planet and the beautiful creatures we share it with.

Curriculum Leaflets

The Curriculum Letters for this coming term will soon be available on the school website. Please follow this link: <https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=58> and find your child's year group.

Save the Date

We have some important events coming up that I would like to highlight in case you need to ask for some time off work.

Sports Day and Picnic This year we are planning a Sports Week with traditional races on the morning of the Wednesday 18th June. More information to follow

Leavers Mass: This will be in the church this year and will take place on Thursday 16th July at 9:30am. This will be limited to our Year 6 parents or parents of children who are leaving our school.

All the other important dates for the summer term can be found by following this link to our website:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=3&pid=133&viewid=41>



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Temidayo	Squirrels:	Reuel
Badgers:	Grace	Foxes:	Alexandra
Hares:	Edie	Rabbits:	Flynn
Kingfishers:	Yohane	Robins:	Luka
Eagles:	Amelia	Owls:	Priscilla

Wyvern Wood

On Wednesday, Year 1 enjoyed a magical school trip to Wyvernwood. They explored the kingdom and met some amazing characters, including a dragon, a goblin, some fairies and 2 unicorns! There was also the magical wizard Merlin who made us all smile with his magic. The children had fun playing on the bouncy pillow and climbing the big pirate ship. They even got to leave with some of their very own pirate's treasure. The children behaved beautifully across the whole day and represented the school fantastically.



-CAFOD-

-SALE-

BUY NOW!

Thursday
14th
2026



We sell :->

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

AND MORE

By Tamara

Are you a parent/carergiver looking for effective ways to help your young person navigate anxiety and manage big emotions?

The Mental Health Support Team can offer sessions during the Summer Holidays

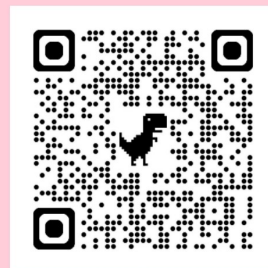
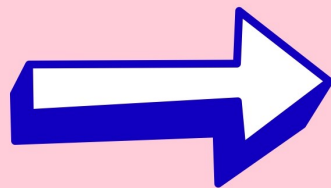


Sessions are FREE

Sessions are with you to support your young person

Sessions are online or face to face.

Scan here to complete an enquiry form...



<https://forms.gle/8P64pDvYchN5mJdBA>

Symptoms of Anxiety

- Worrying or having negative thoughts
- Experiencing lots of fears
- Tearfulness
- Difficulty concentrating
- Becoming angry or irritable
- Clingy
- Feeling unwell; constant stomach ache, feeling sick

Symptoms of Challenging Behaviour

- Having lots of angry outbursts or 'tantrums'
- Ignoring or refusing to follow requests
- Verbal aggression e.g. shouting, swearing
- Physical aggression e.g. hitting, biting
- Damaging things
- Excessive anger when not getting their own way

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, Squirrels achieving 99% attendance. The joint winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Foxes and Hares 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	95%
Ladybirds	94%
Dragonflies	91%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	99%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	99%
Hares	99%
Rabbits	94%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	95%
Eagles	95%
Owls	95%

Gospel Value Awards

Justice

fairness, equality, share for all

"The Lord is gracious and merciful: patient and plenteous in mercy. The Lord is sweet to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. The Lord is just in all his ways: and holy in all his works." Psalm 145: 8-9, 17



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

Butterflies:	Bella	Ladybirds:	Shania
Dragonflies:	Luca	Grasshoppers:	Liora
Hedgehogs:	River	Squirrels:	Nana
Badgers:	Zach	Foxes:	Luca
Hares:	Jemimah	Rabbits:	Declan
Kingfishers:	Krzysztof	Robins:	Alexander



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 10th May 2026
 The Sixth Sunday of Easter – John 14:15-21

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 ADVOCATE WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND



Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

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...



Only in John's Gospel is the Spirit whom the Father will send called 'the Advocate' or 'the Paraclete'. Both names have the same derivation and the same meaning, but the former is from the Latin language, the latter from the Greek. It means someone 'called to one's side' as a helper, principally as a defender in a lawsuit. The word 'Paraclete' also suggests comfort and strength, as implied in the quality 'paraclesis' or perseverance. In the discourse after the Last Supper, when Jesus is preparing his disciples for their future task, there are four separate sayings about the Paraclete. The Paraclete is sent both by Jesus and by the Father, but always from the Father's side. The Paraclete, the Spirit of truth, will teach the disciples everything and lead them into all truth, witnessing to the Father. The Paraclete is 'another Paraclete', that is, other than Jesus, who will make Jesus present when Jesus is no longer physically with the disciples. The close link and interplay between these three figures (Father, Son and Spirit) gives us not only the beginnings of the theology of the Trinity, but also a lasting confidence that Jesus is never absent from his Church. With the guidance and patronage of the Paraclete the Church enters more and more deeply into the understanding of the divine mystery. **Why do we need a Paraclete to guide us?**

Reflection: Open yourself to the guidance of the Paraclete. Allow the Paraclete to lead you further into the life of the Trinity.

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 **HELPER**
 (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 Gospel Spreads to Samaria*



Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The story of Acts is the story of the spread of the Gospel to 'the ends of the earth'. The first few chapters described the ideal Church at Jerusalem. That ideal was shattered by the persecution

which erupted and led to Stephen's martyrdom. We missed out that story, reserving it for St Stephen's feast on Boxing Day. Things get too hot in Jerusalem itself, and the effect is that the Word of the Lord begins to spread beyond the city, first to Samaria, the country region just north of Jerusalem. The peace of God's Kingdom comes to the Samaritans in the form of liberation from sickness and the torment of various diseases. Luke notes for us the joy which this brings, a joy which is the sign of the Kingship of God. It is notable that the distinction between the gift of faith and the fuller gift of the Spirit is already marked in this reading just as the modern Church distinguishes between baptism and confirmation. The apostles lay their hands on those who are to receive the Spirit, just as nowadays the bishop (who signifies the unity of the Church and acts as the successor of the apostles) comes to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Reflection: What does the presence of the Spirit bring to your own life and the life of the Church?



Second Reading: *Defence of the Faith*



1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

This final reading from the first Letter of Peter gives a heartening model for defence in persecution. In modern Western society any persecution faced is more likely to be verbal mockery or contempt than blood-shedding. A Christian stance on moral issues can so easily incur charges

of narrow-mindedness or blindness. It is not always easy to keep one's temper and give a fair and helpful reply 'with courtesy and respect', expressing the consequences of the Christian hope. Such a reply just might strike a chord deep down, rather than an explosive or sarcastic riposte, which merely deepens the divide. 'Reverence' for others can be a real and important Christian witness. The final sentences of the reading are helpful here, for the accounts of Jesus' trial stress that Jesus himself was silent 'like a lamb before its shearers' as the Suffering Servant of the Lord, in fulfilment of the scriptures. The Passion account is full of irony and mockery, from the High Priest, from Pilate, from the soldiers; if Jesus himself did not explode at the false accusations and mockery, but retained his dignified silence, we too should keep our cool and reply to our 'accusers' with courtesy.

How do you reply to mockery of the Catholic or Christian stance?

“ Keep your cool and reply with courtesy. ”

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that, when he returns to heaven, he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be their helper.

This is not just a historical event. The Holy Spirit is God's loving gift to every believer, helping us understand Jesus' words and reminding us that God is always close to us.

Wednesday 6th May 2026

The Holy Spirit is our helper, who guides us to live more like Jesus - to grow in faith and to be filled with the peace and goodness that come from God.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's Word, which is **HELPER**.

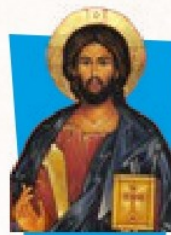
Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"Let the Holy Spirit be your helper and guide; He will not fail to lead you to peace." Pope St. John Paul II

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 10th May 2026



Jesus said to the disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you a Helper to be with you forever. He will give you the Spirit of Truth. The world neither sees nor knows the Spirit, but you know the Spirit, because the Spirit is with you, and lives in you. I will not leave you orphaned: I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me but you will still see me. Then you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who receive my commandments and keep them are those who love me. Those who love me will be loved by my Father. I will love them, and they will see me as I truly am."

Adapted from John 14:15-21
The 6th Sunday of Easter, 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

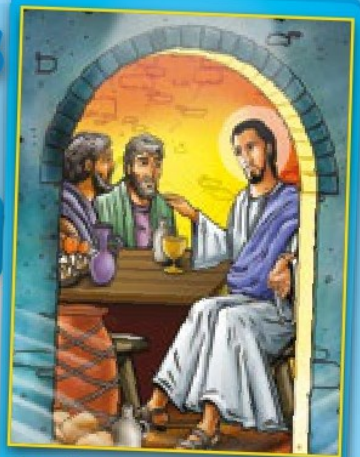
Good News for Everyone

The Holy Spirit is our helper - alive and active today - nudging us to do good and guiding us along the way. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives will help us to grow in love, joy, wisdom, peace, self-control, patience, faithfulness and kindness. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us, especially at times when things are difficult.



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 said to his friends, the disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I will pray to the Father and he will give you a Helper (the Holy Spirit) to be with you forever. I will not leave you alone. I will come back to you. I am going back to the Father now, but you will see me because I am alive. And because I live, you will live too. Anyone who loves me keeps my commandments. And those who love me will be loved by my Father. I will love them, and they will see me as I truly am."

Why did Jesus say he would pray to the Father?

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 Word...

"Happy the person whose words come from the Holy Spirit." *St Anthony of Padua*

HELPER



Ask your child who has helped them recently. What did that person do that was such a help to your child? You may want to share an experience of being helped by your children, other people, or directly by the Holy Spirit, and describe the difference that this help made to your life. Then each of you talk about an occasion when you went out of your way to help someone. What does your child know about the Holy Spirit (the third Person of the Holy Trinity), our helper?



We can ask the Holy Spirit to guide and help us to do and say the right thing. As a family, discuss and choose special ways in which you can be helpful to each other in this coming week. Perhaps you can: make your bed and keep your room tidy; use kind words; set the table and help each other with the dishes. Are there any vulnerable or lonely people in your community who may especially need your help right now? What could you do to help?

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please send your Holy Spirit into our lives to be our helper and to guide us, so that we can be a great help to those around us. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

-
-
-
-
-
-

- JESUS
- FATHER
- SEND
- HELPER
- HOLY
- SPIRIT
- STAY
- FOREVER

-
-
-
-
-
-

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **u n d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

fodrenvuer Huneldper duprany Fandthuer

"I will _____ to the _____ and he will give you a _____ to be with you _____."

When we love Jesus, we listen to him and try to live the way he asks us to. We do not have to do it by ourselves though. Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit, our helper, to help us to choose the right way to live.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Luke, Myles, Dylan, Milin,
Nojus, Aidan, River, Nate,
Filip, Vogue & Yannick



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Ayla, for amazing work, adding and subtracting amounts.
Lola, for writing a fantastic letter to the Evil Pea
- Ladybirds: Heidi, for fantastic caption writing about superhero.
- Dragonflies: Jedd, for trying his best in all of his work.
- Grasshoppers: Jacob, for excellent writing in literacy.
- Hedgehogs: Zackary, for excellent effort solving time word problems.
- Squirrels: Jayden, for always making good choices.
- Badgers: Amelia, for being a good friend and working hard at all times.
- Foxes: Harley, for his fantastic history work on the Romans.
- Hares: Elaeh, for great participation and attitude on our Hampton Court Palace trip.
- Rabbits: Jan, for amazing work on decimals.
- Kingfishers: Adrian, for his fantastic work on writing openers this week—Well done Adrian!
- Robins: Rosie, for her wonderful architecture art work.
- Eagles: Andriya, for having a great attitude in all lessons and making good progress in maths.
- Owls: Diale, for making really good progress in maths.

House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Year 6 SATs week

* External club, fees apply

Monday 11th May

Tuesday 12th May

Wednesday 13th May

Thursday 14th May

Friday 15th May

Year 5 swimming
(invited pupils only)

Year 6 booster

* Football club

Ascension Mass Year 5 14:00

Year 1 Superhero Day

Year 6 booster

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Cafod club

Celebration Assembly 2 pm

Year 1 booster

Year 2 booster

* Musical Theatre club

Mini Musicals club Years
1 & 2

* Football club

Forest school
Years 1, 2, 3 & 4

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

* Cheerleading club

Football team training

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