



15th May 2026



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

Weekly Reflection

Yesterday, was the feast of The Ascension of Jesus into heaven. We heard how Jesus ascended and returned to God His Father with Jesus reassuring us that He would be with us always and not leave us alone. 'I will not leave you orphans...' We think of our Gospel Value this week: Love, and know that in the Gospels over these last week's that Jesus is telling us of His deep and unending love for us. In the Gospel this weekend Jesus continues to tell us that although He is leaving the earth that He is not leaving us. We hear in the Gospel about the light of the Ascension, when Jesus gave to His disciples their mission to, 'Go out into the whole world, proclaim the good news to all of creation.' This is the Sunday between The Ascension and Pentecost, when Jesus sends us the gift of The Holy Spirit who will lead us and guide us to follow in His footsteps.



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 been incredible this week. They coped brilliantly with the challenges of the tests and showed such maturity in how they approached this week. At Holy Cross, the Year 6 SATs are a whole school matter and so many members of staff have supported the children this week and over the last years on their journey to this milestone. Whilst these tests are part and parcel of Year 6, we made sure the children were as well prepared emotionally and academically as possible. Thank you parents and families for all of your support.

IOW Meeting

Our Year 6 residential is now only 5 weeks away! 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>

New Reception pupils

I always look forward to this time of year with great excitement, as we welcome our new Reception children and their families for their initial first meetings and taster sessions. We can't wait to meet you all as you join our Holy Cross family.

Curriculum Leaflets

The Curriculum Letters for this coming term are now 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. They have also been emailed to you and are available on Seesaw and Tapestry.

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 17th June. Reception and Key Stage one will start at 9.00am and Key Stage 2 at 10.30am. Parents and families are invited to come along and watch the races. At 12 noon we will then move onto our Family Picnic.

In response to a question raised recently by a parent, we are looking into creating shade for the children on the morning of the races so that if it is very hot, the children can enjoy this safely and comfortably.

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.

Important Dates: 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>

Cow Day for Cafod

We will be having our annual Cow Day this 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.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Mary is the Mother of the whole Church. Everyone can turn to her with filial confidence, certain of being heard, protected, and loved.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Hedgehogs: | Bekah | Squirrels: | Cameron-James |
| Badgers: | Oluwatobiloba | Foxes: | Alexandra |
| Hares: | Hanley | Rabbits: | Jan |
| Kingfishers: | Yohane | Robins: | Freddie |
| Eagles: | Margaret | Owls: | Diana |

Mental Health Support Teams in Schools

ONLINE PARENT GROUP - Helping Your Child with Fears & Worries

Are you looking for effective ways to help you,
help your young person, navigate anxiety
and help them manage their worries?

The Mental Health Support Team is
running 2 online parent groups in June

When?

Thursdays
1pm - 2pm

11th June
18th June
25th June
2nd July

When?

Fridays
9:30am - 10:30am

12th June
19th June
26th June
3rd July

Choose sessions on Thursdays or Fridays.
Attendance at all four sessions is expected.

Next steps:
scan QR code
complete form

A practitioner will call you to complete a short assessment



For any questions email: mhstadmin@mindinwestessex.org.uk

Information for parent/carers



Registered Charity No. 1091154



HALF TERM INFORMATION

**AS A MEMBER OF OUR SCHOOL
PROGRAM YOU ARE ENTITLED TO
ATTEND AN EXTRA CLASS AT THE
HONBU DOJO DURING THE HALF
TERM**

**TEXT OR EMAIL FOR DAYS &
TIMES**

**If you fail to prepare
then be prepared to
fail**

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 joint winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Foxes and Kingfishers attaining 98% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at 8:30am until 8.55am.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Arbor report absence option on every day of absence. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

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

Butterflies	96%
Ladybirds	95%
Dragonflies	95%
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

Integrity

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:	Albert	Ladybirds:	Sienna
Dragonflies:	Oliver	Grasshoppers:	Anaya
Hedgehogs:	Zakary	Squirrels:	Malique
Badgers:	Autumn	Foxes:	Oliwier
Hares:	Diona	Rabbits:	Zuzanna
Kingfishers:	Keziah	Robins:	Hayley
Eagles:	Amelia	Owls:	Zofia



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 17th May 2026
 The Seventh Sunday of Easter — John 17:1-11

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 : THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER OF JESUS



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'

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...



The discourse of Jesus given by John after the Last Supper is of a special literary genre. It was a convention that the final instructions of a great leader for his future community should be gathered together in the context of a final meal. Jesus' life and purpose is summed up in this great prayer. The discourse is shot through with the warmth of the relationship of Jesus to his Father and with the fact that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. But most striking of all is the stress on the glorification of Jesus. The earliest kerygma about the Resurrection, as we have it in Paul's writings, is not about the empty tomb, but is about the glory of the risen Christ, that Christ is lifted up to his full participation in the divine glory of the Father. The hymn in Colossians puts him as first-born in creation and now first-born from the dead, so that he can be first in every way. Philippians declares that he must receive the homage of bending the knee in the worship due only to God. This is not blasphemy, for it is 'to the glory of the Father' that the Risen Christ should share in this glory. In a way this gospel reading is a meditation on the effects of the culmination of the Ascension for the Risen Christ.

What do we mean by 'the Glory 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 **FRIENDSHIP**
 (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: *Back to Jerusalem*



Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven, the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

There is a sort of dazed feeling about this reading, a sort of suspended animation. Jesus has left his disciples, telling them just to go back into the city and wait for the coming of the Spirit. It was a definitive parting, described in terms of the

prophet Elijah going up to heaven in a fiery chariot, leaving his cloak to Elisha as a guarantee of his continued presence and influence. But by contrast Jesus left his disciples nothing, not even a cloak, and they can only wait in a sort of limbo of hope, surely puzzling what this promised coming of the Spirit could be. In the gospels, especially that of Matthew, the Risen Christ had told them to go out and proclaim the Good News to all people, but here they are left without any further instructions, and obviously nonplussed about how to do this. From time to time we find ourselves in the same situation, not knowing how we should proceed, even if we are searching and determined to do the will of God. We can only wait, perhaps with the comfort of the company of others who cannot see their way forward, until the Lord sends his Spirit to direct us and make clear the way forward.

What is the best remedy for feeling deserted?



Second Reading: *The Spirit of God resting upon us*



1 Peter 4:13-16

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

In this pause between the Ascension and Pentecost, the first letter attributed to Peter prepares us both for the coming of the

Spirit and for the trials and sufferings which the mission of the disciples will bring them. Christians are not promised a smooth or trouble-free life of ease and merriment. The blessings of the Beatitudes should never be translated 'Happy are...'. The blessedness promised is the assurance that God's hand is hovering over us, and that no ultimate harm can befall us. One of the themes, however, of the history of the early community in the Acts of the Apostles is that trouble and persecution are the inevitable condition of following the persecuted and triumphant Christ.

Do I ever conceal my Christianity to avoid trouble?

“ Trouble and persecution are the inevitable condition of following the persecuted and triumphant Christ. ”

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is telling his Father in heaven that he has now completed what was asked of him. Then, Jesus prays for his friends. This reminds us that Jesus prays for all his friends, which includes you and me too.

This takes place after the last supper and, very soon, Jesus will be arrested. So before leaving his friends he is preparing them for the difficult time to come. Jesus wants his friends to stay united with one another and with God - forever.

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Friendship is one of life's great blessings and Jesus' friendship is also offered to each one of us. When we have good friendships, we can support each other, have fun together, and share our joys and challenges. We can also learn from each other and grow in our faith.

Enjoy a special time together hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FRIENDSHIP**.

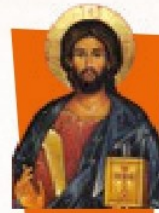
Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." St Thomas Aquinas

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 17th May 2026



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. They know that I came from you and believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you.'

Adapted from John 17:1-11
The 7th 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 ▶

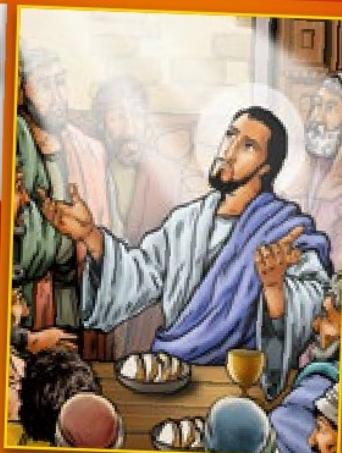
Good News for Everyone

When we have good friendships, we feel happy and fulfilled because we know that we're loved and supported. Growing in friendship with Jesus helps us to know how much he loves us. This makes us happy and helps us to be kind and loving to others too.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

One day, Jesus prayed to God in front of his friends, the disciples. He raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. They believed that it was you who sent me and now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you."

Who was Jesus praying for?

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...

"If Jesus calls us to be friends, let us not leave this call unheeded. Let us welcome it, let us take care of this relationship." *Pope Leo XIV*

FRIENDSHIP



Jesus needed friends to help him with his mission, just like we need friends to help us in our daily lives. Through friendship, we can show that we are part of God's family, loving and working together to make the world a better place. Ask your child what the word 'friendship' means to them. Which friends do they spend the most time with? What is it that they like about them? Who is their best friend?



As a family, name in which you can deepen your friendship with Jesus, who loves and supports us always. Perhaps it's through: reading the gospels; receiving the sacraments; sitting with Jesus in prayer, alone or with others. Share any stories of when you felt loved and supported by your friends and talk about the qualities that make a good friend (e.g. kindness, honesty, trust, loyalty). In what ways can we be a better friend to others this week - could you reach out to someone who may be feeling lonely? Which friends can you especially pray for at this time?

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your friendship and for all our friends. Help us to choose our friends wisely and to become better friends to them. Amen.

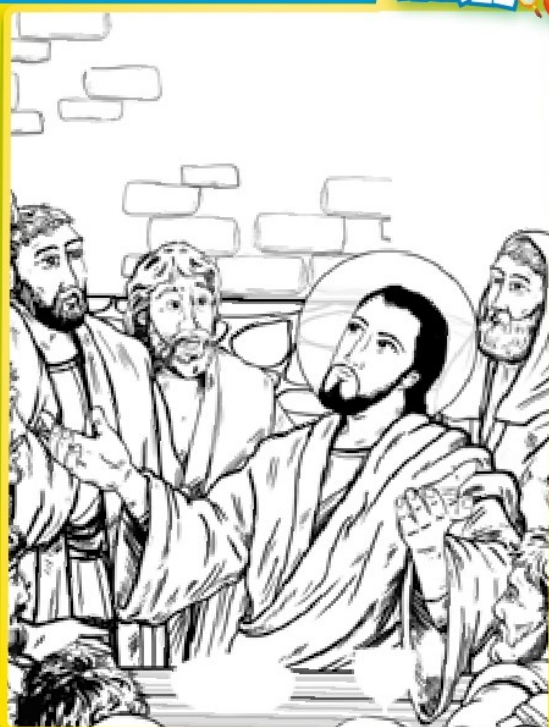
FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JESUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRAYED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	FATHER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	HEAVEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GIVEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TEACHING	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ETERNAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **o b r** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

o h a r v e b t o h e r m b t e r a c h b i n g o m o r e b

Jesus said, "I _____ given _____ the
_____ you gave to _____."

This week, don't forget the power of prayer.

Pray for your friends and family, and remember that many of them will be praying for you too.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

**Luka, Mariella, Samantha,
Reggie, Jude,
Freya & Emily-Mia**



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Jaziel, for a fantastic effort with his spelling.
Ladybirds: Joel, for independent sentence writing.
Dragonflies: Jude, for his excellent behaviour on our school trip.
Grasshoppers: Anna, for showing great creativity in her artwork.
Hedgehogs: Gracie, for amazing spellings and explanations in class.
Squirrels: Nojus, for great work on weight and capacity in maths.
Badgers: Ollie, for having a great week in class.
Foxes: Nihin, for her fantastic story writing in English.
Hares: Brielle, for writing a lovely persuasive brochure about Hampton Court Palace.
Rabbits: Jonny, for amazing work on his timetables.
Kingfishers: Evan, for writing an amazing myth in English this week - well done.
Robins: Lucas, for his brilliant work about David Attenborough.
Eagles: Sofia, for having a positive attitude towards all lessons.
Owls: Liana, for an amazing all round attitude to her learning.

House Points

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

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

* External club, fees apply

Monday 18th May

Year 5 swimming
(invited pupils only)

Year 1 booster

Mini Musicals club
Years 1 & 2

Forest school
Years 1, 2, 3 & 4

* Cheerleading club

Football team training

Tuesday 19th May

Years 4 & 5 reading zone
09:00

Wednesday 20th May

Years 4 & 5 reading zone
14:45

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Isle of Wight Year 6 parent
meeting 15:30

Thursday 21st May

Cow day

Years 4 & 5 reading zone
09:00

Cafod club

Year 2 booster

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 22nd May

Inset day - school closed

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