



26th June 2026



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

Weekly Reflection

In the readings this Sunday we hear Jesus talking to the disciples, reminding them of the importance of loving Him and following in His footsteps as this will lead to God. Where do we see Jesus? Where do we find Him? We are blessed in our Holy Cross family that we can see Jesus in each other. In loving our neighbour, we show that we are following in the footsteps of Jesus and bringing His love and His message to everyone. Jesus tells us about the importance of keeping him at the top of our priorities in showing love, compassion, kindness and love to everyone.



Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Isle of Wight 2026

We have had such an amazing week! The Year 6 children have had the time of their lives making so many memories. It has been a privilege to spend the week with these beautiful children-they have really made us laugh! It has also been more of a challenge this trip, in the extreme temperatures, to keep everyone safe and well and to enjoy every minute of our time away. I would like to sincerely thank the team that I have had with me this year: Miss Reeves, Miss Seers, Miss Gordon, Mrs Mills and Mrs Knowles, they have taken excellent care of the children.



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Extreme Temperatures

It has been an extremely difficult week at school battling the extreme temperatures that we have had this week. We have kept the school open as we recognise that our families have different situations and I would like to thank Ms Dodd and all the staff for pushing through and working in very hot temperatures. Thank you parents and families, for your support with managing this difficult situation in partnership with us. The weather forecast indicates that next week we will be back to more manageable temperatures and that we can resume normal operation.

Hot Weather

It is set to be incredibly hot next week. Children can wear our lightweight summer uniform (PE kit only on PE days) to keep cool. Please refer to the school website if you are unsure what this is.

It is essential that your child has a hat, refillable water bottle and sun-cream (spray) with them every day so that they can keep safe in the sun. We will ask the children to seek as much shade as possible when they are outside at Break and Lunchtime.

New Reception Pupils

Our Induction sessions are now complete for our new Reception children. We are looking forward to seeing our new parents for the New Intake Meeting on Wednesday 30th June at 6pm.

Save the Date

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>

Keeping Cool

We have been working hard to keep the children cool this week. Here are Reception having story time, while keeping their feet cool in water.





INTERNATIONAL FOOD

FESTIVAL

LET'S MAKE IT
BIGGER THAN LAST YEAR!

AFTER SCHOOL

FRIDAY
10TH JULY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE A STALL
THEN LET
MRS SLATER OR MRS MILLS KNOW.



Join us at the SEND Roadshow in Dunmow!

Date: Wednesday 1 July 2026

Time: Drop in anytime

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

Location: Foakes Hall, 47 Stortford Road, Dunmow, CM6 1DG

Cost: FREE

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

This is called the Local Offer.



What to Expect:

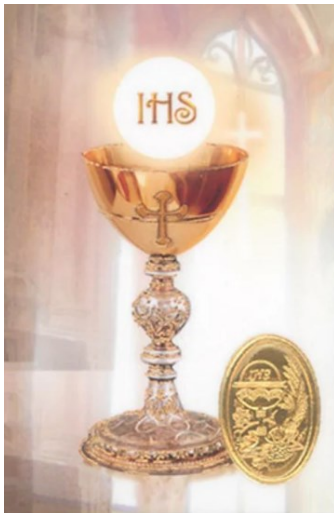
Have questions about your child's needs and the best support available? The SEND Roadshow brings together a variety of professionals under one roof, including local support groups, education professionals, health teams, and social care teams.

You can:

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

For more information on the event - including who will be there- take a look at:

[West Essex SEND Local Offer Roadshow](#) | [Essex Local Offer](#)



First Holy Communion

The programme will begin on 5th September where pictures will be given out that will be needed for the programme, this will be every week. Enrolment is online through the Parish website. The cut-off date for this is 27th September. All work must be completed before then. You and your child will be expected to attend Mass each week. There will be a meeting with Fr Bernard, Dn Tony and Dn Michael. Parents Meeting 8th January, the lesson will begin 22nd January, then February 27th, March 20th, March 26th, April 17th. The communion Mass will be in May.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

This month's prayer intention is that sports may be an instrument of peace, encounter, an dialogue among cultures and nations. May sports promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.



Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of two great saints who have helped to share faith throughout the world, St Peter and St Paul.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter professes his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus then gives Peter the important task of leading the Church - a duty which is now undertaken by Pope Leo XIV, the current successor of St Peter.

Wednesday 24th June 2026

Helping our children to grow in faith, to know and to love God, is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Faith in God transforms how we see the world and helps us to keep growing in our love for each other too.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
the Saints

"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." St Augustine of Hippo

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 28th June 2026



When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God."

Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

Adapted from Matthew 16:13-19

The Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, Year A

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

Having faith is to believe and trust in God's love for us. Faith is one of life's greatest blessings - it is a gift to be shared. The Church exists to help people to grow in their faith and there's no better time than now to explore and refresh your faith.

Find out more at: cbcew.org.uk



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME

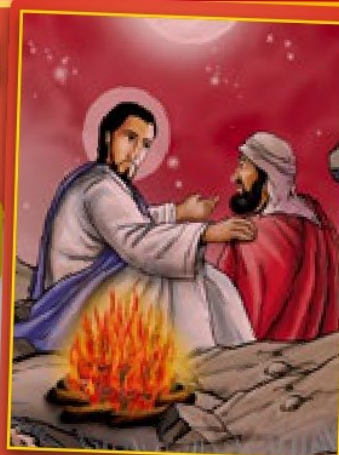


1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter spoke up and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon, you are a happy man! Because this was made known to you by my Father in heaven. So from now on you will be called Peter, which means 'rock', and on this rock I will build my Church. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."

What was Simon Peter's reply to Jesus?

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...

"Faith and love are everything, and nothing is more precious than these." *St Ignatius of Antioch*

FAITH



Faith is a gift from God that greatly enriches our lives. A family full of faith is a family full of joy. Ask your child what the word 'faith' means to them. Who do they know who has great faith in God? Who helps them to grow in faith and learn more about God? You may want to tell your child about someone in the family, at school or in the parish who helped you to grow in faith when you were young.

As a family, talk about the faith you have in God. What can we do, in these coming weeks, to help our family's faith to grow? Perhaps we can: regularly read and talk about God together and with others; read the gospels; say morning or bedtime prayers together; ask God to help us grow in faith; follow Jesus by loving others; visit cbcew.org.uk; visit our local parish church website for more ideas.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the gift of **faith**. Please increase the **faith** of our family so that we can know you more closely. Amen.

FINDING THREE

S	O	B	L	N	F	L	I	E	B	O	S
T	S	E	E	V	A	G	H	P	S	J	E
E	O	L	F	L	F	A	T	H	E	R	J
R	N	G	A	E	T	A	J	E	S	U	S
E	H	T	I	A	F	H	T	E	F	H	H
P	E	L	T	N	P	H	I	H	S	L	E
V	E	G	H	E	B	E	L	I	E	F	S
B	L	T	T	V	G	A	T	H	F	R	V
L	G	V	J	N	E	V	A	E	H	L	A
O	A	E	P	E	T	E	R	G	R	H	N
G	V	G	E	V	N	N	H	L	V	O	N
S	E	L	J	S	U	S	E	J	S	N	S

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

☒ FATHER

☐ HEAVEN

☐ GAVE

☐ PETER

☐ FAITH

☐ BELIEF

☐ JESUS

☐ SON

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

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

Cross out the letters **u b w** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

libvuwing Churbwist supowkeb swaibdu

Simon Peter _____ up and _____, "You are the _____, the Son of the _____ God."

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Each year, Missio, one of the Pope's official charities, helps us to celebrate this special feast day through their 'Day of Many Colours'. See missiontogether.org.uk/day-of-many-colours



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...



More about the Catholic Faith: wednesdayword.org & cbcew.org.uk

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 28th June 2026

The Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul — Matthew 16:13-19

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 : PETER THE ROCK



When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

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...



This is one of the very rare saints' days to displace the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, which shows its importance. In a way it is still a Feast of the Lord, for it is the feast of the Church. Peter is to be the Rock foundation of Jesus' own people, for that is what we are. Christ has called us together as his own people, and he has promised that he will always be present in this Church, 'when two or three are gathered together in my name'. So Christ is present even in an ordinary household trying to live together with Christ at their centre. Here Jesus makes the promise to Peter that what he binds on earth will be bound in heaven; his decisions will hold firm in the eyes of God. Later Jesus makes the same promise to the community itself. So Peter is the spokesman for the Christian community, voicing the decisions of the Church. At his last meeting with his disciples the risen Christ promises to be with them 'till the end of the ages'; the bishops, as the successors of the apostles, are the channels of Christ's presence among us now. So today is the celebration of Christ among us, his people.

How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?

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 **FAITH**

(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: *Peter's Narrow Escape*



Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get up!" he said "Hurry!" - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on your belt and sandals." After he had done this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak round you and follow me." Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me

from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me."

This story is delightfully told: Peter is like a sleepy child, woken in the middle of the night. There are perhaps too many escapes from prison in the Book of Acts; Luke obviously enjoys this kind of story, and so would his audience. However, such narratives demonstrate the special protection which God exercises over the infant Church. Once James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, had been executed, if Peter had gone too, the community would have been dangerously bereft. The presence of the angel signifies this special protection and divine intervention to ensure the continuance of the Church. Peter has already been leading the Church (he has introduced the centurion Cornelius, the first gentile convert) and he still has to take a leading part at the Council of Jerusalem, thereby ensuring the liberty of gentile Christians from observance of the full Jewish Law. After that Peter disappears from the scene. The tradition is strong that he was martyred in Rome, but we do not know where his apostolic role took him. Paul tells us that, while he himself was entrusted with the mission to the gentiles, Peter was entrusted with the mission to the Jews. The Jewish Christians were an important group among the first generations of Christians.

What do stories like this in the Acts of the Apostles tell us about the special place Peter occupied in the early Church?



Second Reading: *Paul in the Evening of his Life*



2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Second Letter to Timothy was probably written in Paul's name, rather than being directly authored by him. As Paul frequently does, this passage uses the images of sport, so popular in the ancient world: the arena, the race-track and the winner's crown. Paul gives full expression to his

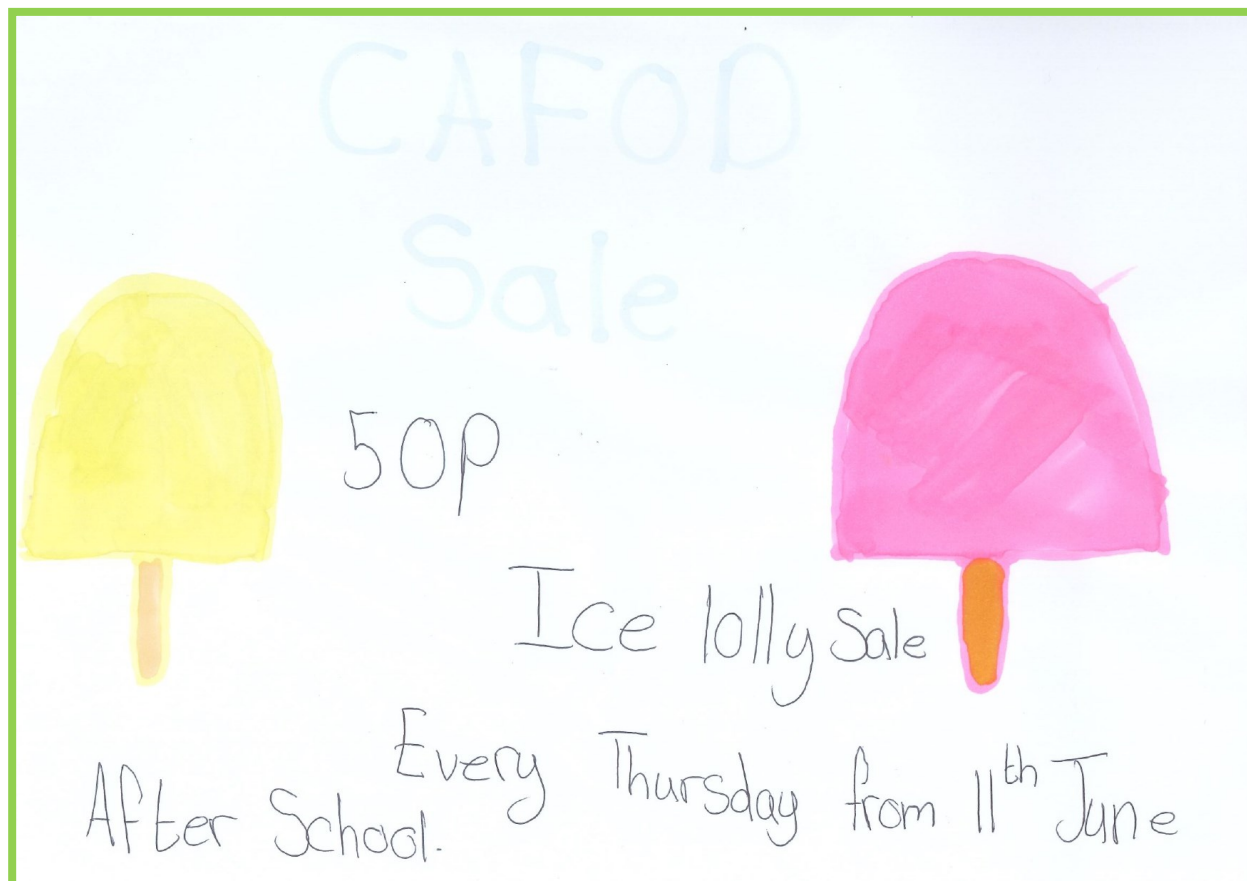
*consciousness of the Lord's power to save, and also to his longing for the completion of his own life in the Lord, balanced (as always) by his eagerness to do the Lord's work in his mission here and now. This longing is at the heart of every Christian. Despite a human fear of death, we know that in the end we will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. The early Christians saw this 'Appearing' of the Lord in terms of a royal procession in the clouds, signalling the end of the world, but what we look forward to is not so much the dissolution of the universe but to a personal meeting with the Lord. This meeting will be awesome and daunting because we will be brought face to face with ourselves and see ourselves as we truly are - including all those faults and failures which we refuse to admit even to ourselves, yet conscious of the overwhelming comfort of forgiveness in the divine love. **What will it be like at the Lord's 'Appearing'? Is it something for which you too long?***

“ We will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. ”

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Hannah, Arianna, Medeina,
Kaleb, Hartley, Elizabeth,
Rozelin & Erin



House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Sports Week - PE kit all week

* External club, fees apply

Monday 29th June

Year 1 booster
Mini Musicals club Years
1 & 2
Forest school
Years 3 & 4
* Cheerleading club
Football team training
Year 5 booster

Tuesday 30th June

Reception & Year 6
reading zone 09:00
Year 6 swimming (invited
pupils only)
New Reception parents
induction evening 18:00

Wednesday 1st July

Year 6 retreat
Reception & Year 6 reading
zone 14:45
* Football club

Thursday 2nd July

Reception & Year 6 reading
zone 09:00
Cafod club
* Football club
* Karate - All years
Year 2 booster

Friday 3rd July

* Musical Theatre club
Year 2 Frinton trip
Year 4 Ancient Egypt day

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