



10th July 2026

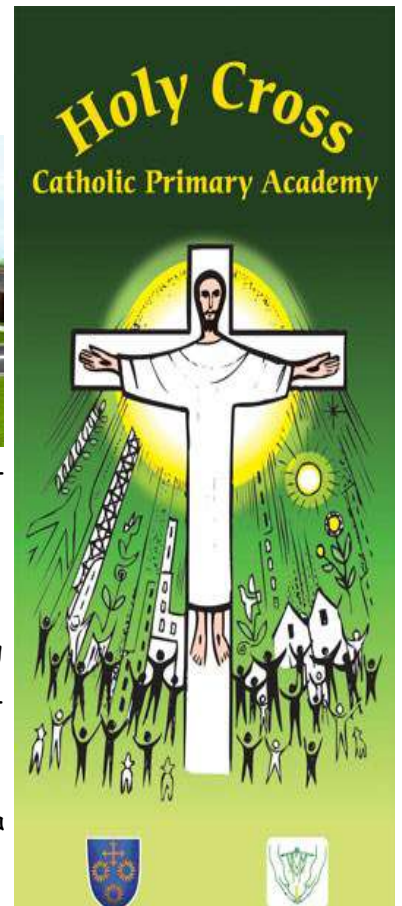


## Newsletter

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

### Weekly Reflection

In the readings this Sunday Jesus reminds the disciples of loving and appreciating everything around them. At this time of year, as the children (and staff) look forward to finishing for the summer, it is a good time to look and see all the great things that we have accomplished as a school. Our pupils are thriving and flourishing and we are incredibly proud of all of them. We have come so far together this year and now is the time to be thankful and to give praise to God for all of the goodness in our lives, in our school and in our parish. Join with us in a prayer of thanks for all of the good things that our eyes can see and our ears can hear in our beautiful Holy Cross family.



15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

12<sup>th</sup> July 2026

In Sunday's Gospel reading,  
Jesus says :

“Blessed are your eyes  
because they see, your  
ears because they hear!”

Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

### Final Newsletter

This is our final Newsletter of this school year as next Friday we are finishing school at 1.30pm. I will end the year with an end of year letter to you all.

## International Week and Food Festival

This has been another wonderful International Week! Such enthusiasm from the children with all the learning and such fun (and dancing) on Passport Day! Huge thanks to everyone who cooked and served up their traditional dishes at the food festival. Mrs Slater and Miss Mills have been amazing organising everything as always-thank you ladies.

## Isle of Wight 2027

If you missed our information meeting earlier this week, no need to worry as Mrs Slater is sending out the PowerPoint and a letter with the payment schedules.

## Hot Weather

We have had a few days this week of hot temperatures and we are doing our best to keep the children safe and cool. Your support with hats, sun-cream and water bottles is an important part of this. It is still set to be hot next week so your support in pushing through to the end is welcomed. 5 more get ups!

## Year 6 Leavers Play

Well done to our joyful and enthusiastic Year 6 pupils who raised the roof with their incredible production this week. They sang their hearts out and reminded us of how unique and fabulous they are.



## Leavers Mass

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



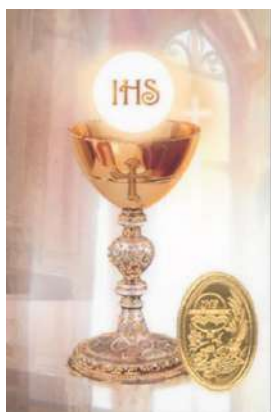
### Brentwood Diocese Citizen Award

Congratulations to Luna and Keaton, who travelled to Brentwood Cathedral to receive this prestigious award, from Bishop Alan.

They were chosen by the teachers, to receive this award, because of their outstanding and consistent contribution to life at Holy Cross. They are outstanding role models to the rest of the school and we are very proud of them both.

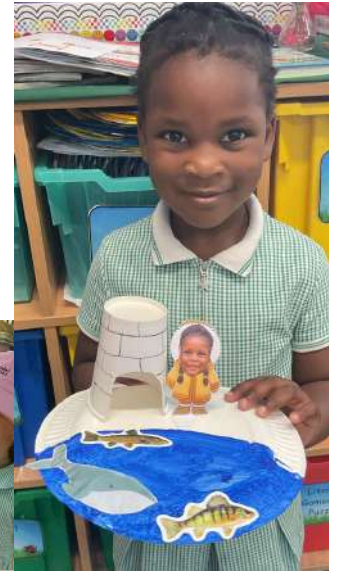
### Fund Raising

Thank you to April, who took the raise £20.26 in 2026 up a notch and raised an amazing £469.58 for the school. April achieved this by growing and selling plants on her plant stall.



### 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.





# Join Holy Cross School

PARENTS COMMUNITY GROUP



FACEBOOK GROUP



All you need to do is find us on Facebook and answer the 2 questions.



This is a **closed group** where we share information about things happening in the school.



Together, we can support our children and our school community! 

# READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading  
Challenge 2026

Join FREE at your  
local library!



**Saturday 18 July to Saturday 5 September**  
**At your local Essex library or mobile library -**  
**see [libraries.essex.gov.uk](https://libraries.essex.gov.uk) for library opening times**



National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Delivered in partnership with libraries  
**[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)**



# ACL

# Family Summer Sessions

Looking for fully funded family activities this summer?

- ★ Summer Crafts
- ★ Art & Crafts
- ★ Lego Challenges
- ★ Julia Donaldson Stories and Crafts
- ★ Super Scientists
- ★ Family Cooking Together
- ★ And Many More!

Suitable  
for ages  
5-11

Find out what's on near  
you and book your place:

 0345 603 7635

 [aclessex.com/community-family-learning](https://aclessex.com/community-family-learning)





Welcome to the  
new school year

# FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2026

⇒ 1.30pm to 4pm ⇒

⇒ Bring your own picnic ⇒

Good Food  
Great People  
Wonderful  
Memories!

# SUMMER holidays

Remember we close at 1.30pm,

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July

School opens on Thursday 3rd September



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers achieving 99% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Robins 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.

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Butterflies  | 97% |
| Ladybirds    | 97% |
| Dragonflies  | 97% |
| Grasshoppers | 99% |
| Hedgehogs    | 94% |
| Squirrels    | 98% |
| Badgers      | 98% |
| Foxes        | 97% |
| Hares        | 97% |
| Rabbits      | 92% |
| Kingfishers  | 98% |
| Robins       | 99% |
| Eagles       | 94% |
| Owls         | 90% |



## Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026

### The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time — Matthew 13:1-23

#### 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 PARABLE OF THE SOWER



Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

**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...



Like any good teacher, Jesus uses pictures – or parables. Ever heard the one about the elephant and the wasp? Or electricity like a toy train going round a room? Anyway, for the next three weeks we have some of these pictures, to show us what Jesus is trying to do. This first one is rather sad. Whatever the sower does seems to fail: seed pecked up by birds, scorched by the sun, choked by thistles. What are my pecking birds, my scorching sun, my choking thistles which annihilate the seed Jesus sows in me? It's probably different for every one of us. But some, just a little, of the seed bears a fantastic harvest. There must be something I can show to the Lord with pride and gratitude: 'Look, this is the seed you gave me; it has grown, developed, and here is your harvest.' Jesus, too, reflected on his mission to establish his Father's sovereignty on earth. Jesus, too, may well have wondered if he was getting anywhere. It was only when he had failed utterly, alone, deserted and tortured, that his perseverance won the crown. Jesus doesn't want the successful. He wants the failures as his followers – and that is where the harvest lies. **In Jesus' story what is the seed? What prevents the seed reaching its full growth in me? In what way has the seed made me a better person?**

*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 **LISTENING**  
(To see the Family Version, please visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org))



**As you pray for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and for the families connected to our schools.**

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



### First Reading: *The Effective Word of God*



#### Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

*This poetic passage from Isaiah about the word of God may be understood on two levels. On one level it prepares for Jesus' parable in the Gospel reading about the sower and the seed. But while Isaiah stresses the effectiveness of the word of God, Jesus reflects on the failure of his word with many sections of his hearers, as well as on the brilliant success of his word in those who bear fruit 'thirtyfold, sixtyfold, a hundredfold'. On*

*another level this passage prepares us for the meditation on the Word of God in the prologue to the Gospel of John: 'In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God.' This helps to explain just how God, the awesome and inexpressible, can be manifested and active in creation. In Genesis God created by his Word ('Let there be light!' 'Let there be a vault! etc.), so the Word is seen not as something separate from and independent of God, but as the concrete expression of God's will, the manifestation of divine power. The Word which comes forth from God's mouth and does not return unfulfilled is, on this level, the creative power of God, unstoppably fulfilling the will of God in the world.*

**How is God's Word at work in creation?**



### Second Reading: *Creation Freed from Corruption*



#### Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

*In our reading of Romans 8 on life in the Spirit of the Risen Christ we have missed out a few crucial verses (they are used on a separate occasion) on our adoption as sons, enabling us*

*– both men and women – to call God 'Abba', 'Father'. This intimate Aramaic family name, used by Jesus to his Father in his agonized prayer in the Garden (Mark 14:36), can be used by all his followers who share his life. With Jesus we are heirs of God, sharing his inheritance. Not only ourselves, however, but the whole of creation is renewed and re-created by the Spirit. It all takes on a new dimension and a new life, groaning in the Spirit to be released from frustration. This is a new reason for human beings (now renewed in Christ) to care for God's creation. In the first place we were created in the image of God to further and to complete his creation. Now, re-created as adopted sons and heirs of God, our responsibility is increased and intensified. As yet, we have only the first-fruits of the Spirit, but first-fruits make sense and have their value only in view of the fullness and completion of the harvest.*

**What is our responsibility as heirs of God?**



**With Jesus we are heirs of God,  
sharing his inheritance.**



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



## SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children love to be listened to and it helps them to grow in self-esteem. If, from a young age, they know that we truly listen to them, they are far more likely to keep listening to us as they mature.

Listening to the right people and the right messages is important for us and for our children. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus inviting us to listen to him and act upon his words.

Like any good teacher, Jesus uses pictures or parables

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026

to make his teaching clearer. Jesus is like a sower, scattering his words like seeds. Jesus' words have stood the test of time. They are rooted in love and can be trusted to guide us and our children.

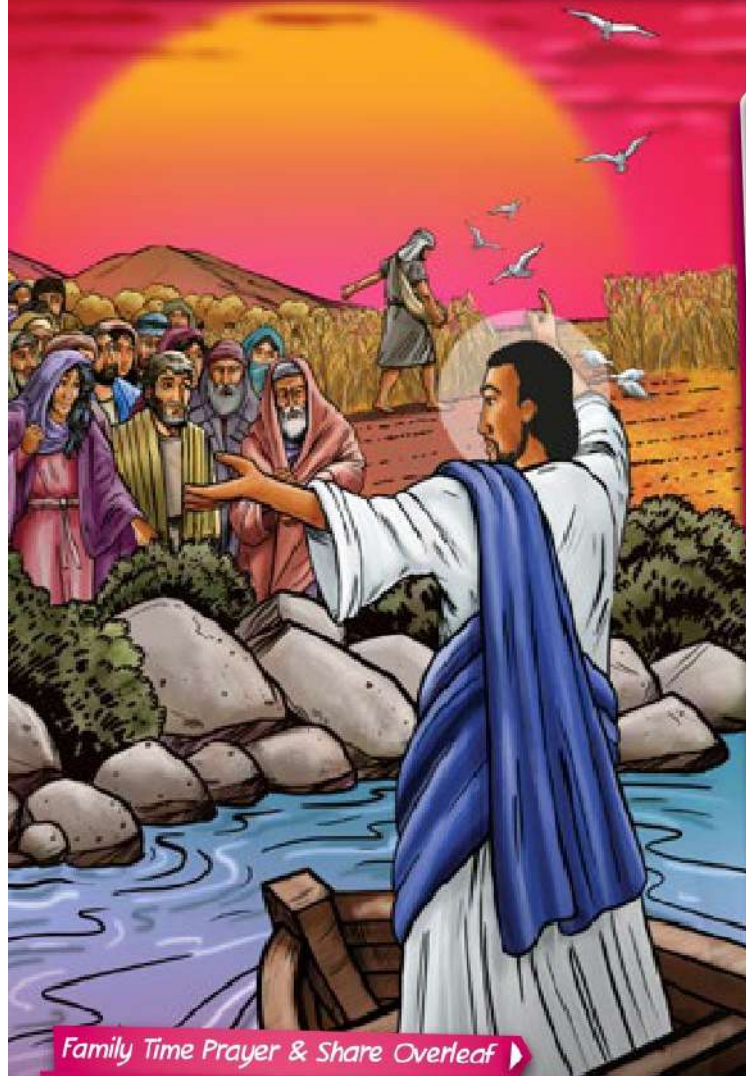
Enjoy a very special time together this evening, listening to your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **LISTENING**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from  
the Saints

*"Before we speak, it is necessary for us to listen. God speaks in the silence of the heart." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*



## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026



Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, "Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on rich soil and produced a great crop. This is like those people who hear my words and understand them; they yield a great harvest and produce now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

Adapted from Matthew 13:1-23  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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 ▶

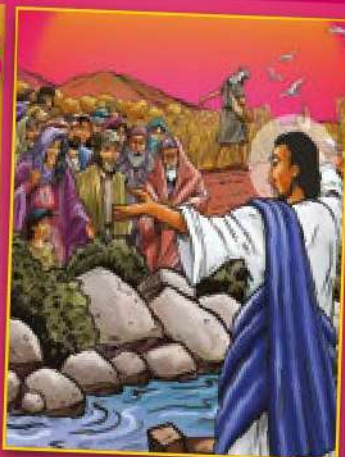
Good News  
for Everyone

Jesus often used parables (little stories) to teach the crowds who came to listen to him. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us how important it is to take time to listen to God and to be open to receive and act upon what we hear. This helps us to make wise and safe life choices.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus was teaching the people by the lakeside and he told them a story. He said, "A farmer went out to sow seed. As he sowed the seeds, some fell on the path, some among weeds and some upon rock where they could not grow properly. But some seeds fell on good soil and they produced a great crop. This is like those people who hear my words and understand them; those people grow strong and produce a great harvest. Now, anyone who has ears - listen to what I am really saying!"

**What did Jesus tell the crowd that they should do?**

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...

"Listen carefully to the Master's instructions."

*St Benedict - Patron of Europe (Feast Day 11th July)*

### LISTENING



Ask your child if they know someone who is a really good listener. Who does your child like to listen to? Do they know people who speak with kindness and love, and want good things for them and others? It may help your child if you give them an example of your own. **Listening to Jesus and acting on his words helps us to become the best people we can be.**



Jesus does not force us to listen to him, but he knows what's best for us. Regularly listening to Jesus reminds us what's really important in life. As the summer holidays approach, explore ways that can help you to listen to Jesus in these coming weeks. Perhaps you can: remember to have quiet times in prayer when you wake up, at bedtime or some other time - just for listening to God as he speaks to your heart; worship together; regularly read the gospels together. What other ways can you think of?

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **listening** to us. Please help us to **listen** and **understand** your words and to be good **listeners** to each other too. Amen.

### FINDING THREE

S D D E E D O T H W A C  
V S M T S J V H A V F S  
M H S U S E J W R E A F  
W F H T D S E E K M R V  
O S A M O U L D S V M G  
R T R R W S L I S T E N  
D S V I M H V H S O R D  
S E E D S E D D I T T S  
W V S M D G R E A T E O  
O R T G R O W S M S S N  
R A D V O T V W O R G S  
B H S H W O R K W O R M

### WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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



**FARMER SEEDS**



**JESUS WORDS**



**LISTEN GROW**



**GREAT HARVEST**



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



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

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

**becards ancybonde scadybing clibstden**

Jesus said, "Now, \_\_\_\_\_ who has \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to what I am really \_\_\_\_\_!"

Jesus wants us to take the time to think and really understand what he is saying - to be like good soil in which the seed (his words) can take root. Then God can work through us to produce a great crop of goodness in our world.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Rebecca, Declan, Bella,  
Jonny, Ethan, Gabriella,  
Ethan & Margaret



Happy Birthday in the Summer holiday to...

Ilinca, Amanda, Olivia,  
Sofia, Samuel, Million, Amara, Francesca, Jedidiah,  
Alexander, Oliver, Orlagh, Sean, Omemma, Zara,  
Chase, Sid, Luca, Eryk, Aquila, Cali, Lilah, Sienna,  
Blake, Willow, Dilara, Samuel, Paul, Tawana, Autumn,  
Ivy, Munenyasha, Amelia, Layla, P.J., Alan, Barry,  
Emily, Gracie, Freddie, Lottie, Archie, Jaziel,  
Eliza, Temidayo, Hillary, Poppy, Albi, Nathaniel,  
Nellie, Stephanie & Grace



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Authentic freedom is founded upon the human person's capacity to know the truth and adhere to what is good, even at great cost.

## Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

\* External club, fees apply

### Monday 13th July

Class change day

\* Cheerleading club

### Tuesday 14th July

Year 6 swimming (invited pupils only)

Proms in the Playground  
16:30

### Wednesday 15th July

Reception Rye-Assic trip

Reception Graduation - 12:30

\* Football club

### Thursday 16th July

Leavers mass - 9:30

\* Football club

### Friday 17th July

School finishes at 1:30

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

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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

## House Points

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