



11th September 2020



## Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school! It is wonderful to see our children again and to see how happy they are to be back at school, they certainly bring our school to life. Can I also thank you all for supporting the various measures which we have organised in response to the COVID situation. These measures have been put in place to make our school as safe as possible but we are aware that they can also cause inconvenience so - thank you! We are all more used to these procedures and are becoming more used to them each day. The children are certainly more used to their routines now and as a result everything is running more smoothly. As you would expect, we have been making slight alterations as we have been going along and sending out reminders from time to time but... so far so good!

I would like to remind you that children should bring an old pair of trainers - which can double as PE trainers - or an old pair of shoes to school as we intend to use the school field throughout the year. We are not asking you to buy extra shoes or trainers.

Please remember that if your child is displaying any COVID symptoms it is vital that they stay at home

**Please remember to wear a face covering when on school premises unless you have a medical reason not to.** This is so important particularly at the end of the day when waiting for your child. Please also remember to social distance at all times - we have made school as safe as possible but we cannot be complacent. Below is a message to parents from Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health, on the importance of parents maintaining social distancing.

*Education settings have been able to return to full-time opening for all students this term, due in large to a reduction in COVID-19 cases in the community. This reduction is thanks to the sacrifices every member of the community made earlier this year, by staying at home, not seeing friends and relatives in person, and maintaining social distancing measures. However, as restrictions have been eased and schools and colleges are now returning full time, we must all remain alert.*

*Schools and colleges have measures in place for pupils attending in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. They are asking pupils to wash their hands more regularly, restricting time spent in communal areas and, importantly, keeping pupils in class or year group-sized bubbles. This limits the number of people each pupil and staff member comes into contact with in their setting.*

*When travelling to and from settings, we know groups of pupils and parents must arrive at the same time. Schools have put measures in place to aid the safe entry and exit of pupils. These may include queueing systems, one way systems or monitors to oversee arrivals and departures. It is crucial that pupils and parents maintain a two metre distance from others at the school gate. The whole school population, whether on school grounds or off it, must remain vigilant and observe social distancing measures. It is vital we all play our part if we're to avoid a spike in the community and the reintroduction of lockdown measures.*

Dr Mike Gogarty



The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

a new continuous cough

a high temperature

a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you or any member of your family have any of the symptoms above, all stay at home and arrange for the affected adult or child to have a test to see if you have COVID-19.

- **Contacts of this individual** should only access testing if they themselves become symptomatic.
- **If a contact** who has been asked to self-isolate, goes on to display symptoms, accesses a test but it is negative - they still cannot return to school until they have completed their 14 days isolation period (this is because they still might go on to become positive during the 14 days).
- Where the original individual tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.
- Where the child/family member tests positive - they may return to school after 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia). This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal.

You can find more information including how to arrange a test at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

#### Other news...

We sadly say a fond farewell this term to some members of staff, Mrs Peake who has been a TA at Holy Cross for 9 years, Mrs Johnson who was a 1:1 LSA and Mrs Bonefant an MDA. We wish them well for their futures and thank them for their time at Holy Cross. We also welcome some new members of staff, Mrs Fisher who is teaching Year 2, Mrs George who is a TA in 1S, Mrs Nunn, Mrs Knowles and Mrs Cundins who are new MDAs. We hope that they are very happy with us at Holy Cross.

We welcome our new Reception children this week for a series of short visits and look forward to seeing them start their full time on Monday 21st September. We also welcome the following new children Faustyna Liszka, Blanka Trus, Ethan Home, Kingsley Chiagoziem Udeagha and Bryan Chidubem Udeagha. We hope that they will also be very happy here.



Quick reminder: Please do not allow your children to jump over the chain which marks out the parent waiting area.

Please ensure that you arrive promptly in the morning and afterschool.

Thank you



A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School

# THE Wednesday WORD



## SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to you and to your family as we begin this new school year.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus the question about how many times we should forgive. Jesus' answer shows that we must forgive one another just as God forgives us: again and again, without limit.

Forgiveness is the lifeblood of any family or community. Pope St John Paul II reminds us, "Forgiveness does not come naturally. Forgiving from the heart can sometimes be actually heroic."

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

God is our loving Father and we can always count on his loving forgiveness and on the freedom that his forgiveness brings. Jesus instructs us to be just as forgiving toward others. We can be certain that no matter how many times we need to forgive or to be forgiven, God will help us.

See overleaf to enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FORGIVENESS**.

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother?"



## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." Then Jesus told them this story: "There was a king with many servants. One of them owed the king an enormous amount of money. The servant could not pay so he begged for more time to pay his debt. The king felt so sorry for him that he let him go and even cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount of money; but he would not give him time to pay and instead had him thrown into prison. When the news reached the king, he sent for the unforgiving servant. 'You wicked servant,' the king said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?' Then the king sent the unforgiving servant to prison to be punished."

*Adapted from Matthew 18:21-35*

The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"May each family rediscover family prayer, which helps to bring about forgiveness" *Pope Francis*





The King, who Jesus speaks about in this Sunday's Gospel, gives us a glimpse of God's compassionate and forgiving nature. We are all part of God's family and, even knowing our faults, God is always ready to forgive us and to help us make a fresh start with him and with each other.



**1**

## Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how often must I forgive someone who does me wrong? Should it be as often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!" Then Jesus told them this story: "There was a king with many servants. One of the servants owed the king an enormous amount of money. The servant could not pay so he begged for more time to pay his debt. The king felt so sorry for him that he even cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount of money; but he would not cancel the debt but instead had the poor servant arrested. When the news reached the king, he sent the unforgiving servant to prison to be punished."

**How many times does Jesus say we should forgive someone?** Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the Gospel picture make you think about?



**2**

## Wednesday's Word is ...

## FORGIVENESS

**3**

## Loving God & Each Other

**"Pray and forgive."**

*St Teresa of Calcutta*

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that we must try to forgive others in the same way that we want God (and others) to forgive us. Ask your child what the word 'forgiveness' means to them. Has your child ever asked for and received forgiveness? How did it feel to be forgiven? It may help your child if you tell them about a time when you forgave someone, especially when it wasn't easy to do, or when you were forgiven.

**"It is by forgiving that one is forgiven."**

*St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

Forgiveness is one of God's greatest gifts to us. Each of you say how it feels to forgive someone and make friends again. As we start this new school year, ask your child if there is anyone whose forgiveness they would like. Is anyone they need to forgive? If so, share ideas about how to do this. Perhaps they can: talk gently and lovingly to that person if there is a problem; try to recognise some good qualities in that person; pray and ask God to help them forgive. You might like to end tonight by slowly saying the Lord's Prayer together - thinking carefully about the words (please see below).



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and **forgive** us our trespasses, as we **forgive** those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## Gospel Gallery

S S E V I G R O F W S  
G O N E N O E M O S N  
F M M S U S E J F E G  
J E **P E T E R** G T W N  
F O R G I V E F E V P  
G N O R W T O G N E N  
N E N D F V J D N G H  
O H W R O N G O P W O  
S S O F **R E T E P** V W  
R G J W R O S S E J F  
W F J E S U S G F E N

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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



**PETER**



**HOW OFTEN**



**FORGIVE SOMEONE**



**DOES WRONG**

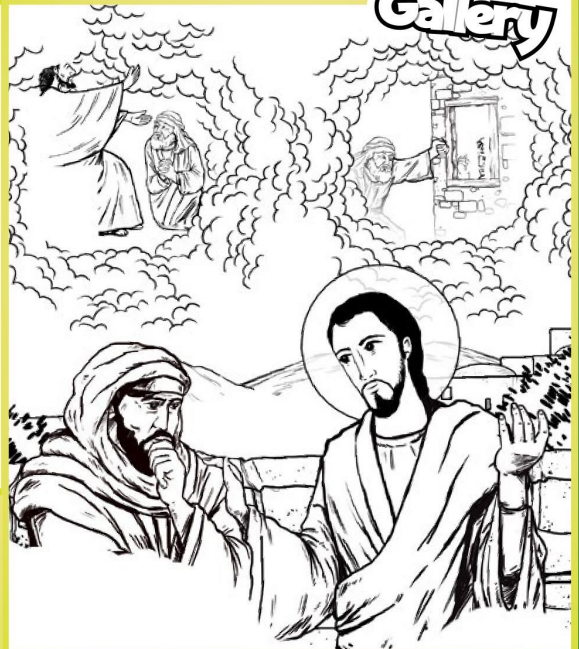


SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **a u s** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**soaftuen Pestaura warosnug fosurgivae**

\_\_\_\_\_ said to Jesus, "Lord, how \_\_\_\_\_ must I  
\_\_\_\_\_ someone who does me \_\_\_\_\_?"



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

**DID YOU KNOW?** This Sunday we celebrate 'Education Sunday': a national day of prayer when we especially remember all our teachers and all those involved in education in any way. Learn more at: [catholiceducation.org.uk](http://catholiceducation.org.uk)

For more, see: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) and [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

**This week I will try my best to...**

.....





## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



**Encountering Christ**  
*Prayerfully preparing for the  
Sunday Mass and praying in  
particular for our school families*



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



### 2 Read

**Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - The Unforgiving Debtor (Matthew 18:21-35)**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'



### 3 Reflect

**After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.**

*This is a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer.*

**Is there anyone you cannot forgive? Do you start the forgiveness-process, or wait for the other party? What is the best way to show forgiveness?**  
**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

### 4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church**  
**Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## First Reading: *Vengeance and Quarrelling*

### **Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

*It is some months since we had a reading from this wise old scribe. He was on the staff of the Temple at Jerusalem (or at any rate moved in these circles), and clearly had the greatest love and respect for the Temple and the Law of God. He gathered together and reflected on the wisdom of the ancients, aware all the time that the Lord God is the source of all true wisdom. Most of his proverbial wisdom accords with that elusive quality, common sense, but it is none the worse or less important for that! Here he already looks forward to the message of today's gospel parable: the quality of God which we know best is the divine mercy and forgiveness. The very meaning of the divine name revealed to Moses on Sinai is 'God of mercy and compassion', and this echoes again and again down the scriptures. We are made in the image of God, and our glory is to imitate in our own poor, human way, this forgiveness at the heart of God. Once we see love and forgiveness as our divine mode of living, our whole relationship with other people changes. The last few lines of the reading give us a good, common sense summary of the foolishness of quarrelling.*

*Why is it so hard to forgive?*

## Second Reading: *Life as Christ's Community*

### **Romans 14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life; it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

“The presence of the Spirit of Christ guides every individual Christian who is genuinely living for the Lord.”

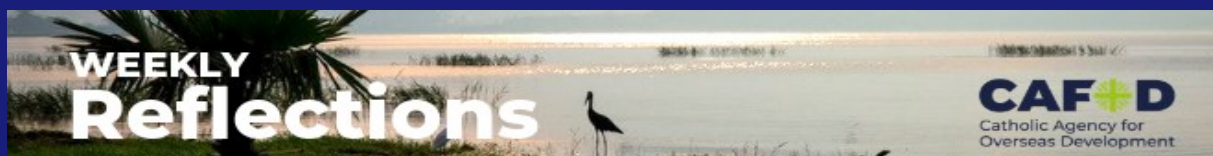
*The context of this wonderful statement of Paul is the moral exhortation to the Roman Christians towards the end of his letter. Paul has been insisting that no one should tamper with the conscience of another. He has been discussing a particular problem of the time, whether eating meat which had once been offered to idols implicated the eater in idol-worship. He states his own opinion, but will not force it on anyone else. For Paul, to be living with Christ's life gives every Christian a dignity, a trustworthiness and a freedom ultimately to make his or her own decision. It is a delicate balance: Paul gives his opinion, which means that we must listen to the voice of the Church and its teachers. At the same time he realizes the presence of the Spirit of Christ, guiding every individual Christian who is genuinely living for the Lord. To a modern believer this raises a host of questions. Have I really listened? Am I being simply stubborn, deceiving myself into avoiding truths which I find inconvenient? What is the voice of the Church? Whatever the answers, Paul's confidence in the guidance of the Spirit shows the dignity of the Christian and the respect with which the Christian must be honoured.*

*How do I form my conscience?*

**The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God**  
w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)



## RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 13 September - Matthew 18:21-35

**"Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me?"**

Have you ever felt like you are a doormat, forgiving people who repeatedly hurt you? Maybe they apologise then do it all over again? It's like they never seem to learn. It can be so frustrating.

Jesus beautifully reminds us in this parable, that God's love and mercy is huge. God is willing and able to forgive us continuously for offending him, if we likewise show sincere mercy to our brothers and sisters.

And so, just as the servant in Jesus' parable is forgiven his debt, at CAFOD we are calling on world leaders to cancel the debt of the world's poorest nations to ensure everyone has a safe, sustainable recovery from coronavirus.

It can feel so hard to swallow our pride and do as God asks us sometimes, but we remember the importance God gives to forgiveness, clearly expressed in the Lord's prayer "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us."

By practising forgiveness, we can avoid the very real consequences of being separated from God. So, let's accept this challenge, be like Jesus and forgive people, just as we want to be forgiven by our Father.

As Pope Francis reminds us, "Let us forgive, and we shall be forgiven. Let us have mercy on others, and we shall feel that mercy of God, who, when he forgives, also 'forgets'."

Lord, help me to understand that you love me so much, and that you are always willing to forgive me. Through your grace may I also forgive people wholeheartedly, without keeping score. Amen.



### The Words of Pope Francis

Today, in the tragedy of a #pandemic, in the face of the many false securities that have now crumbled, in the face of so many hopes betrayed, in the sense of abandonment that weighs upon our hearts, Jesus says to each one of us: "Courage, open your heart to my love"

Happy Birthday to... Ena Bulmuo, Evie Hannay-Spalding, Casey Okpanachi, Clara Stewart, Dominic Annobil and Louie Bacon.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2F**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with **97%**. The winner of the KS2 Attendance Award are both Year 6 classes, who attained **100%** attendance this week.

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. 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.

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

R B	
R L	
1D	93%
1S	84%
2F	97%
2HD	96%
3N	91%
3PT	99%
4A	96%
4C	98%
5G	94%
5S	98%
6CN	100%
6E	100%

## Diary Dates

### Menu Week 2

<u>Monday 14th September</u>	<u>Tuesday 15th September</u>	<u>Wednesday 16th September</u>	<u>Thursday 17th September</u>	<u>Friday 19th September</u>
Reception Pupils 9:30 -10:30	St Marks meeting with Year 6 pupils 10am (at Holy Cross, parents no not need to attend)	No Reception Pupils	Reception 08:30 - 14:45	Reception 08:30 - 14:45
10:30 - 11:30 or 1:30 - 2:30		Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00
Years 1 & 2 Start 8:45	Reception Pupils 9:30 -10:30	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15
Finish 15:00	10:30 - 11:30 or 1:30 - 2:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30
Years 3 & 4 Start 09:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00			
Finish 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15			
Years 5 & 6 Start 09:15	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30			
Finish 15:30				

*S. McGuigan*

Miss S McGuigan

Headteacher

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)

*Sheen Kelliher*

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher