



18th September 2020



Newsletter



Dear Parents

We have reached the end of our second week at school and I am pleased to say that our systems are running much more smoothly, but as you would expect, are still subject to the odd bit of tinkering here and there. You will know that we are doing all that we can to keep staff, children, parents and the wider community as safe as possible so thank you for your support with this.

Please remember to adhere to the staggered start and end times for your children as we must ensure that our staggered times are effective. Please do not be tempted to drop your child at school earlier than asked - we really do need everybody to support these expectations.

Just some reminders:

Morning times are as follows: Reception 8.30, Years 1 and 2, 8.45, Years 3 and 4, 9.00 and Years 5 and 6, 9.15. If you have children in more than one year group, please bring all children together with **your youngest child**.

End of the school day: Reception 2.45, Years 1 and 2, 3.00, Years 3 and 4, 3.15 and Years 5 and 6, 3.30. If you have children in more than one year group, please collect them all at the time of collection for **your eldest child**.

Please wear a mask when on school premises. Obviously this does not apply to parents who are unable for medical reasons.

Would it be possible to write your child's name on their packed lunch - this will help with accurate identification!

Start of Year Mass

Thank you to Fr Bernard for celebrating Mass with each year group this week. We were concerned that we would not be able to celebrate a whole school Mass for the beginning of the year but are delighted with the solution. We have all been reminded about the importance of love and care for each other both within our Christian community and the wider community. We live our daily lives according to our Mission Statement:

Jesus is the centre of our lives

Our learning and friendships

In a safe, happy and caring community

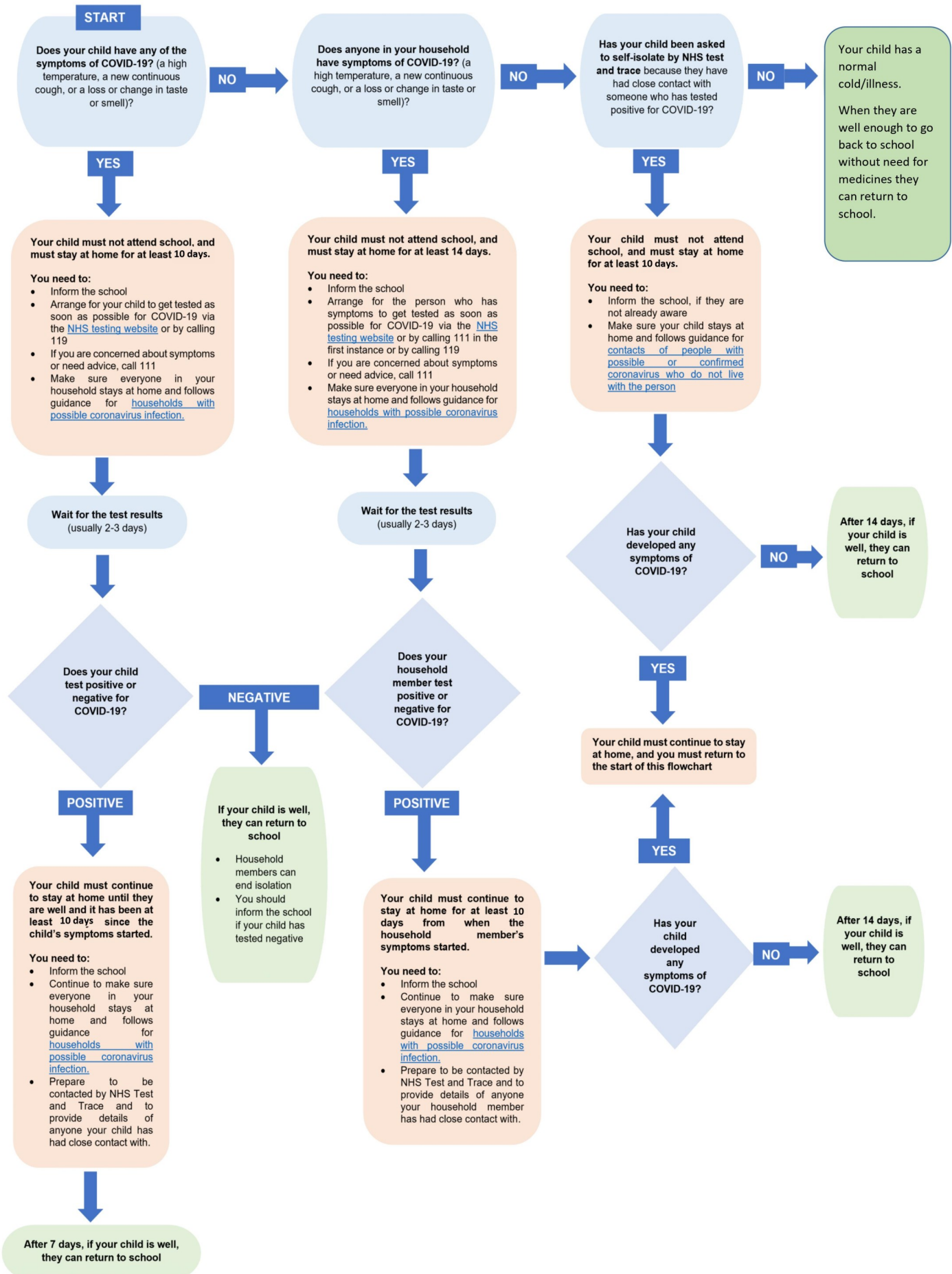
Where all are welcome.

Well done everybody.

Flow chart to follow if your child is ill

Normal coughs and colds will still happen – follow the flow chart and get advice – follow the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



Gospel Values Awards

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

1D: Paris Goddard

1S: Isabella Tyson

2F: Edward Guna

2HD: Praise Owolabi

3N: Ava Cook & Aimee Kuttin

3PT: Rhianne-Joy Hombre

4A: Christopher Annobil

4C: Julia Magryta

5G: Sophie Stopplecamp

5S: Kailani Loughran-Ricketts

6CN: Ekuba Insaideo

6E: Ife Ihekaigbo



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of Corona Virus. There is no need to keep your child off with a common cold, if they are well enough to come in. Please refer to the flow chart on the previous page.

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	91%
1S	91%
2F	86%
2HD	88%
3N	92%
3PT	93%
4A	88%
4C	87%
5G	77%
5S	85%
6CN	92%
6E	94%

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,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses the images of workers and a vineyard to show us something about the kingdom of Heaven and God's generosity.

God's ways are not our ways. At first, it may appear unfair that the workers who started early were only paid the same as those who arrived later. But, on reflection, we see that not only was the Landowner being fair by paying what had been agreed, he was being overly generous through rewarding everyone equally (even those who came at the last hour).

Wednesday 16th September 2020

God's generosity is unlimited and offered to each one of us. Pope Francis reminds us, "How generous is God, let us ask him for the grace of being generous too."

Find out more through enjoying a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **GENEROUS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



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

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 20th SEPTEMBER 2020



Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Then at various times throughout the day, even right up to the eleventh hour, the landowner hired and sent more workers into his vineyard. In the evening, he said to his manager, 'Call the workers and pay everyone one denarius each.' The ones who had worked all day grumbled at the landowner, complaining that he paid the men who came last the same amount as them. The landowner said, 'My friends, I am not being unjust to you. Did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first, last."

Adapted from Matthew 20:1-16

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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

"May we learn to be
generous in giving;
to love without limits."

Pope Francis



THE Wednesday
WORD

CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

This Sunday's Gospel can remind us how God has important work for each one of us, helping to make the world a better place, building God's kingdom. We are also reminded of God's generosity. God loves us and is more generous than we could ever imagine – wanting to take care of all our needs.

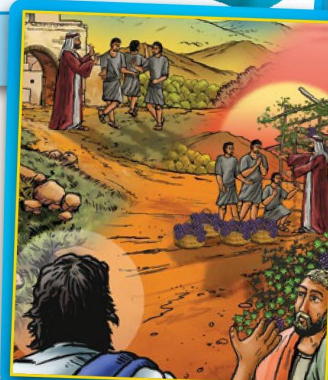


1 Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus said to his friends: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who hired some workers in the morning and agreed to pay them a silver coin for a full day's work. Much later in the day he hired more workers to work on his land. Then, at the end of the day, he paid each person the same amount. Those who started in the morning were unhappy that those who started later were being paid the same. But the landowner said to them, 'I paid you what we agreed; so why be jealous just because I am generous?'"

Why were some workers jealous? Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

GENEROUS

3 Loving God & Each Other

"Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous – to give and not to count the cost." *St Francis Xavier*

Ask your child what the word 'generous' means to them. Can they remember a time, at home, at school or in the community, when they were generous, when they last gave something away without expecting anything in return? Who do they know who is a generous person – that is, someone who is willing to share and to put others' needs first? How does your child feel when someone is generous towards them and gives them first choice or shares a special treat with them?

"God is generous. He shows us all his love and encourages us to be generous." *Pope Francis*

Being generous brings us closer to God. God wants us to be generous and, just like the workers in the Gospel, it's never too late to start! We can be generous by sharing our possessions, but God also calls us to be generous with our time and our love. How can we be generous in this coming week? Perhaps we can: give some of our time to talk to someone in need; try especially hard to share with others; give any toys or unused items to a charity; offer to help someone – maybe a new classmate who has joined our school.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your **generous** love. Please help us to grow in **generosity** and to do your work in the world with a loving and **generous** heart. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- ☒ HIRED WORKERS ☒
- ☐ PAID EACH ☐
- ☐ AGREED AMOUNT ☐
- ☐ GOD GENEROUS ☐

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

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

g e c n e r b o u i s j u b s t i c t c h i e b m l a b n i d o w c n e r

The _____ said to _____, "Why be jealous _____ because I am _____?"



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

Out of his generosity God has created us to live in complete harmony and happiness with him and each other – forever! Through being generous, we help each other to feel God's love and something of the joy that God has in store for us.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....



Wednesday 16th 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 20th September 2020 - The Twenty Fifth 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 20th September 2020 - The Generosity of God (Matthew 20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last," they said, "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'



3 Reflect

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

It is hard not to sympathize with the workers who have sweated it out right through the day in the hot sun. The idlers who have hardly got earth on their spades or grease on their hands get a great bonus and I get no bonus at all! Is this fair? No. God is not fair. You can't apply the concept of "fairness" to God at all. We can't enter into a reckoning with God. God does not calculate as we do. In the terms of this world, this is obvious enough. The wicked do prosper, while honesty and high moral standards, instead of being rewarded are often simply mocked. Can we go deeper and say that the reward is in heaven? This hardly fits with the way Jesus worked here on earth. He did not reward the virtuous. He said he was the doctor who had come to the sick. His favourites were the worst of society, tax-collectors and prostitutes, not even amiable rascals. Heaven was open to anyone who accepted him. It is no good looking for fairness in God, for this implies that we deserve something. We cannot claim to 'deserve' anything; we are simply called into a loving relationship and to put our trust in Jesus.

What does this Sunday's Gospel say about the generosity of God? When have you experienced God's generosity, his kindness and forgiveness in your own life?

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**

www.wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 20th September 2020



First Reading: *Our God: Rich in Forgiving*

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

This is the triumphant conclusion of the second major section of the Book of Isaiah: God's ways are utterly different from human thinking. The passage is obviously chosen to be read in church this Sunday because it looks towards God's 'irresponsible' behaviour in the gospel. In many ways it is comforting to think that God is not like ourselves. One reason why we cling to God is to be liberated from ourselves and to be brought into his marvellous light, living a life freed from the restrictions, frustrations and self-centredness that surrounds and penetrates us. Obviously God does not have our faults of selfishness, laziness, malice, lust and greed. More than that, not being bodily or limited in any way, God does not plan or think like ourselves. God does not think things out with 'Yes' and 'No', working in concepts or sentences. God does not laboriously plan what to do, weighing consequences, advantages and disadvantages! Even our love is always tinged with self-interest and concern for ourselves. God's love is entirely generous and out-going, a limitless cascade of love, deluging and penetrating each of us.

When do we love as God loves us?

Second Reading: *Life to Me is Christ*

Philippians 1:20-24.27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

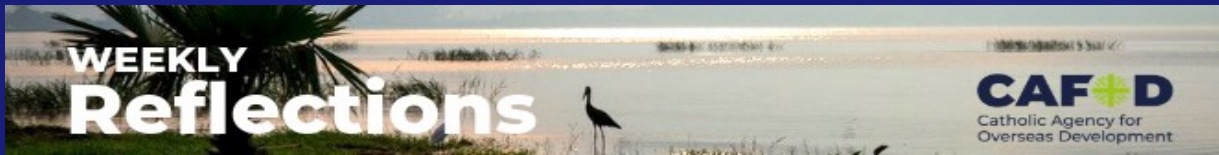
This is the first of four Sunday readings from Paul's letter to the Philippians. They were his favourite community, linked to him with a strong bond of affection and intimacy, the only community from which he would accept gifts of money. Paul writes this letter from prison, not sure whether he is to live or die, not sure either which is his stronger desire. For life is his bond with the Christian communities he has founded, and which still need his help. But the centre of his life is the total rootedness in Christ, of which death can only be the completion. As he writes elsewhere, the Christian has been baptised into Christ's death, dipped into Christ's death, and so is soaked in Christ's death, waiting only for it to be completed in Christ's resurrection. If we really believe this with the strength of Paul's conviction, it gives a whole new centre to life, a whole new perspective on the life which is Christ's. Death will then not be a matter of fear and dread, but a bursting out of the limitations of this life into the glory of the resurrection.

What does it mean to be rooted in Christ?

“The centre of his life is the total rootedness in Christ.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 20 September - Matthew 20:1-16a

"you have treated them the same as us"

The first workers were promised a fair wage. But surely, in a just world, those who work all day should be paid more than those who work only an hour?

However, all the workers, no matter how long they toiled, were given a denarius which was the regular daily wage at the time. Justice truly demands that all have sufficient to live on.

We can apply this parable which is concerned with admittance to the Kingdom of heaven to rights in society today. Who has the right to live as citizens of a country? Is it those who have been here for generations? Or perhaps those whose grandparents were born here? What about those newly arrived: migrant workers and asylum seekers who are quite prepared to work in "the vineyard"?

The labourers who worked all day in the vineyard receive their just reward; they are not being exploited. The latecomers are those who were not wanted before - like today's asylum seekers with no place to call home.

Just as the landowner is merciful and generous to the latecomers, can we not be generous too?

Generous God,
Open our hearts to the strangers in our midst.
May we build a society where all people receive a living wage.
Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis



The common good requires everyone's participation. If everyone contributes his or her part, and if no one is left out, we can regenerate good relationships on the communitarian, national and international level and even in harmony with the environment. #LaudatoSi

Happy Birthday to... Ishwar Muraleedharan, Nikodem Smaglo, Kingsley Udeagha, Maxon Wienzek, Logan Coombe, Nathaniel Adeoye, Sebastian Darlea, Aurora Milciute Blynovas, Josie Ogbonze, Feodora Benghea, Stanislaw Marti.



Merit Certificates:

1D: Vienna-Baye Maycock, for her fantastic maths work
 1S: Feodora Benghea, for beautiful handwriting
 2F: Teodora Fedeles, for excellent understanding in maths
 2HD: Jessica Jeffrey, for being an amazing helper
 3N: Eloise De-Souza, for a brilliant response to reading
 3PT: Kayla Umaru, for excellent effort with literacy
 Olivia Jarczewska, for her excellent attitude towards school
 4A: Marissa Fraser, for an excellent hard working attitude
 4C: Shauden Sesay, for excellent imagination in literacy
 5G: Zach gauci, for an excellent effort in writing a poem about our world
 5S: Andrew Burns, for working hard in all lessons and having a positive attitude to learning
 6CN: Liam McNamara, for an excellent start to Year 6 and for being a wonderful role model
 6E: Martha Edwards, for excellent attitude to her work
 MDA:Ka'reem Mafueni, for being a kind friend

Diary Dates

Menu Week 1

<u>Monday 21st September</u>	<u>Tuesday 22nd September</u>	<u>Wednesday 23rd September</u>	<u>Thursday 24th September</u>	<u>Friday 25th September</u>
Reception Start 8:30 Finish 14:45	Reception 8:30 - 14:45	Reception 8:30 - 14:45	Reception 08:30 - 14:45	Reception 08:30 - 14:45
Years 1 & 2 Start 8:45 Finish 15:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00	Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00
Years 3 & 4 Start 09:00 Finish 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15	Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15
Years 5 & 6 Start 09:15 Finish 15:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30	Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St George

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

Sheen Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher