



16th October 2020



## Newsletter



Dear Parents

I feel that many of us have become Covid weary. This has been a long half term and has been a time of many changes in our day to day routines and yet we still see cases rising and the news that Essex is moving up to Tier 2 this weekend adds to the despair. We have put in many measures to ensure that we can be as safe as possible whilst at school and I would like to thank you for your support with this - however difficult it has been.

However, nothing is perfect.

We are, as you know, doing our best in a very difficult situation but school cannot be the same as usual during this time. Every decision made has been discussed and thought about in great detail to help keep us all safe, to try to maintain a sense of routine for our children and to minimise disruption for parents as much as is possible. It can be frustrating - for us all - and it can be so easy to be critical, especially if we do not consider the whole picture.

As we move into another week, with further restrictions, I would put out a simple plea to those who are finding the new school routines particularly difficult. Please work with us, try your best to support your school and remember that as frustrating as the school routines may be now, it could be an awful lot worse without them.

### Parent Evening

Again - another aspect of life which isn't perfect!

We hope that this all works smoothly next week but I am aware that the technology has already let us down with certain year groups. I believe that this has now been resolved and I hope that you have a successful and informative meeting with your class teacher. Please remember that you have a 10 minute allotted time. If you require longer please contact the office for an additional appointment.

### World Achievers Week

This takes place next week. It is an opportunity to explore achievements from around the globe and also incorporates Black History. I look forward to seeing and hearing from our children about their learning.

### Prayers please

Can we ask for your prayers for Mrs Guna and her family. Mrs Guna received the shocking and unexpected news on Sunday that her father in Romania had suddenly died. She has flown back home but obviously the shock and grief is overwhelming for them all.

Eternal Rest grant unto him O Lord

And let perpetual light shine upon him

May he rest in peace.

Amen



## School Menu

You will be aware that we continue to provide lunch for our children each day. Unfortunately this has to be served in the classroom to enable us to maintain year group bubbles but also means that we serve a limited menu for obvious reasons. We have thought long and hard about extending the hot option and feel that we are now in a position to offer this daily from November. The menu will be less extensive than usual but we feel that you should be happy with the options available. Thank you to all kitchen and MDA staff who work so hard to help in this important area of school life.

## Harvest Collection

Thank you to everybody who have made a contribution to the harvest collection, which will be donated to Street2homes. We have extended the collection until Thursday 22nd October.

## Senior School Admissions

Year 6 parents must apply for a place in secondary school by 31st October.

Applications can be made via the Essex Admissions website [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

St Marks also requires a Supplementary Application Form to be completed and returned to them.

## Gospel Values Awards

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

1D: Gracie Freeman	1S: Sid Cundins
2F: Leah Hyde	2HD: Ella Tanu
3N: Isaac Adisa	3PT: Iris Wells
4A: Ena Bulmuo	4C: James Harten
5G: Bobbie White	5S: Otto Colussi
6CN: Marcy Reddin	6E: Neriah Boateng



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Butterflies with 99% attendance. The winners of the KS2 Attendance award are 3N and 4A with a fantastic 100%. Well done!

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

R B	98%
R L	99%
1D	94%
1S	90%
2F	97%
2HD	98%
3N	100%
3PT	99%
4A	100%
4C	99%
5G	95%
5S	93%
6CN	99%
6E	98%



October - Month of Our Lady

We continue to remember our special devotions to Our Lady this month and I would like to share a prayer written by Praise Owolabi, one of our children in Year 2.

Dear Mary

Thank you for Providing all the Mummies with

what is right keep Doing what is right take

good care of the People sick and Poorly also

People that are unfortunate and don't have money

give food to them make sure they don't die.

Amen Love Praise lots of love

Praise

We are a family



Were ever we are



**Wednesday**  
**14<sup>th</sup> October**

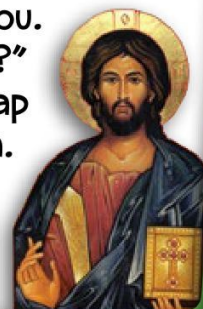


**Good News  
for Families**

**1**

## Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Some of the leaders of the people tried to trap Jesus and get him into trouble. So they sent some of their followers who said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are an honest man and teach God's way with honesty. We also know that you are not afraid of anybody: someone's rank means nothing to you. Then they asked him, "Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, the Emperor?" Knowing what they were up to, Jesus said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin you use to pay taxes." They handed him a coin. He said to them, "Whose head is on this coin, and whose name?" "Caesar's," they replied. "So then," he said to them, "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."



From the Gospel of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Cf. Matthew 22:15-21 (the 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **GRATITUDE**.



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.





**"The heart that knows how to say 'thank you' is a good heart, it is a heart that is content."** Pope Francis

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us how we can live happier lives by giving God what is due to him - our gratitude! Being grateful to God puts us in the right frame of mind. It is good for our well-being and helps us to be happy in life. Ask your child what the word 'gratitude' means to them. You may want to help your child understand what the word 'gratitude' means to you. Can your child remember a time when they felt really grateful to someone? How did they show their gratitude to that person? Each of you name one or two things (as well as your family) that you are most grateful to God for.

**"In all created things recognise the care and wisdom of God, and give him thanks."** St Teresa of Avila

Saying 'thank you' to God (at anytime throughout the day) is a great way for us to show our gratitude. It is good for us to be grateful to God for the blessings of his love, for our lives, our talents, our families, our school and for the love of those around us. How do we show God that we are grateful? Who else will you remember to show gratitude to in these coming weeks? Perhaps a parent or carer, a family member, a teacher or a friend. How will you do this (e.g. with kind words, a thank you note, a prayer, a gift, or by offering help)?



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to be always **grateful** to you and to show our **gratitude** by loving those around us. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**WORDSEARCH**



Cross out the letters **u h k** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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

**LEADERS**  
**TROUBLE**

**JESUS**  
**SAID**

**GIVE**  
**WHAT**

**BELONGS**  
**GOD**

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

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

**Caheksaur kutoh Guikveh Gokduh**

\_\_\_\_\_ back to \_\_\_\_\_ what belongs

\_\_\_\_\_ Caesar - and give to God what belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Did you know that this Sunday is World Mission Sunday?**

Let's show our gratitude to God by helping those in poorer countries. Please see: [missiontogether.org.uk/world-mission-sunday](http://missiontogether.org.uk/world-mission-sunday)

**Write** a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....  
.....





## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 - The Twenty Ninth 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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Matthew 22:15-21): Giving God His Due**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

### 3 Reflect

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

*They must really have thought they had their victim sewn up! If Jesus said he paid the Roman taxes, he recognised the Emperor, not God, as his Lord. If he said he didn't pay, he was a traitor to Rome. Jesus turns the question back on them. First he makes them admit that they themselves recognise Rome as overlord by carrying a Roman coin, for the coin would carry the Emperor's head. Next he puts them a question: what do they consider is due to Caesar? Finally he goes beyond their question, to interrogate their ultimate loyalty: in the last analysis, just what is due to God? At a superficial level this seems a little verbal tussle, in which Jesus outwits his opponents. But the story was remembered and passed on in the Christian community not because of Jesus' cleverness, but because at a deeper level it is a question which Jesus puts to each of us: just where do our loyalties and priorities lie? Money? Respect? Sex? Fame? A good holiday? Comfort? Power? Jesus is not a dictator who imposes his will. He just asks the question and leaves us to give our own answer. To those who question him he gives no easy response, but always replies with another question.*

**What takes priority in my life? Does God get a look-in? In what way?**

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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020



## First Reading: *Cyrus, King of Persia, Chosen by God*

### Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more. 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

*This passage of Isaiah must have been written at the very end of the exile in Babylon (586-538 BC), as Cyrus, King of Persia, was approaching to take over that city and decree that the captives, Jews and other nations, should be sent home to their own countries. Because of this, the Jews saw Cyrus as God's own envoy. It must have finally confirmed them in their new understanding, reached by being sunk into the hostile and alien civilisation of Babylon, that their God, the Lord, was God not just of Israel but of the whole world. Before the exile, of course, they were convinced that the Lord was their own special God and protector, but what of other nations? Confronted with the alien and materialistic gods of Babylon, they realised that God, their own intimate and loving Lord, was the God not just of Israel but of the whole world, the whole universe, the creator of light and darkness. If no other lesson was learnt from the exile, this was a major advance in understanding of God and his ways.*

***Do we have other gods which we worship? Do we accept the Lord as key to every door in the universe, even the door of our own hearts?***

## Second Reading: *Paul Greet the Church in Thessalonika*

### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

“There is always more to learn about our faith.”

*This Sunday we start reading First Thessalonians, the earliest of all Paul's letters. It is read for the next five Sundays. Paul moved so rapidly round the new Christian communities which he established that he could never instruct them fully when they were first founded; indeed there is always more to learn about our faith. So Paul needed to keep in touch, answering questions, solving difficulties, showing his 'concern for all the Churches'. Paul's 'letters' are real letters, each responding to a different set of circumstances. Each of them begins with a warm greeting, 'grace and peace'. 'Grace' is God's affectionate and powerful smile, drawing us into God's loving protection, and empowering us to live and work for him. Then, with his thoughtful courtesy, Paul encourages the community with praise for their achievements in Christ (where possible - the Galatians get no compliments, for they have let Paul down badly). In this letter he praises the faith of the Thessalonians, their love and their firm hope, and also the effectiveness in their lives of the power of the Spirit. It never does any harm to look for the best in people, and show that their efforts have been recognised!*

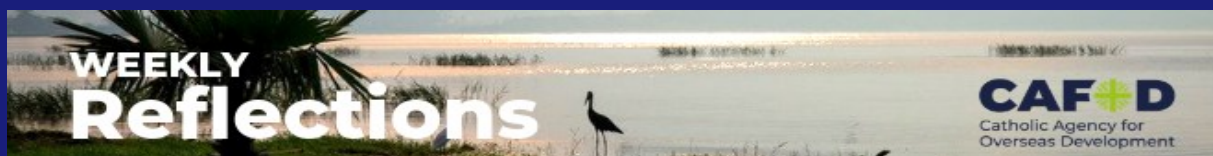
***How do you show your faith in action and work for love?***

**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 18 October - Matthew 22:15-21

**"Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and God what belongs to God. "**

Throughout our lifetime, we get to hear the same parables and verses from the Bible again and again. Some of those give us an instant sense of comfort. Others remain a mystery no matter how many times we've heard them before. This is one of the puzzling ones.

There are many different interpretations of this verse, and none seems to bring definite clarity to its meaning. Is it about money and earthly authority, politics and civil obedience? Is it really about paying tax? Or is it about freeing ourselves from worldly attachment to possessions? What are we supposed to be doing?

Perhaps, it's all of the above. God has given us a gift of free will, and we are expected to always be in the process of discernment. God isn't dictating how we should think or act. We are being invited to actively seek his wisdom, and to use the power of the Holy Spirit to try and make sense of this complex world with its messy domestic and international politics, global health and economic crises, personal dramas and dilemmas, and more.

God does not ask us to completely withdraw from the world. He wants us to actively pursue godly living that incorporates all of the human experience: government, voting, tax, and other issues that, on the surface, may not appear to be spiritual matters.

Lord, help us to deal with every part of our life in a way that reflects our faith. Amen.



### The Words of Pope Francis

Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, cares with maternal affection and pain also for this wounded world.



Happy Birthday to... Gilda Bosompem, Freya Bown, Jacob Bown, Kiera Hodgekinson, Reece Atkinson, Victor Budnyak, Nick Rzecholka, Elsie Bethell, Summer Leagas, Roxanne Hand, Tahlia Abu-Rabi, Grace Kelly



### Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Liliana Smaglo, for her fantastic sentence writing  
 1S: Oliver Ruffell, for really trying with his writing and attitude to learning  
 2F: Jemi Kuttin, for amazing progress with her handwriting  
 2HD: Dylan Cater, for amazing reading  
 3N: Ava Cook, for trying extra hard in maths  
 3PT: Dominica Nguyen, for always being ready to learn  
 4A: Benjamin Gulka, for working so hard and trying his best  
 4C: Isla Marsh-Gray, for asking amazing questions in art  
 5G: Ethan Owusu-Boateng, for trying hard in literacy, using great expression, including points of view of others in the Hot Seat test  
 5S: Erin Downing, for fantastic newspaper reporting in literacy and for being a good friend  
 6CN: Faraya Honan, for her contributions to class discussions this week  
 6E: Charlie Usedon-Duff, for a great diary entry in literacy

## Diary Dates

### Menu Week 1

### World Achievers Week

#### Monday 19th October

Parent Consultations - 2HD & 6CN  
 Reception Start 8:30  
 Finish 14:45  
 Years 1 & 2 Start 8:45  
 Finish 15:00  
 Years 3 & 4 Start 09:00  
 Finish 15:15  
 Years 5 & 6 Start 09:15  
 Finish 15:30

#### Tuesday 20th October

Parent Consultations - 2HD & 6CN  
 Reception 8:30 - 14:45  
 Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00  
 Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15  
 Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30

#### Wednesday 21st October

Parent Consultations - Reception, Year 1, 2F, Year 3, Year 4, 5S & 6E  
 Reception 8:30 - 14:45  
 Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00  
 Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15  
 Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30

#### Thursday 22nd October

Last Day for Harvest Collection  
 Parent Consultations - Reception, Year 1, 2F, Year 3, Year 4, 5S & 6E  
 Reception 08:30 - 14:45  
 Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00  
 Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15  
 Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 15:30

#### Friday 23rd October

Reception 08:30 - 14:45  
 Years 1 & 2 8:45 - 15:00  
 Years 3 & 4 09:00 - 15:15  
 Years 5 & 6 09:15 - 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)

*Mr S Kelliher*

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher