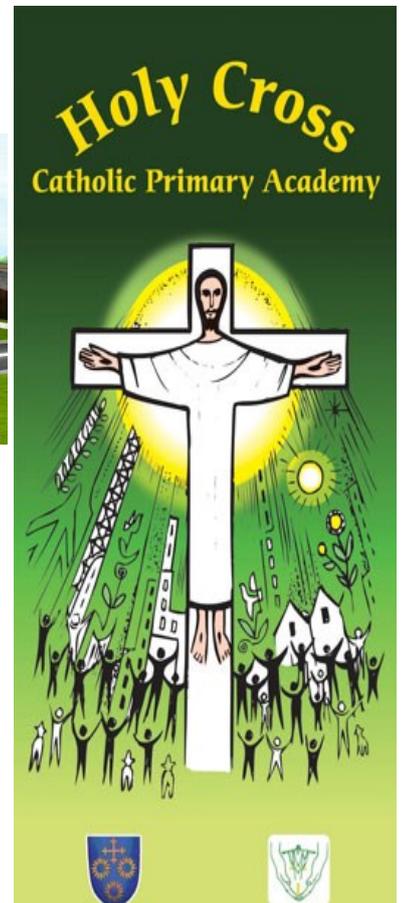


27th November 2020



Dear Parents

We begin our Christmas preparations in earnest next week as this weekend marks the beginning of Advent, the four week period before Christmas day. It is a time where we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ into our hearts and lives and to try to truly live as he would ask us to. Please keep a look out for the usual Advent Challenge which we will share on Its Learning for your children as this is a simple way of organising your time productively and being truly prepared for Christmas.

### Holy Cross Church live streaming of Mass

If you wish to log on to Mass for this Sunday, please follow the instructions below.

Please load Instagram and search for @holycrossharlow where you can attend live Mass on Sunday at 9.30 am.

If you would like a copy of the parish newsletter and weekly reflection please email [holycrossharlow@hotmail.com](mailto:holycrossharlow@hotmail.com)

### Christmas Lunch

You will have received information regarding Christmas lunch for your children. The lunch can be ordered on the day, by your child, with their teacher.

### Christmas Panto

We will all be enjoying a virtual Christmas Panto with hot chocolate, marshmallows and popcorn on Thursday 17th December.

### Year 3 Roman Day

Year 3 travelled back to Roman times. They met Boudicca who told them her story, designed catapults, shields and mosaics for their masters, and tried some Roman delicatessen at a Roman banquet. Thankyou to all involved for making this such a memorable event.

### Christmas Hamper Raffle

Virtual raffle tickets can be purchased for the staff's luxury Christmas hamper via Parentmail. Tickets are priced at 5 entries for £1. Tickets will be drawn on Friday 11th December. Good luck!



## Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is Integrity

**Integrity - honesty, truth-telling -**

**"You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify." (21: 12-13) "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup" (11:39)**

For next week's Gospel Value we will be looking at Simplicity



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

1D: Oliver Danel

1S: Kwadwo Kwakye

2F: Jemie Kuttin

2HD: Jeremy Cox

3N: Darcie Bethell

3PT: Jeremiasz Seller

4A: Lilly Bergamini

4C: Maja Owczarz

5G: Parvataa Muraleedharan

5S: Ronel Sofuwa

6CN: Shane Sesay

6E: Lemaya Adjaye-Kwofie

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Ladybirds, for the fourth week in a row, attaining 100% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 4A, for the third week running and 3PT, both achieving 99%. 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 the Educational Welfare Officer.

R B	98%
R L	100%
1D	99%
1S	93%
2F	99%
2HD	95%
3N	98%
3PT	99%
4A	99%
4C	96%
5G	98%
5S	96%
6CN	98%
6E	97%



### **Christmas Cards**

Each year group will have a post box and children can bring in cards for their class or the other class in their year group. Cards need to be in the post box by Friday 11th December they will then be quarantined and given out on Wednesday 16th December.

## **Christmas Calendar of Events**

### **Monday 7th December**

Year 6 Advent Mass and Christingle (2pm) Children only

### **Tuesday 8th December**

Reception Prayer service and Christingle (9.30am) Children only

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas lunch

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to bring in a packed lunch

Year 4 Advent Mass and Christingle (2pm) Children only

### **Wednesday 9th December**

Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas lunch

Reception, Year 1, 2, 5 and 6 to bring in packed lunch

### **Thursday 10th December**

Year 1 Advent Mass and Christingle (9.30am) children only

Year 5 Advent Mass and Christingle (2pm) Children only

Year 5 and Year 6 Christmas lunch

Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 to bring in packed lunch

### **Friday 11th December**

Christmas Jumper Day

Year 3 Advent Mass and Christingle (9.30am)  
Children only

Year 2 Advent Mass and Christingle (2pm)  
Children only

### **Thursday 17th December**

Christmas panto afternoon

### **Friday 18th December**

Last day of term. Finish times are as follows:

Reception at 12.45pm from the Parish hall

Year 1 and 2 at 1pm from the playground

Year 3 and 4 at 1.15pm from the playground

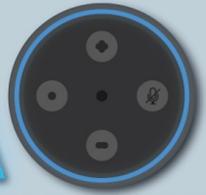
Year 5 and 6 at 1.30pm from the playground



## What parents & carers need to know about...



# AMAZON ALEXA



Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

### Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

### Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



### Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

### Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



## Safety Tips



### Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction 'Alexa, delete everything I said.' Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

### Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

### Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example 'Alexa, buy some toilet paper.' To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

### Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

### Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

### Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.



# WHAT TRUSTED ADULTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

Social Media is often scrutinised as having a negative impact on children's mental health. Children and young people are now growing up in a technology dominated world, and social media plays a major role in their social lives. This balanced guide focuses on both the positive and negative impacts that social media can bring to young people and their mental health.



## POSITIVE IMPACTS

### EASY ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND HELP

Due to delays in young people getting help for their mental health, such as experiencing low mood, or suffering from anxiety, they may sometimes reach out to access support from others online. Sharing problems or issues with friends, peers and broader social networks can be met with positive reaction, with nearly 7 in 10 teens reporting to receive support on social media during tough or challenging times. Where there are moderated communities which offer support and guidance, children can be provided with a great source of support.



## NEGATIVE IMPACTS

### SELF-ESTEEM & BODY IMAGE

There are 10 million new photographs uploaded to Facebook alone every hour, providing an almost endless potential for young people to be drawn into appearance-based comparisons whilst online. No one is the same as how they portray themselves online as we tend to only show the best part of ourselves. The pressure to fit-in and conform is huge, which can become a driving force for children to replicate what they see from friends, celebrities and sponsored adverts. This pressure may contribute to anxiety, low mood and a feeling of inadequacy. As a result, it can lead to a feeling of low satisfaction with their own lives.



## SUSTAINING FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

There is evidence to suggest that strong adolescent friendships can be enhanced by social media interaction, allowing children to create stronger bonds with people they already know. Online relationships can actually make children more relationship-oriented, thoughtful, and empathic. By sharing comments on pictures, videos and posts, it can create long-term friendships as they can continually keep in touch, even with a distance between them.



## HARMFUL ADVICE

The online world provides the opportunity for anybody to upload and share photoshopped pictures, edited video, fake news and even unvetted advice. Children may stumble upon this, which could potentially encourage them make wrong decisions and not get the help that they need. It's important that you teach your child to differentiate between what is true and useful information and what is fake.



## ADDICTION AND COMPULSIVE CHECKING

Social media addiction is thought to affect around 5% of teenagers. The Office for National Statistics found that children who spend more than 3 hours a day on social media are more than twice as likely to support poor mental health. Furthermore, compulsive checking due to 'Fear Of Missing Out' has been linked to poor and disturbed sleep, as well as difficulty to relax during evenings. One in five young people say they wake up during the night to check messages on social media, leading them to be three times as more likely to feel constantly tired at school than their classmates who don't use social media during the night.



## A SENSE OF BELONGING

Support can be found in various places online; sometimes this is known as "finding your tribe". Online platforms and groups can provide a wonderful sense of belonging for children. They can find peers with similar interests and circumstances which can sometimes be difficult to find in real-life. As a result, this can create stronger connections and help to build confidence.



## CYBERBULLYING

One recent large-scale UK study showed that cyberbullying is one of the biggest challenges for young people. Other studies suggest that cyberbullying has a bigger effect on wellbeing and mental health than other types of bullying. 7 in 10 young people have experienced cyberbullying, with 37% of young people saying they experience cyberbullying on a high-frequency basis. Young people are twice as likely to be bullied on Facebook than on any other social network.



### Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



### HELPFUL APPS:

- Hub of Hope - <https://hubofhope.co.uk/>
- Mindshift
- Smiling Mind

### SOURCES OF HELP:

- Childline, 0800 1111 or visit their website
- Bullying UK, 0808 8002222
- Young Minds Parents line, 0808 802 5544

SOURCES: <https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/publications/social-media-young-people-and-mental-health>, <https://www.onis.gov.uk/people/population-and-community/wellbeing/articles/measuring-national-wellbeing-2015-10-20>, <https://www.rsp.hk.org.uk/uploads/assets/upload-ed/c0be2709-a55f-4710-ad668c2ec794c2a.pdf>, <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/cutting-edge-leadership/201505/warning-signs-mental-health-risk>

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,

Once again, the countdown is about to begin – Christmas is coming. This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. Now is the time to think especially about, and look forward to, the celebration of Jesus' birth and to his return in the future.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. Think what preparations you would be making if someone very important was coming to visit.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Well, since it's Jesus who is coming – are you waiting eagerly, with your fingers on the door-handle, ready to open the door? The message is clear: we are to 'stay awake!' A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this – to be alert to Jesus' presence around us.

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ADVENT**.

*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.

"Advent is a time when  
we journey towards  
Jesus and his Kingdom  
of justice and peace."

*Pope Francis*

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know when the end time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own task, and orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake – because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you still sleeping. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake!"

*Adapted from Mark 13:33-37*  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B

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

"The Lord is coming. May we  
await him with open hearts!"

*Pope Francis*



**THE** Wednesday  
**WORD** CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

The Sunday's Gospel reminds us to 'stay awake' - to see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better. Advent is a time to increase our good deeds. Even small acts of kindness bring more of Christ's light into our world and make us ready to welcome Jesus at any time.



# 1 Our Special Time Together

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake. When a rich man travels abroad, he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge and orders the doorkeeper to keep a good watch. So, always be ready - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you unready for him. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake - be ready!"



**When will the Master of the house return?** Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

# 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

# ADVENT



# 3 Loving God & Each Other

"Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus." *Pope Francis*

Advent is a time to slow down and try to remember the real reason for Christmas - giving thanks to God for Jesus. Ask your child what they think the word 'Advent' means ('important arrival'). What do they know about Advent? What do they like best about this season which leads up to Christmas? Each of you name your favourite Christmas carol. You may want to share with your child what you like best about the season of Advent.

"Dear young people, Christ asks you to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter." *Pope Francis*

As a family, how can you prepare well through Advent - to be ready to welcome Jesus, and so draw closer to God? Perhaps you can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need; be a peacemaker; put up a crib, Advent wreath and Advent calendar; go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession); make a special effort to let other family members know how much you love them - through your words and actions.



Dear Lord Jesus, help us to stay awake and to be aware of your presence in the people that we meet in this **Advent** season. Amen.

# Gospel Gallery

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>THIS SUNDAY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ADVENT BEGINS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>AWAKE READY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JESUS RETURNS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



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

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

usacybing bevecryonue cawaukeb Wuchabt

"\_\_\_\_\_ I am \_\_\_\_\_ to you now,  
I say to \_\_\_\_\_: Stay \_\_\_\_\_!"

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditional Advent wreaths have a candle to light on each Sunday of Advent. This Sunday we light the first Advent candle, as a symbol of the hope we have in Jesus.



Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

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

.....

.....



## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 - The First Sunday in Advent

#### 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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (Mark 13:33-37): **The Watcher at the Door**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I am saying to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

#### 3 Reflect

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

*This brief parable of the master returning unexpectedly is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. The message is typical, too, because Jesus was constantly stressing that there is no time to lose. When he came in his earthly ministry he again and again challenged his hearers to make up their minds NOW, to change their ways NOW. He challenges us to do the same. We can hear the rattle of the returning Master's key in the lock. There is no time to hide the contraband, to pull our uniforms straight before greeting the Master at his entry. Even if we do not think that the world's end is imminent, even if death is not threatening, every moment counts, every decision is for or against Jesus. Saints are rumoured to have said that, if they received the news that they were to die that night, they would carry on doing what they were doing anyway. Saints can do this, because they are ready for the coming of the Lord. But what about us? If we need to put things a bit more in order to prepare for the Lord's coming, is there any valid reason to delay? The four weeks of Advent are a good time to clean things up for the Lord's coming. **What would you like to change about your life in preparation for the coming of the Lord?***

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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020



## First Reading: *A Thrill of Hope*

### Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean; all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

*Each Advent Sunday begins with a reading from Isaiah, for Isaiah is the great prophet of the Messiah. This reading is taken from the latest part of the Book of Isaiah. After the return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, the Jews were passionately awaiting the coming of the Messiah. They were conscious that they had sinned and deserved their punishment, but still longed for the liberation from foreign interference which the Messiah would bring. After the coming of Christ we too are waiting - waiting for the fulfilment of the sovereignty or kingship of God. Jesus brought the pledge of this kingship by his miracles of healing, his welcome to sinners, his teaching about the Kingdom, and above all by his Resurrection from the dead. We no longer have any reason to fear death, but we are conscious of our own failings, of our co-operation with evil and long for the strength and fidelity which wholehearted membership of God's Kingdom would bring us.*

**How do I need to change to become a fully committed member of God's Kingdom and to welcome the Messiah into my life?**

## Second Reading: *Waiting for the Lord Jesus*

### 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

*This reading from the opening of Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians is full of the excitement of the Spirit. The young community of Christians at Corinth flourished in the activity of the Holy Spirit, not just by extraordinary things like speaking in tongues, but by healing and teaching and guidance. Even being a good member of a family (husband, wife, parent, child) is an activity guided by the Spirit. All this is preparing for the final coming of Christ, for all Christian activity, no matter how humdrum, is given life and vitality by the Spirit of Christ. In Paul's day there was a freshness and enthusiasm which is sometimes lacking in our Church today. Let us ask at Christmas for a new infusion of the Spirit which will help us to burst the bonds which keep us back from full service to the Lord.*

**How do you see the Spirit at work in your own life?**

“All Christian activity, no matter how humdrum, is given life and vitality by the Spirit of Christ.”

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 29 November – Mark 13:33-37

“Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.”

As Advent starts on Sunday and we begin our countdown to Christmas, we are reminded that this season is not just a time for preparing to celebrate Christ's birth.

We are reminded that we are also waiting in hope and expectation for Christ who is to come.

Even though we do not know when that time will be, we are told we must be on our guard, stay awake, so that we are not caught unprepared.

This year it has felt like we have been on our guard at all times, remaining vigilant, to keep ourselves and others safe from coronavirus. It has been exhausting and worrying for us all.

So, this Advent, as we try to be awake to the signs of Christ's presence in our world, let us take time to remind ourselves of the goodness that we can see around us, of the difference we can make to others when we reach out in love.

And let us hold onto the hope that this brings.

Eternal God, you will come when we do not expect you.

Help us to welcome you now in one another,  
to reach out to our sisters and brothers  
who are in need of care and support.

In this way may we be found ready,  
when you come again in glory.

Amen.



## The Words of Pope Francis

As a human family we have our common origin in God. We dwell in a common home, the garden-planet where God placed us. But when we forget all this, our social fabric is weakened and the environment deteriorates. #GeneralAudience

Happy Birthday to...

Cosmas Eze, Molly O'Donovan, Ife Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba,  
Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba, Marco Jardim, Draven Crow, Aimee Kuttin,  
Evan Smith, Ellice Osei-Flint, Kenna-Kah Ajong, Erin Barker,  
Sarah Ciotoi, Paris Goddard, Marcy Reddin & Lucian Rogozinski



**Merit Certificates:**

- 1D: Skyla Hand, for working hard to improve her handwriting
- 1S: Clara Corrigan, for being a great example in our play
- 2F: Victoria Banjo, for beautiful work in R.E.
- 2HD: Stanislaw Marti, for amazing answers in numeracy
- 3N: Layla Santos-Ebejer, for working very hard in maths
- 3PT: Naomi Oregbhemhe, for working hard as part of a team
- 4A: Lottie Askew, for her fantastic ideas and extra hard work this week
- 4C: Katie Johns, for her excellent attitude to learning
- 5G: Ethan Owusu-Boateng, for fantastic effort in completing his homework
- 5S: Luca Sheppard, for fantastic poetry writing using figurative language
- 6CN: Faraya Honan, for excellent work in numeracy this week
- 6E: Temilola Olabode, for fantastic writing in literacy

**House Points**

**Congratulations to the  
winning house St David**

**Diary Dates**

**Menu Week 1**

<u>Monday 30th November</u>	<u>Tuesday 1st December</u>	<u>Wednesday 2nd December</u>	<u>Thursday 3rd December</u>	<u>Friday 4th December</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
Year 5 Reconciliation	Year 4 Reconciliation			Year 4 Egyptian Day
Year 6 Reconciliation				

Miss S McGuiggan

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

Deputy Headteacher