

4th October 2019



Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The children have had yet another exciting and productive week. Year 5S returned from their residential geography field trip to Burwell brimming with stories of their learning. While at school this week, the children's fund raising efforts and initiatives came to fruition in supporting our parish as well as enhancing our local & global environment. We wish 5G all the best as they travel to Burwell on Monday.

Have a restful & peaceful weekend.



Braintree Museum Trip Year 6

On Friday 27th September Year 6 took a step back in time to discover more about the Victorian era. They looked splendid in their costumes as they boarded the bus. At the museum they were able to handle a range of Victorian household goods and toys, most of which were rather unfamiliar to them. After that they experienced life in a Victorian classroom, a very different experience than today! The day was rounded off with an information quiz, where they had to look for answers in the museum itself. This was an excellent trip that added to the knowledge they had already learnt in class.



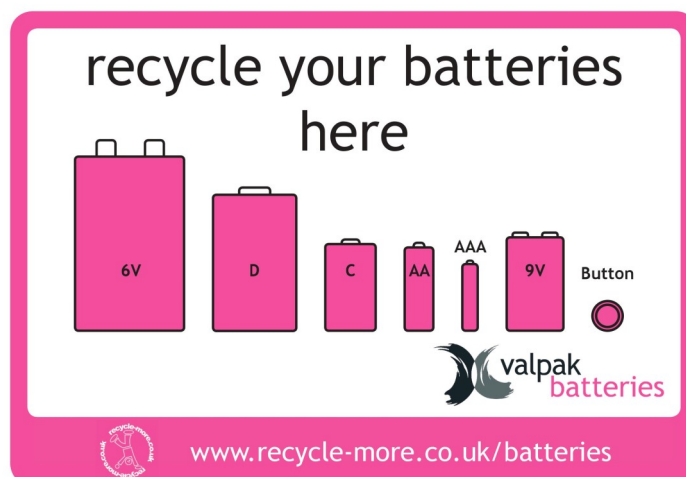
Fund-raising Success

You may recall from last summer that children from Holy Cross, collectively represented by the School Council, Eco-Council and Mini Vinnies decided on a fund-raising initiative to support both parishioners at Holy Cross Church and our school community. The aim was to raise £400 to purchase new kneeling cushions for our church and recycling bins for the school. I'm delighted to inform you that, through 'Frozen Fridays', the target was achieved. On Thursday Father Bernard was presented with a cheque for the kneeling cushions and we also received delivery of our new eco-bins. Thank you also to the 'Friends of Holy Cross' who purchased extra eco-bins for us.



Eco- Council

In order to reduce waste which is sent to land-fill, this week our Eco-Council launched our used battery collection box. In doing this, they suggested that we would all be helping to reduce the demand for raw metals required each year and play our part in preserving resources and reduce the potential risks to our environment, including wildlife. In the U.K. we throw away 600 million household batteries annually of which 400 million go to land-fill. These eventually break down and leak chemicals resulting in damage to our eco-systems and wildlife. The battery collection box will be available in the school foyer.



5S Burwell Residential Trip

5S had a wonderful 3 day trip to Burwell this week. We are very proud of all of the children as they really demonstrated the core values of Holy Cross and the staff at Burwell House complimented them on their exemplary behaviour. They showed resilience and perseverance to overcome their worries at being away from home and all pulled together to support and encourage each other. The children produced wonderful news films in the TV recording studio and took turns in operating the cameras and technical equipment. They explored the locality and gained an understanding of the differences between a rural and urban location. They made clay houses in the pottery studio and had a wonderful time exploring the extensive grounds of Burwell House. The highlight was a game of Burwell Fox (which must be kept a secret from the younger year groups!) As always, the food was delicious and many of the children from 5S want to sneak back next week with 5G!



Gibberd Garden

On Thursday 26th and Friday 27th September 2019, the Year 5 children had the opportunity to visit the Gibberd Garden.

Children were able to develop their creativity and imagination by seeing a great variety of sculptures of different sizes, made from different materials. They recorded from first hand experience and used the detailed sketches of the sculptured seen in their own art work in class.



Gospel Values Awards

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

1D: Hayley Ranathunga	1S: Sian Hanifin-Flynn
2HD: Zoe Staines	2TE: Ava Cook
3N: Isabella Turska	3P: Shauden Sesay
4A: Mitchell To	4C: Emilia Chapska
5G: Neriah Boateng	5S: Ishwar Muraleedharan
6E: Taylor-Grace Maycock	6N: Sienna Smith



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2HD**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with **99%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **3N** who attained **99%** 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. If an absence is not reported

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

R B	98%
R L	96%
1D	97%
1S	96%
2HD	99%
2TE	98%
3N	99%
3P	94%
4A	96%
4C	96%
5G	97%
5S	98%
6E	98%
6N	91%

Mental Health Awareness Week

This will take place next week at Holy Cross. Invited guests will lead an assembly and teach children the Mental Health Dance Challenge. As this will be recorded, a permission slip will be sent via Parentmail and will need to be completed in order for your child to take part in the filming. On Thursday there will be a non-uniform day where the children are asked to wear yellow- the colour associated with mental health awareness. A £1 donation is requested and all funds raised will be passed on to Mind, the mental health charity.



BE INSPIRED

A Parish event to hear from experts
and share concerns and ideas for the
care of God's creation

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL HALL
Thursday 10th October at 7.30pm



GREEN
GUARDIANS
Faith in our Future

Please join us for the evening and ask your questions to our panel in advance:

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

by Louise Abraham and David Worsfold

OUR PANEL

- **Paul Jeater, Co-ordinator of the Eastern Region Green Party**
The perspective from an environmental campaigner
- **Edward de Quay, Environmental Adviser for the Bishops' Conference**
The Church's response to the challenges of the climate emergency
- **Libby Abbot, Campaigns Officer at CAFOD**
Taking a lead in Care for Our Common Home and working with young people through the Climate Champion scheme
- **Cllr Chris Hossack, Leader of Brentwood Borough Council**
How our local services are tackling the global crisis

Questions from the audience and discussion from the panel

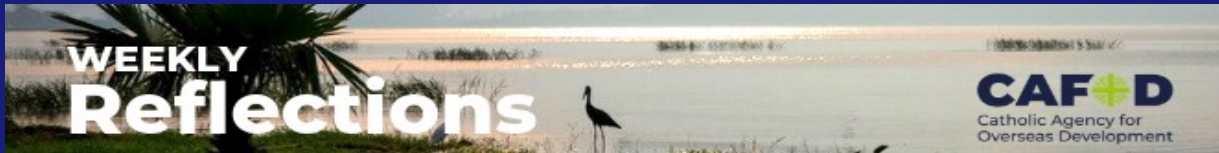
Closing remarks by Fr Martin Boland followed by refreshments

What are your concerns?

Where can we make a difference?

Make your comments above and put it
the post box in the narthex or email us at
greenbrentwoodcathedral@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 6 October - Luke 17:5-10

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'" - Luke 17:5

In Sunday's gospel, Jesus says that we could do incredible things if only we had faith.

What incredible things would you like to do?

One thing I'd choose is to end the injustice of extreme poverty and hunger. When it feels difficult to hold onto the faith that this is possible, I am encouraged by two things.

Firstly, that during a huge international commitment to development between 2000 and 2015, around a billion people escaped extreme poverty. With 17 Sustainable Development Goals now in place, the world can continue to move towards the abolition of extreme poverty, if we all play our part.

Secondly, the Catholic community does have faith, and can do amazing things!

For example, the Amazon Synod starts this weekend - an amazing global witness that God's gift of creation is precious and that the Church stands in solidarity with indigenous communities.

Family Fast Days like today help us hold onto the faith that God can use each of us to do incredible things, like ensuring that people have access to clean water and nourishing food.

Lord, renew our faith and commitment to strive for the world's harvest to be fairly shared by all, in love and solidarity, justice and peace. Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

What must one do to be a good Christian? The answer is simple: we have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus says in the beatitudes.



Wednesday 2nd October 2019 - 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 6th October 2019 - The Twenty Seventh 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 6th October 2019 (Luke 17:5-10): The Reward of Faith

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." The Lord replied, "Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, 'Come and have your meal immediately?' Would he not be more likely to say, 'Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards?' Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, 'We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.'"

3 Reflect

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

The two sections of this Gospel reading appear at first sight to be entirely separate, the first about faith, the second about the reward of service; but they do fit together. The faith required consists not in reciting a creed but in hanging on by one's finger-tips, through thick and thin, to God's power and will to save. In nothing else is there any hope, not in my own power or ability. That is why, in the second section, we have no right to expect any sort of reward as our due from God. The value of our work in itself is secondary to our admission of helplessness and our trust in God's to save us. However, not all parables should be taken as allegories. The severe master here is not necessarily God, any more than the master who in another parable praises his crooked steward. When we hear the unyielding command of the master to the slave to expect nothing and to set about serving at supper, we cannot forget that at the Last Supper it was Jesus who put on his apron and washed his disciples' feet. We may be unworthy slaves, but Our Lord's action at the Last Supper gives us confidence that our Master ministers to us.

How do I best serve God and others?

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 6th October 2019



First Reading: *Keep Going*

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry "Oppression!" in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see; all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, "Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness."

This fascinating passage has two very different meanings; the first is the meaning of the original Hebrew prophet, the second is as a reflection on the meaning of 'faith' as mentioned in the gospel passage with which the Church pairs this first reading. The drift of the passage in the Hebrew prophet Habakkuk is endurance. 'Make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it' the original Hebrew reads – that is, as you whisk past, running your Marathon, you see an encouraging placard in the crowd, 'Keep going!' So the message in the last line is that, however tough and unpromising the course, the righteous person should live by endurance, perseverance, fidelity. The message was originally intended to keep up the spirits of the Jews as the Babylonian armies approached: it will be tough, but stick it out, for the Lord will not desert you. However, the Apostle Paul is using the Greek translation of the Hebrew text – of course he is writing in Greek – which reads 'the righteous person lives by fidelity/faith'. Paul uses the text in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11 to prove that justification is by faith. Luther adds a further complication by adding, 'alone': 'the righteous person lives by faith alone'. But for Paul, faith expresses itself in action.

How does Christian faith and hope make life different?

Second Reading: *Sound Teaching*

2 Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God. Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

“Keep to the tradition
already established.”

Today we start with the first of four Sunday readings from Second Timothy. The letters addressed to Timothy and Titus, those two central members of Paul's staff, are generally considered not to have been written by Paul himself. However, they are all part of the inspired word of God, and a handful of reputable scholars considers that Second Timothy is indeed by Paul. In 1 Corinthians 16:10-11 the Corinthians are urged to treat Timothy gently, and in today's passage the author seems to be encouraging Timothy himself against timidity; perhaps he was a naturally hesitant person. One of the principal emphases of all three letters to Timothy and Titus is the adherence to 'sound teaching': they are encouraged to think and act within the tradition of the teaching which they have received and to uphold its fundamental vision. This is, of course, already implied by the laying on of Paul's hands, for a Jewish rabbi would learn much by heart, and at the end of his training was commissioned to carry on the tradition in the name of his own teacher. Such methods would have been important for the preservation of the teaching of Jesus during the Pauline period, before it came to be written down in the gospels.

What is the "sound teaching" to which Paul refers?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Anayah Arbua, Aimee Fennelly,
Jonathan Ferreira-Borges, Lucy Philpot, Joshua Puddegoot,
Zoe Staines, Christabel Enwere, Harry Acheampong, Szymon Harmas,
Zachary Kaczmarek, Amelia Tarczwska, Uwadiale Ebhabha, Luna
Milciute Blynovas, Dominica Nguyen, Connor O'Rourke



Merit Certificates:

1D: Aria McGinty, for her fantastic rhyming work in literacy
1S: Roxanne Hand, for her excellent writing in literacy
2HD: Kayla Umaru, for her amazing exclamation work in literacy
2TE: Demi Osiname, for thinking carefully and answering questions in maths
3N: Ranniel Masambique, for his great enthusiasm for learning
3P: Dominik Sterbak, for excellent work on a religious painting
4A: Naavah Dixon, for excellent R.E. work on Solomon's proverbs
4C: John-Jo Marti for an incredible place value assessment
5G: Joseph McCoy, for his fantastic negative number work
5S: Lola Andrews-Clark and Isla Ryall, for their perseverance and bravery at Burwell
6E: Nathaniel Tafangombe, for a great diary entry for history
6N: Marcus Lucan, for excellent work in our reading lessons this week
Learning Mentor: The School Council, for volunteering their time and energy

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Andrew**

Diary Dates

Week 1 Menu

Jewish Faith Week

Monday 7th October

5G Burwell House
Be Still Club lunchtime
Year 3 Mass, in church 2pm
KS2 Homework 3.15 - 4.15
KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Tuesday 8th October

Choir 3.15 - 4.20
Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30
KS1 Construction 3.15-4.00
KS1 Cosmic Yoga / Just Dance 3.15 - 4.00
KS2 Code 3.15 - 4.30

Wednesday 9th October

Reception Family Lunch 11.30
5G Return from Burwell House
Karate 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 10th October

Non-uniform, wear yellow for World Mental Health Day £1
Choir 3.15 - 4.20
KS2 Chess 3.15 - 4.15
KS1 Dodgeball 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Drama 3.15 - 4.15

Friday 11th October

Assembly 2.40
Karate 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

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

Mr S Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher