

24th October 2019



Newsletter



Dear Parents

We all had an opportunity during Monday assembly to say thank you to Mr Frampton, one of our Foundation Governors, who will shortly be relocating to Devon. Mr Frampton has supported our school for over ten years and has been a very good friend to us at Holy Cross. We will miss him, but wish both him and Mrs Frampton all the best in their new adventure.

Parent Governor

A big thank you to Mr Fennelly, Mrs Thorp and Mrs De-Souza who were recently nominated for the position of Parent Governor. We are very grateful that they were willing to stand for election and to support our school in this way; congratulations to Mrs De-Souza who received the most votes and has therefore been elected to the governing body of Holy Cross.

Year 5 Mass

We were reminded during Mass on Monday that we are called to service, to care for the needs of others and not automatically focussing on ourselves. This can be the opposite of the norms in society but as children and adults of JOY we can live better lives, the lives that Jesus expects us to live. Thank you to Year 5 staff, children, parents and of course, Fr Bernard.

Family Mass

Advanced notice that we are celebrating Family Mass at Holy Cross Church on Sunday 24th November at 11.00. This will be the Feast of Christ The King and will be the last Sunday before Advent. It is so important that as many families as possible attend, we do need help with the following. Can you...

Provide home made cakes for refreshments after Mass

Help serve refreshments after Mass

Help with setting up refreshments before Mass

Encourage your child to come and sing in our Choir

We will also be asking for children to read in Mass and take part in the offertory procession.

Please contact Mrs Slater at school if you can help in any way. We look forward to seeing you there.

Fireworks Themed Lunch

Mrs Alger and our kitchen staff have been busy planning a special lunch for Tuesday 5th November. Please see the advert for further details.

Fireworks

We are sure that many of you will be attending Firework displays over the half term. We have been reminding children about firework safety and ensuring the safety of pets during this time. Have fun but keep safe!



Uniform

Just a reminder that all children must be in school winter uniform after half term and that includes our school coat. School shoes only please, no boots or Kickers. Thank you.

Individual Photos

Individual photos will take place on 6th November. Please ensure your child is in full winter uniform, complete with tie.

Flu Immunisation

The flu immunisations will take place on Friday 22nd November for the majority of the school and Monday 25th November for Year 3. Permission forms will be sent home after the half term break.

The Friends of Holy Cross AGM

The Friends of Holy Cross AGM will be taking place on Thursday 21st November at 6pm. There will be pupils demonstrating the new IT equipment bought by previous FoHC fundraisers. All parents are welcome to attend the meeting, in which, fundraising for the coming year will also be discussed.

Basketball Tournament

2 teams of children from years 5 and 6 travelled to Mark Hall school for a basketball tournament today.

Obviously inspired by our visitor earlier in the week, the children played with energy and enthusiasm showing great skills and sportsmanship.

The year 5 team finished 3rd in their group whilst the year 6 team came 2nd in their group, narrowly missing out on a place in next weeks final.

Well done to all the children for a thrilling and exciting afternoon.



Year 6 Senior School Applications—IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember Year 6 Parents must apply for their senior school place by October 31st. Those applying for St Marks must complete a Supplementary Information Form.



Clubs

When we return after half term the clocks will have gone back. As it will be getting darker earlier children are not permitted to walk home from clubs unaccompanied. Please ensure you pick up your child from their club.

Poppies

Thank you for all of the beautifully crafted poppies that have been sent in. They will be used to create a remembrance display after the half term holiday.

We hope that you all enjoy a good half term break and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 4th November





This week, the children practised their chopping skills and enjoyed making potions and mud feasts! Although we may question their fascination with mud, the benefits are endless. "Exposure to dirt and germs works to prime a child's immune system to prevent allergies. Yes, it's actually healthy for children to get muddy! ... And the rich, engaging sensory play children partake in while playing with mud allows them to express their creativity while enhancing their fine motor skills"

Year 3 and 4 children thoroughly enjoyed practising with the flint and steels in preparation for fire lighting next term. Some enjoyed creating miniature homes for their fairies and elves, at the same time discovering snails, worms, slugs and centipedes!

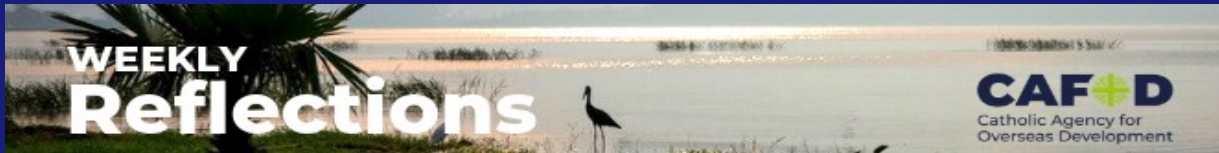
This week an elder tree was cut down to enhance its growth however within minutes some of the children had created a see saw by using their DT skills planning, measuring and negotiating.

With the wonderful colours of autumn, children enjoyed raking and jumping in their huge leaf pile.

Another fantastic week of fun and learning outside with nature at Holy Cross!



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 27 October - Luke 18:9-14

"The man who humbles himself will be exalted"

In this Sunday's gospel, we meet two contrasting individuals, the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee prided himself on being virtuous. He thought he was God and would pray to himself making elaborate prayers and gestures. He boasted of his worthiness, even showing his indifference to the tax collector saying, "I am not like him".

In contrast, the tax collector is humble enough to recognise his need for God's mercy. He beats his breast saying "God, be merciful to me, a sinner". Acknowledging he needs forgiveness; he is restored and goes away at rights with God.

As Christians, we can fall into the trap of thinking that everything is ok, and we don't need God to direct us. We should be cautious of this way, being careful not to do things on our terms. Because we too can very easily become indifferent to God and the world. When this happens, we fail to see the suffering and poverty that is in front of us. The reality of life becomes distorted.

Jesus invites us to follow the example of the humble tax collector. In seeking God's will and recognising his presence in our brothers and sisters we can truly say to those in need, "I am like you!"

Lord, we seek to bless you at all times in our life, for it is only in you we boast. May what is done in your service, Lord, be directly for the glory of your name and the sanctification of your people. Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

During this missionary month, the Lord is also calling you: He is asking you to be a gift wherever you are, just as you are, with everyone around you. Courage The Lord expects great things from you!





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 27th October 2019 - The Thirtieth 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 27th October 2019 (Luke 18:9-14): The Pharisee and the Tax-Collector

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, 'I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.' The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted."



3 Reflect

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

These two figures in today's Gospel are stock characters, sketched with Luke's brilliant wit and sensitivity. The gospels invariably give the Pharisees a bad press: after the destruction of Jerusalem they were the only surviving branch of Judaism and so, for the evangelists, they represent the vigorous opposition of Judaism to Christianity at that time. The Jewish historian, Josephus, paints a sympathetic picture of them, and Matthew's picture of them as the personification of hypocrisy may be a caricature of their scrupulosity concerning the observance of the Law. Jesus played them at their own game in his careful interpretation of scripture, presenting them with a rich and profound understanding of God's Word. The question must be asked: was Jesus a Pharisee too? Pre-occupation with exact observance of rules can often appear to outsiders as hypocrisy. In Jesus' time a tax-collector was the epitome of malpractice and the abandonment of all decent standards: he worked for the hated Roman occupying power; he had to make his own living by extorting excessive tax. So this parable is one more example of Jesus' reversal of expected values, and his outreach to those generally despised: to the woman notorious in the city as a sinner, to the woman taken in adultery, to Zacchaeus and to the 'good thief'. It beautifully fulfils the first reading, demonstrating that the prayer of the humble 'pierces the clouds'.

Take some moments to reflect on these words from the Gospel: "God be merciful to me, a sinner". Through these words, what is God saying to you?

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 27th October 2019



First Reading: *The Prayer of the Humble*

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 35:12-14. 16-19

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man; he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds; until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The Book of Sirach was translated into Greek by the grandson of the author. The grandfather wrote in Hebrew. He was a wise, witty and sometimes cynical teacher in Jerusalem, who gathered and built on the pithy sayings of the sages. The first part of this reading, about the widow's persistent appeal to the Lord, may well be the basis of last Sunday's parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. Did Jesus build his parable on this piece of wisdom of the ancients, or did Luke use the Book of Sirach to expand Jesus' teaching? So also the second part of the reading, which prepares us for today's parable of contrasting suppliants (proud and humble) in the Temple: did Jesus build on the ancients or did Luke? Jesus certainly heard and learnt from the holy books of Judaism. Whether Jesus directly used Sirach or not, the message of the two parts of this reading is clear in the phrase which joins them together: whoever whole-heartedly serves God will be accepted. There is no pretending in prayer. As a wise old priest once said to me, 'In prayer you can stop pretending to be Queen Victoria or a poached egg.'

What does this reading from Sirach have to teach us about prayer? What is the best short prayer you know?

Second Reading: *Paul's Farewell*

2 Timothy 4:6-8. 16-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the last Sunday reading from the 'Pastoral Letters', addressed to Paul's assistants, Timothy and Titus. Fittingly, it is a summing-up and defence of his mission, according to the literary conventions of the time. We do not know where the trial he mentions took place, nor the eventual outcome, though the tradition holds strong that he was martyred in Rome (and his severed head bounced three times, giving rise to three fountains, the famous 'Tre Fontane' in Rome). In his letters Paul several times mentions imprisonment, but nowhere a formal trial; so we can only guess. Did he set out on further journeys, even to Spain, after his confinement in Rome? We do not know. The sporting images of the 'good fight' and the 'race' are typical of Paul, and also the image of a libation, the first few drops from a cup of wine, offered in homage to a divinity. But most of all we are reminded that Paul had long yearned for death and to be fully united to his Lord and ours: 'Life to me, of course, is Christ, and death would be a positive gain' (Philippians 1:21), but he remained fully aware of the Lord's call to provide energetic guidance in the early Church.

Can you make any of Paul's self-defence your own?

“Be fully united to the Lord.”

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... James Jeffrey, Olivia Mardyla, Eloise De-Souza, Dominik Sterbak, Oliver Wuzik, Harrison Comerford, Evilija Kucinskaite, Liam Canavan, Mya Matunge, Christopher Annobil, Shauden Sesay, Oliwier Slawikowski



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **1S**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with a fantastic **100%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award is **3N**, who also attained an amazing **100%** attendance this week.

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

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school. 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	94%
R L	85%
1D	97%
1S	100%
2HD	93%
2TE	99%
3N	100%
3P	85%
4A	95%
4C	98%
5G	94%
5S	95%
6E	92%
6N	95%

Diary Dates

Week 2 New Menu

Monday 4th November

Be Still Club lunchtime
6E Swimming
KS2 Homework 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Spanish 3.15 - 4.15

Tuesday 5th November

Sponsored Spelling Bee
Choir 3.15 - 4.20
Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30
KS1 Cosmic Yoga / Just Dance 3.15 - 4.00
KS2 Code 3.15 - 4.30
KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 - 4.15

Wednesday 6th November

Individual Photos
KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15
KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15
Karate 3.15 - 4.15
New Reception Open Evening 6.00

Thursday 7th November

Choir 3.15 - 4.20
KS2 Chess 3.15 - 4.15
KS1 Dodgeball 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Drama 3.15 - 4.15

Friday 8th November

Year 1 Museum Trip
Assembly 2.40
Karate 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

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

Seew Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher