

22nd November 2019



Newsletter



Dear Parents



We are celebrating a Family Mass this Sunday, at 11.00 am in Holy Cross Church. This is the Feast of Christ The King and is also Youth Sunday so please make every effort to attend and show your support for our parish. We are also asking for donations of cakes for the refreshments afterwards, if you can help in this way please bring them along to church in the morning. Thank

Adventure Playground

You will remember that our Governors spent the day in school last week. They mentioned to me that they observed a number of children using the adventure playground at the end of the day and also some parents playing with their children on the adventure playground.

Can I please remind you that the adventure playground is strictly off bounds both before and after school. Please do not encourage your child to use this facility as it will encourage other children who will play unsupervised. Thank you.

Colchester Castle

Our Year 3 children are visiting Colchester Castle today. We look forward to hearing their news on their return.

Friends of Holy Cross (PTA) AGM

Thank you to parents who attended this meeting yesterday and thank you to the children who stayed behind to demonstrate the ICT equipment that we have been able to purchase with the funds that you have raised.

We are all members of the Friends of Holy Cross and it is vital that every family support the Friends in whichever way possible. You may be able to offer a small amount of time but nevertheless this is time which is needed. The more parents that help and get involved, the more events can be organised for our children to enjoy and the more funds can be raised to support their learning.

During our meeting we elected the following:

Chair: Claire Faulkner, Giovanna Marsham and Nikola Norris

Finance: Karen Slater and Claire Laporte

Secretary: Gifty De-Souza and Corinne White

Thank you to these parents and members of staff for standing for these positions.

St Andrew's Cake Sale

St Andrew's cake sale will be held on Friday 29th November. If your child is in St Andrew's house please send them in with cakes to be sold that day. A maximum of 3 cakes can be purchased for 30p each. All money raised will go to our twin parish of Regina Coeli. As this is a fundraising event no change will be given from money sent in.

Election 2019

We have been made aware that our local Labour Party candidate spent time with parents and children after school this week. We as a school, remain neutral over such matters but have decided to now allow the Conservative and Liberal Democrat candidates an opportunity to meet with parents and children. It is so important that our children (particularly our older children) are aware of the importance of the election and it is also part of our British Values curriculum; as such, our School Council will be given opportunities to debate issues around the election. We will of course inform you when these visits will take place.

Staff sickness

We have experienced significant staff sickness this week which has resulted in support staff and supply staff providing cover at short notice. Thank you to everyone for coping so well and pulling together in what has been a difficult week. It is unfortunate that sometimes a bug can run rampant in a school and we hope that those affected will soon return to full health.

Year 4 Football Tournament

14 girls from Year 4 attended a football tournament this morning at Church Langley School. All the girls played so well against six other schools and showed great skills and plenty of enthusiasm. They all had great fun and were a credit to our school. Well done girls!



Gospel Values Awards

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

1D: Martyna Gulka	1S: Rohan Clennell
2HD: Dominica Nguyen	2TE: Mara Ciotoi
3N: Lilly Bergamini	3P: Isaac Lieu
5G: Molly O'Donovan	5S: Harrison Comerford
6E: Roquiyah Adams	



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **Butterflies**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with a 98%. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award is **5S**, who attained a fantastic 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.

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

R B	98%
R L	92%
1D	96%
1S	90%
2HD	89%
2TE	92%
3N	98%
3P	97%
4A	98%
4C	96%
5G	95%
5S	99%
6E	95%
6N	90%



Suggested Apps and Games For EARLY YEARS



Learning



FISH SCHOOL HD

This app teaches young children (age 2-5) about important things like letters, shapes, numbers and more, all set in a colourful underwater setting with adorable sea creatures. The basic idea has fish and sea creatures forming the shapes of letters, numbers etc that your little one can identify. Developers Duck Duck Moose have a lineage of creating family friendly apps and games with 21 top-selling apps since 2008. Fish School HD has over 50,000 downloads and offers a rounded package of activities, but many other apps by this developer are highly rated and offer a few twists on the formula. As always it's worth checking a few out to see which best suits your child's interests. Fish School HD is available for free on iOS and Android.



GREEN EGGS AND HAM - DR. SEUSS

The classic Dr. Seuss book has been reworked into an interactive adventure for modern day devices, with an emphasis on encouraging literacy learning in younger children. Within the app, there's a few different options on how to enjoy the story; you can read it aloud together, have the app read the book and follow along, or just play the story through automatically. You can even tap on words to hear them individually to practice vocabulary. While the app will set you back £3.79 on Android (£3.99 on iOS) it has an excellent rating and over 10,000 downloads, with many noting how much their young children have enjoyed the story. It speaks volumes about the quality of the work, too, that a book from 1960 can still be read and loved by children some two generations after its initial release.



TOCHA LAB: ELEMENTS

Tocha Lab is the app of choice in encouraging little scientists to get to grips with elements, our world and how physics and chemistry work. This one might be a little advanced for younger kids and, though it has a PEGI 3 rating, it does recommend ages 6-8 in the description. All 118 elements are present in Tocha Labs and kids are encouraged to find and test them all. Experimenting with things like Gold, Neon, Hydrogen and more, it gives a better grasp of how everything in our universe is formed. Bear in mind though that it's not meant to be a scientifically accurate account of how elements react, but to build curiosity in young minds. The app is available on iOS and Android for £3.99.



BAREFOOT WORLD ATLAS

What's the next best thing to travelling the world? Well, for kids with access to an iPad or Apple phone, Barefoot World Atlas could be a close second. In this app available only on iOS for £4.99, kids and adults can explore the globe from the comfort of their own homes and learn all about our planet. The app, which is rated 4+, only appears on Apple devices but the sheer amount of information contained in here will keep curious kids busy for hours on end.



SKETCHBOOK - DRAW AND PAINT (AUTODESK SKETCHBOOK ON IOS)

Encouraging artistic ability at an early age can often be invaluable in letting kid's imaginations loose and there are many apps that allow them to unlock that passion. SketchBook comes highly recommended with over 300,000 reviews. Essentially, the app comprises a blank canvas and a host of 'fast and powerful creative sketching tools' like pens, pencils and paint brushes to let those creative juices flow. SketchBook is rated PEGI 3 so even younger children should be able to get to grips with it. However, it could prove a little too complex for some and the large collection of tools and crisp graphics would suit a larger screen like an iPad, over a mobile phone. Despite this, the ability to simply mess around and doodle, coupled with more advanced accessibility later down the line, should make it a must own for all age ranges. The app is free to download on both Android and iOS.



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Just for Fun



LITTLE FRIENDS: CATS & DOGS

If you're looking to introduce pets into the family home but aren't sure about how your children might react, a good way to get your younger ones acquainted with an animal before a big commitment is a game like Little Friends: Cats & Dogs. This Nintendo Switch game tasks players with feeding, playing with and loving their own virtual cat or dog. Much like Nintendogs or even Tamagotchi of the 90s, Little Friends is a fun way to build up confidence to owning a real animal. While only a 1 player game, Little Friends: Cats & Dogs is suitable for all ages and entirely offline, so there's nothing at all to worry about when they're enjoying it alone.



YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids takes the popular YouTube format and curates a more specialised environment for children to search through. While any age range can benefit from YouTube Kids, the 'Preschool' Mode is specifically designed for kids aged 4 and under. According to the app's description, 'Preschool' Mode promotes creativity, playfulness, learning and exploration through its channels. The inclusion of parental controls (limited screen-time, video blocking and flagging) and strict advert monitoring by YouTube means the experience is incredibly safe for younger kids. It should be noted that in the app description, YouTube says that some inappropriate content can slip through the cracks, but they're constantly implementing updates to stop these. A hugely popular app, YouTube Kids is available on iOS and Android with well over 100 million downloads.



BBC iPLAYER KIDS

This app is designed for kids and lets them watch all their favourite CBBC and CBeebies shows in one place. The simple presentation is super easy to navigate and the app itself is entirely free on both Android and iOS with no adverts whatsoever. BBC iPlayer Kids can download shows to your device's internal storage allowing you to take all the best bits with you when there's no WiFi and multiple profiles mean everybody gets straight to their favourites with minimal fuss. According to the app description, it will ask for your child's name and age to recommend other programmes it thinks they might like.



MARIO KART 8 DELUXE

Mario Kart has been a staple of Nintendo consoles since 1992. It has been a favourite of young and old alike for over 20 years and is always an incredibly fun experience. Now exclusively on the Nintendo Switch with Mario Kart 8, the bells and whistles may have changed, but the enjoyable core gameplay and challenge have not. Suitable for all ages, Mario Kart can be played alone, online or at home with up to 4 players on one screen. The ability to take the Switch out with you into the world and play wherever you like is a huge advantage over other games and means you can always be sure of some quick entertainment.



ROCKET LEAGUE

The concept behind Rocket League takes teams of jet-fuelled cars zipping around football-inspired pitches in an attempt to knock a giant, over-sized ball into nets. Rated PEGI 3, the challenge of Rocket League is probably more suited to those 5 and up, but anybody can enjoy the bright colours and fun gameplay. Rocket League is available on Windows PC, Mac, PlayStation, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch at various price points. Be warned though, you can spend money in the game for certain items so be sure you know when your young ones are playing and what they're buying.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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Suggested Apps and Games For 7-11 YEARS



Learning



MAGIC PIANO BY SMILE

While Magic Piano doesn't strictly teach you how to play the piano, it does teach hand-eye coordination and can help spark creativity in young minds. Users can play along to a variety of popular songs on a range of difficulty levels in an attempt to get through the song with as few mistakes as possible, increasing dexterity and reaction times. Free on iOS & Android, the game does contain some ads and in-app purchases, so be sure to check these out before letting younger players unleash their musical side. Magic Piano is PEGI 3 rated but requires slightly more nimble hands to master so older kids will get the most from this.



AZOOMIE

Azoomie houses over 1,000 games, videos and activities for kids of all ages to play, have fun and most importantly, develop their key skills in. The app is award winning, BAFTA nominated, supported by the NSPCC (according to the description on their app page) and comes with a suite of parental controls built in. As well as educational games, activities and kid's favourite TV shows, the app also has a built-in chat feature where they can talk to their friends safely. A nice little touch is that if you buy a subscription to Azoomie for unlimited premium content for £4.99 a month, a portion of the money raised goes towards supporting the NSPCC. The app is available on iOS, Android and Amazon.



POLY BRIDGE

While Poly Bridge could be easily enjoyed solely as a game, it's actually an incredibly clever way to learn critical thinking and engineering skills in a kid friendly way. It's set in a colourful, cartoony world and has extremely simple gameplay. In Poly Bridge, it's your task to get cars, buses, trucks, boats and more safely to their destination by designing bridges that are safe and practical. How those bridges are created is entirely up to you. With over 100 levels, a sandbox mode and almost infinite playability, Poly Bridge is available on PC, Android, iOS and Nintendo Switch at various price points, so be sure to check which is the best option for you.



CROSSWORD PUZZLES (WUBU APPS LTD)

Crossword puzzles might not immediately seem like a learning game for younger kids, but they're incredibly effective at building strong word skills and problem solving. This one by Wubu Apps Limited is exclusive to iOS and constantly changes its roster of daily crosswords and challenges, although there are a whole bunch of apps available out there which do similar things. The app is rated 4+ but would likely be suited to kids a little older as the crosswords are designed for adults as well. As mentioned, Crossword Puzzles is only available on iOS devices and is free to download but does contain in-app purchases.



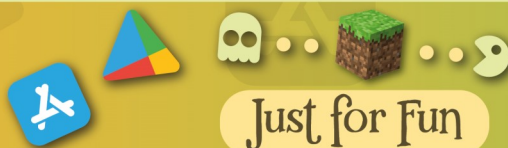
SCRIBBLENAUTS UNLIMITED

Scribblenauts is a game like few others in that it actively encourages children to use their intuition to solve a variety of puzzles. Armed only with their imagination, players must complete levels by conjuring potentially useful items for main character Maxwell to collect the Starites and achieve his goal. The game helps create strong vocabulary and word association to a fun 2D backdrop. While any version of Scribblenauts is good, Unlimited is the most readily available, being released on Wii U, PC, Nintendo 3DS, iOS and Android devices, PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch.



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SUPER MARIO ODYSSEY

Widely regarded as one of the greatest games Nintendo have ever made, Super Mario Odyssey provides family friendly fun and a challenging environment for kids to learn new skills in a video game. Rated PEGI 7, Odyssey can be enjoyed by almost any age range, even those who are young at heart. The caveat is that the game is only available on Nintendo Switch, so some investment will need to be made, but the console boasts a host of other child-safe titles and the ability to play on the go as well as at home.



NETFLIX

As obvious as it may sound, Netflix's children's section is ideal for keeping young ones and toddlers out of trouble on long journeys or at home. The specific profile for kids allows them to only view content appropriate for younger audiences which lets you and them watch their favourite shows and movies anywhere, at any time. Curated playlists, easy navigation through TV series and movies, and no-hassle auto-play means a stress-free guarantee. The only downside to the app is that it requires a Netflix subscription in order to use it but if you're happy to pay the monthly cost, it's an absolute must for any parent.



MINECRAFT

Minecraft is one of those rare, timeless classics that can be enjoyed by every age group. Coming in both a console version and a pocket edition for mobile devices, the sandbox world-building fun in Minecraft can be an amazing place to let your imagination run wild. The game can be played online with friends and supports cross-play, meaning that no matter what device everybody has, it can be played together. While the game isn't free, it will undoubtedly provide hours and hours of fun for the whole family so it's worth the investment of a one-time purchase. As one of the most popular games ever released, it inspires critical thinking, problem solving and above all, fun.



LEGO MOVIE MAKER 2

The LEGO Movie Maker 2 app lets users create their own stop-motion movies and upload them for others to watch online. Kids can create a short LEGO movie in whatever genre they like using a range of easy to use tools and are able to add in sounds and visual effects to make the videos look super realistic. All movies are moderated before they make it online so you can be sure no sensitive information is uploaded or viewed by third parties. The app is free to download on both iOS and Android devices but does require creation of a LEGO account to upload videos. The only information needed for an account is the country you live in, your email address and date of birth. While it's rated for 4+, kids of 8 and up will get the most out of this one.

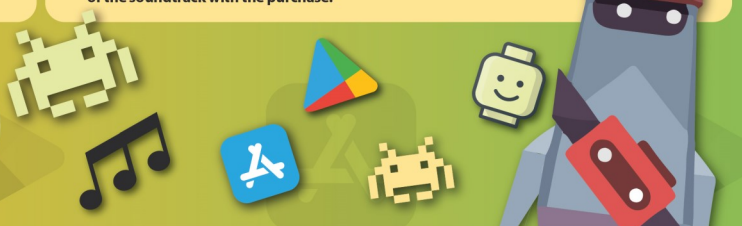


ADVENTURES OF POCO ECO: LOST SOUNDS

If something more slow-paced and chilled out is on your radar, Adventures of Poco Eco should be able to scratch that itch. With an emphasis on creating a rich and inviting musical soundscape over hardcore gameplay, the puzzle action is perfect for unwinding young minds, as opposed to challenging them. The single-player game is available on all iOS and Android devices, as well as the Amazon Kindle Store and you can also nab yourself a free copy of the soundtrack with the purchase.

Meet our expert

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Suggested Apps and Games For 11-14 YEARS



Learning

EVERNOTE



If keeping track of things like homework, links, images or basically anything is an issue, then Evernote could be your new best friend. While not strictly a learning app, Evernote does make organising learning so much easier. Used by both professionals and students, this app helps facilitate keeping on top of executive functioning skills, with online planners and notebooks made available across all your devices and computers. With over 1.5 million downloads, Evernote is one of the most popular organisational apps in the world, and is free to download on iOS, Android and the Amazon Store.



DRAGONBOX

DragonBox isn't one singular app, but a series of educational and learning games designed to teach the fundamentals of Mathematics. There are 5 apps in total for learning Algebra, Geometry, Numbers, Big Numbers and Elements. Each app contains a number of mini-games to get kids thinking about getting a head start on the daunting numerical subject, backed by bright and charming visuals. Each app comes in at between £3.99 and £5.99 on iOS and Android making it one of the more pricier investments. However, once you've paid the upfront cost, the entire app is unlocked and free to explore. It should also be pointed out that because most of the DragonBox collection is recommended for children between 6 and 12 year's old, older kids with a decent grasp on Maths might find this a little beneath their skill level.

NSF SCIENCE ZONE



Apps about our world don't come much more official than being created by the National Science Foundation, which is exactly where NSF Science Zone comes in. Featuring a wide array of videos and high-resolution pictures focusing on everything from the far reaches of space to the microscopic organisms that inhabit our planet and everything in between, this is perfect for anybody curious about nature and the world. The app is 100% free on iOS and Android and would be perfect as a visual encyclopedia for anybody doing any science related study. All the information on the Science Zone app has been provided by scientists and universities around the globe so you can be confident of it being the highest possible standard to teach your young ones.



GUITAR COACH CHORDS TUNER TABS

Learning instruments like the guitar has never been simpler thanks to all the modern technology at our fingertips. Learning visually can often be the difference between giving up and persevering to acquire a truly sought-after skill. HD videos, animated fretboards, chord diagrams and more make this app a one stop shop for getting to grips with the basics. Guitar Coach Chords Tuner Tabs is available for a free trial or monthly subscription for unlimited access on both iOS and Android, essentially acting as a pocket tutor for the stringed instrument. If time and money are a factor in taking the plunge into learning guitar, it makes sense that an app like this can help start you on the right path.

DUOLINGO



What's better than mastering one language? Mastering all the languages! DuoLingo is world renowned for being able to teach anybody a new language with its fun and easy to use app. Ideal for kids picking up a second language at school, DuoLingo offers a variety of languages including French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian, Irish and more, all for free. You simply choose which language you want to learn, what kind of commitment you can give per day and away you go. The best part about DuoLingo is that it is completely free to download and use and will even send you helpful notification reminders when it's time to learn some new words and phrases. It should be pointed out that there are some in-app purchases, but they're strictly optional and transparent throughout, so no sneaky accidental payments can be made.



Just for Fun

TERRARIA



Much like Minecraft, Terraria has a focus on building and creating anything kids can put their imagination to. Whether they're digging into the earth to seek out treasures, or creating their own kingdoms out of stone, however your young ones like to play, there's guaranteed to be something to keep them busy for hours on end. There are a couple of slight caveats with Terraria though. As the game is so big, it does require more modern (2014 or up) devices to play on. There's also the cost which stands at £4.59 on Android and £4.99 on iOS devices. Arguably though, the game is worth its weight in gold when it comes to creating an engaging world to lose yourself in. It even has multiplayer for up to 7 friends over local wi-fi or online. If that doesn't seal it, nothing will!

THE ROOM THREE



The Room games are all about critical thinking and puzzle solving, offset by a rich atmosphere that has been prevalent throughout the series. The Room Three is the latest in the mobile favourite apps and offers up a uniquely challenging experience for those wishing to flex their logical muscles. The BAFTA award winning series hits its peak with the third entry feeling more like a full-blown adventure game than a mere mobile app. The Room Three is available on iOS and Android for £3.99 and would be well suited to older kids looking for a more challenging game. Be aware though that while the rating is PEGI 7, younger audiences might find the eerie themes a little unsettling. If this sounds like something you or a loved one might enjoy, the whole series of Room games offer much the same experience so there's plenty to get stuck into.

THOMAS WAS ALONE



Thomas is a curious triangle. His curiosity is satisfied simply by exploring his intriguing world and tackling the 100 award winning levels of puzzle solving, head on. Kids can guide Thomas around his world by jumping, and making friends, while the BAFTA award winning game also comes with an enchanting story narrated by comedian and writer Danny Wallace. Perhaps the best things about Thomas Was Alone are its simple control scheme allowing it to be picked up and played by almost anybody, and the fact that it's available on a wide variety of consoles and devices including iOS, Android, PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch. Prices vary though, so be sure to check it out on your preferred medium.

THE SIMS FREEPLAY



Create your Sim and help them live their life the way you want in The Sims FreePlay. Based on the wildly popular games, this mobile version brings all the fun of The Sims into the palm of your hands, while losing none of the charm of the originals. As anybody who's ever played a Sims game will tell you, hours melt into minutes once you start playing this lifestyle simulator and with good reason - it's incredibly addictive fun. While the game is, as the name suggests, free to play on iOS, Android and Amazon, please be aware that in-app purchases can be made of up to £99.99 so it's essential you keep an eye on whoever is playing and set strict boundaries if necessary. Over 10 million downloads of this game can't be wrong though - The Sims is back, and it's better than ever.

HEADS UP!



Heads Up! is an incredibly fun game that the whole family can play together. The basic premise is that one person holds the phone to their forehead with a character, place, object, etc on screen and tries to guess it from the clues the rest of the players give them. There's a whole host of categories to choose from so it never gets dull and there's even the option to record the other players trying to give clues, so you can watch it back later for more laughs. Rated PEGI 3, it's suitable for pretty much everyone but can really help hone quick thinking and reaction times in more developed kids. The game comes in at 99p on iOS and free on Android devices but does offer in-app purchases from between 58p and £9.49 per item for things like extra categories.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 24th November 2019 - Christ the King

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 24th November 2019 The King of Forgiveness (Luke 23:35-43)

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

3 Reflect

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

The crucifixion scene in Luke, as in all the gospels, is the climax of the story of Jesus. Emphasis is placed on the role of Jesus as King. The soldiers mock him as such, but the Gospel's use of irony ensures that we understand that they are saying more than they realise. Jesus is also ridiculed as Saviour ('Save yourself and us as well!'): especially in Luke (from the Infancy Stories onwards) Jesus is presented as the true Saviour – who is God. In Luke the crucifixion scene is primarily a scene of forgiveness, where Jesus carries on to the very end his work of forgiveness, which Luke has underlined throughout his Gospel. The scene begins with the women of Jerusalem mourning for Jesus, and ends with all the spectators departing, beating their breasts, recognizing their universal guilt. Jesus spontaneously forgives his executioners, asking God's forgiveness for them before they even ask it for themselves. He welcomes into his kingdom of Paradise the bandit who spontaneously acknowledges his wrongdoing. Here we see the culmination of all those scenes throughout Luke's Gospel where values are reversed: the King presented as a wretched figure dying on the Cross, to whom homage is paid not by dignified courtiers, but by another wretched figure dying by his side.

What sort of person should a citizen of the kingdom of forgiveness be?

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 24th November 2019



First Reading: *David Anointed King*

2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look', they said, 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king of Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

David is a fascinating character. As a leader he had a charm and charisma which were irresistible. There is no doubt that he was ambitious. When the women sang, 'Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands,' it was music to his ears. The king's son fell in love with him and gave him his own prince's gear. The king's daughter fell in love with him, and he accepted her as a good dynastic marriage; but he never had children by her, though he was not lacking in sexual drive (Bathsheba was to come later). He set up a protection racket in Judah and so, having won the loyalty of the tribal leaders there, they first anointed him king of Judah at Hebron, the southern tribal capital. Finally, after Saul's death, the elders of the northern tribes (known collectively as Israel) came to anoint him king as well, to reign over the whole country. Nevertheless, David also took the first steps to setting up the Temple cult, and was ever after remembered for that. It was to David that the promises of God's eternal monarchy were given which were to be fulfilled in Jesus. These promises echo down and down the scriptures; they were the basis of all Israel's hope.

What do you consider leadership-qualities before God?

Second Reading: *The Kingdom of Forgiveness*

Colossians 1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Way back in July, on the fourteenth Ordinary Sunday of the Year, we heard all but the first part of this reading which celebrates the unrivalled position of Jesus as first-born not only in the order of creation, but also in the resurrection. In the order of creation, Christ is the image of the unseen God, the model or template on which God created the world, the Wisdom of God, so he is the first-born and yet himself uncreated. In the order of the resurrection also he is the first-born, bringing all things to perfection, and so he is the crown of creation. In today's reading, before we hear about Jesus as the first-born, we have a significant preface. Paul is writing, with a slight air of surprise, to the gentiles: the gentiles too are enabled to enter into the inheritance, to join Christ in the kingdom promised to David and fulfilled in Jesus. As this year's gospel readings have taught us again and again, it is not a kingdom that we can earn. What we need to do is to submit ourselves for forgiveness. Not all that easy, perhaps! Put it the other way round: what we need to do is stop pretending to others and ourselves that we are perfect.

What attitude in myself is the most frequent cause of my falling?

“ Jesus is the Crown of Creation. ”

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

Year of the God who Speaks



The Scriptures in Advent Fr Nicholas King SJ

In this second study day of our celebration of the Year of the Word Fr Nicholas King SJ, world-famous as a Bible translator and lecturer on the Bible, will help us explore the Scriptures we will meet in the Liturgy in Advent.

- 10.30 a.m. Reception and Coffee (Hall)
- 11.00 a.m. The Scriptures in Advent: part one
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch hour
- 1.30 p.m. The Scriptures in Advent: part two
- 3 p.m. Conclusion

Saturday 23rd November 2019

10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

**Christ the Eternal High Priest Church
410 Brentwood Road Gidea Park RM2 6DH**

Admission free. Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com or by phone to 01708 449914. Light refreshments provided. Please bring your own lunch on study days. Local eateries available. Easy access by road from the M25 and Gallows Corner. Ample free parking at the church. Three minutes' walk from Gidea Park station. Easy connections by TfL to Stratford, Liverpool Street, Brentwood and Shenfield. Check Greater Anglia website for service alterations.

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 24 November – Luke 23:35-43

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Prior to this passage, Jesus has just forgiven those who crucified him as not knowing what they were doing. In this reading, the mockery intensifies from both the Jewish authorities and the soldiers, with particular emphasis on what they see as the ridiculous kingship of Christ.

The two men who are being crucified with Jesus on Calvary hear all this. While one berates Jesus, looking for the miracle that will end his own suffering, the other speaks words of repentance and sorrow for his crime and for Jesus' suffering. He recognises that Jesus is innocent of any crime.

It is amazing how God gives people courage and wisdom in the most unexpected moments. The man's defence of Jesus means he is promised eternal life.

In this gospel, Luke shows us a Christ who is forgiving even to his dying breath. Like the criminal crucified next to Jesus, we are asked to open our hearts to those in distress, to those suffering in mind and body and to be generous in spirit and action. Because the Christ we have to follow is full of forgiveness, compassion and gives us also the promise, "Today you will be with me in paradise".

We pray for prisoners, those held for their beliefs as well as those imprisoned for their crimes. We also ask for your blessing, O God, on those who are mocked and who feel threatened in any way. May we be a listening ear, a comforting presence and a giver of hope to all whom we encounter daily. Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

Try to keep quiet a moment and let God love you. Try to silence all the inner voices, and rest for a second in His loving embrace.



Happy Birthday to... Ka'reem Mafueni, Samuel Enwere,
Lilly Bergamini, Xavier White, Lola McGhee



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Victoria Banjo, for her fantastic work on 3D shapes
 1S: Toby Marsh-Gray, for being a very helpful member of the class
 2HD: Logan Coombe, for writing an incredible dragon story
 2TE: All of 2TE, for a fantastic class assembly
 3N: Alex Embley, for writing an amazing character portrait
 5G: Erasmus Agyepong, for always making valuable contributions to class discussions
 5S: Evie Hannay-Spalding, for beautiful descriptive writing using similes
 6E: Marleaha Hackett, for thoughtful work in R.E.

House Points

Congratulations to the
winning houses **St George**
& **St Patrick**

Diary Dates

Menu Week 2

<u>Monday 25th November</u>	<u>Tuesday 26th November</u>	<u>Wednesday 27th November</u>	<u>Thursday 28th November</u>	<u>Friday 29th November</u>
Year 3 Flu Immunisations	Choir 3.15 - 4.20	KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15	Year 3 Roman Day	St Andrew's Cake Sale
Be Still Club lunchtime	Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30	KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15	Choir 3.15 - 4.20	5S Class Assembly 2.40
KS2 Homework 3.15 - 4.15	KS1 Cosmic Yoga / Just Dance 3.15 - 4.00	Karate 3.15 - 4.15	KS2 Chess 3.15 - 4.15	Karate 3.15 - 4.15
	KS2 Code 3.15 - 4.30		KS2 Drama 3.15 - 4.15	KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15
	KS2 Dodgeball 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