



13th December 2019



Newsletter

Holy Cross
Catholic Primary Academy



Dear Parents

This has been a very busy but most enjoyable week at school, a week filled with Christmas excitement and Advent anticipation! We hope that you enjoy the following photographs, thank you to everybody who has worked so hard to make this all possible.



Parking

You may have noticed a few new additions to our school along Traceys Road! We hope that they make a difference but we are quite happy to display number plates of cars who do not support this initiative. Thank you to all parents who work with us to alleviate the parking problems, it is a regular agenda item for our Parent Forum and is a concern for us all.

Packed Lunch

Can we please remind all parents that we are strictly a nut free school so please do not pack anything that contains nuts. Also, a reminder that we have a healthy school packed lunch policy so - please, no crisps, chocolate or sweets of any kind.

Can we also remind parents that strictly only fruit or vegetable for morning break. We do allow cheese and crackers in the Snack Shack but that is something we can monitor carefully so please support us with this. Thank you.



Reward Trip

Today 24 children, 2 from each class, visited Harlow Bowl for a reward trip. The children were all recipients of the Gospel Values Award.

Every week a child from each class is nominated for a Gospel Values award and of these 2 from each class are selected to go on a termly trip to reward them for their exemplary behaviour.



Pantomime

We are all very much looking forward to our Pantomime next week. Thank you to Mrs Irtelli and all staff and helpers for supporting us with this. We are sure it will be a great success.

Can I please remind you that packed lunches are to be brought in on the day of your Pantomime trip.

Holy Cross Parish Timetable

Tuesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE 5.30 pm Children's Mass (For All Parishioners) (HX)
7.30 pm Carols, followed by Vigil Mass 8.00 pm (For All Parishioners) (HX)
10.00 pm Carols, followed by Midnight Mass 11.00 pm (Fr. Bernard's Int's) (HX)

Wednesday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY 11.00 am Mass (For All Parishioners) (HX)



Gospel Values Awards

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

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1D: Jemie Kuttin | 1S: Toby Marsh-Gray |
| 2HD: Jeremiasz Seiler | 2TE: Mark Adjaye-Kwofie |
| 3N: Ellice Osei-Flint | 3P: Bree Onwurah |
| 4A: Evilija Kucinskaite | 4C: Isla Kent |
| 5G: Lily Baker | 5S: Marcy Reddin |
| 6E: Olivia Wells | 6N: Steven Stewart-Evans |



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

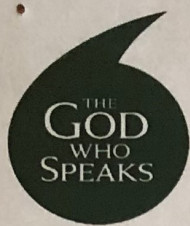
Congratulations to **2TE**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with a 99%. The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Award is **3P** and **6E**, who both attained 99% attendance this week!

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.

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

| | |
|-----|-----|
| R B | 96% |
| R L | 94% |
| 1D | 94% |
| 1S | 97% |
| 2HD | 98% |
| 2TE | 99% |
| 3N | 93% |
| 3P | 99% |
| 4A | 91% |
| 4C | 96% |
| 5G | 96% |
| 5S | 96% |
| 6E | 99% |
| 6N | 95% |



Year of the God who Speaks (2019-2020)

***Events held at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest,
Gidea Park (RM2 6DH)***

Saturday 12th October 10.30 – 3 pm

Beginning with Genesis: Fr Adrian Graffy (Pontifical Biblical Commission)

Saturday 23rd November 10.30 – 3 pm

The Scriptures in Advent: Fr Nicholas King SJ (Campion Hall, Oxford)

Wednesdays 22nd and 29th January at 7 pm

The Gospel of Matthew: Fr Adrian Graffy

Saturday 29th February 10.30 - 3 pm

John among the gospels: Fr Victor Darlington (St John's Seminary, Wonersh)

Wednesdays 11th, 18th and 25th March at 7 pm

The Great Johannine Gospels: Fr Adrian Graffy

Saturday May 9th 10.30 – 3 pm

My Passion for the Bible: Dannie Firth (Wednesday Word)
and Esperança Amill-Rocamora (Biblical Association of Catalonia)

Saturday June 20th 10.30 - 3 pm

Why Bother with the Old Testament? Prof Nuria Calduch Benages
(Pontifical Biblical Institute, Pontifical Biblical Commission)

Saturday October 24th 10.30 – 3 pm

The Joy of the Gospel: Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP (Blackfriars, Oxford)

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.

Wednesday 11th December 2019 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



*Celebrating the Year of the Word
with The Wednesday Word.*

*Lectio Divina – prayerfully
preparing for the Sunday Mass.*



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 15th December 2019 - The Third Sunday of 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 15th December 2019 - Miracles of the Messiah (Matthew 11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor, and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

3

Reflect

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

*John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgment, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we hear about in today's first reading. Jesus' understanding was that healing, not punishment, was the task of the Messiah. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physically and spiritually. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them into the kingdom; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating point of speculation as to whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. But he also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do. **John the Baptist did all he could to lead others to God. How, through our actions and attitudes, can we point others to God? How do our lives show that we are preparing for Christ's second coming?***

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 15th December 2019



First Reading: 'The Eyes of the Blind shall be Opened'

Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Like all the other first readings of the Sundays in Advent this year, this passage is from Isaiah and rejoices in coming deliverance. Most of the Book of Isaiah was written in a dark period of Israel's history, under the threat or the reality of defeat, devastation and deportation. In this context, the promises of a Deliverer became all the more important and life-sustaining. The prophet (or prophets, for the Book of Isaiah can hardly be the work of a single person) never wavered in his/their confidence that deliverance was sure. The prophecies prepare for the coming of the Lord, but it is the coming of the Lord God of Israel which they expect. On the one hand, there is not the clarity which appears once Jesus, the Deliverer, has actually come: the prophecies do not make clear in what way or what form God would come to the rescue of his people. Would the promised Redeemer be God himself or a messenger or a herald of the end? Whatever the answer, the prophecies are certain that it is God who would be at work. On the other hand, when Jesus came it was not immediately clear whether he was God, or whether God was at work in Jesus or whether Jesus was the final prophet. This only became clear on reflection in the light of the Spirit that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.'

Is the message of this reading encouraging or threatening?

Second Reading: Waiting for the Lord

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Letter of James is rarely read on a Sunday, indeed only once in this year. Yet it is full of comforting, homely images, like the farmer waiting patiently for the autumn and spring rains, or – less comforting – the Judge waiting at the gates. Whether it was written by James, who was the leader of the Christian community at Jerusalem, is harder to determine. It may be an assemblage of the oral Wisdom teaching of this important Christian leader, written up by a disciple. In any case, the Letter was written at a time when the eschatological fever of expectation had begun to wane, when Christians no longer felt that they were in the final generation of world history, and were prepared to settle down and wait for the coming of the Lord. Indeed, in contrast with Paul's stress on the imminence of the Second Coming, the delay of the Second Coming is for James an incitement to patience. He believes that it will certainly happen, but there is plenty of opportunity beforehand for tolerance, both towards the annoying and tiresome people within the community and towards those persecuting the community from outside.

Think of the most annoying person you know. Does God love him or her?

“There is plenty of opportunity
for tolerance.”

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

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 15 December – Matthew 11:2-11

"The blind see again, and the lame walk, ... and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."

The world today is often filled with bad news. There doesn't always seem to be much cause for hope.

But there are good news stories out there, stories of hope and change. Like that of Nafas Gul, a young woman from rural northern Afghanistan. Although her family expected her to stay at home and cook and clean rather than earn money, Nafas Gul joined a CAFOD-funded woman's group, which makes yoghurt and sells it to local villagers.

Thanks to the group she earns more than double what her family earned from their dairy cow before. She has enough to pay her brother's school fees and to save a little.

"When my father realised that we have good income from selling milk he became very happy, saying I have truly proven that women can work outside the home and contribute to their family's finances."

This Advent let us not lose hope that change is possible. Let us try to do what we can to bring about more good news in our world as we work and pray for those who are in need.

God of all,
you sent your Son to be with us,
and bring good news to those who are poor.
Work through us now, and lead us
to reach out to those who are in need
so that together we may
proclaim the good news in all that we do.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Let us ask the Lord, in this time of Advent, to revive in us faith in Christ who comes to save us, to help us be always faithful to our vocation as missionary disciples.



Happy Birthday to... Jonjo Hanifin-Flynn, Zachary Timbrell, Miles Agyei-Frimpong, Cian Hanifin-Flyn, Alexis Onwurah, Katie Johns



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Ella Stopplecamp, for her fantastic retelling of The Christmas Story
- 1S: All of 1S, for fantastic singing in our Nativity play
- 2HD: Rhea Matunge, for amazing singing in our Carol Services
- 2TE: Mara Ciotoi, for excellent effort in maths
- 3N: Adjoa Kwakye, for settling in really well in our class
- 3P: Maja Owczarz, for working very hard at solving column subtraction questions this week.
- 4A: Gabriel Lesny, for writing an excellent letter to Paul in R.E.
- 4C: Sebastian Darlea, for being a superstar in class in every lesson!
- 5G: Luke Canavan, for the advances he has made in maths this week
- 5S: Aliyah Fraser, for always working hard and showing responsibility and commitment in all that she does
- 6E: Kajus Skauronas, for a great setting description in cini-literacy
- 6N: Braydon Hand, for always being kind and caring

Diary Dates

Menu Week 2

| <u>Monday 16th December</u> | <u>Tuesday 17th December</u> | <u>Wednesday 18th December</u> | <u>Thursday 19th December</u> | <u>Friday 20th December</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| KS1 Panto, packed lunch required | KS2 Panto, packed lunch required | All Children to bring in a packed lunch | School finishes at 1.30pm | Christmas holiday, return to school Monday 6th January 2020 |
| KS2 Christmas lunch and class parties | KS1 Christmas lunch and class parties | | | |
| Rock Steady Concert 2.15pm | Drama Club performance 3.30pm | | | |

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