



10th January 2020



## Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new year and new school term and a belated Happy New Year to you all. We celebrated the Feast of The Epiphany at Mass on Monday afternoon and were reminded that the Wise Men brought gifts to the new born king - but what gifts do we bring? Gifts of tolerance, kindness, care for each other are some of the practical ways that we can live out the Christmas message and carry it with us throughout the coming year. Thank you Year 6 for such a meaningful and thought provoking start to the new term.



Our Cribs will be on display until the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on 2nd February.



### Welcome to new children

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Holy Cross to the following children:

Orihanna Kwey

Ryan Kwey

Nathan Kwey

We hope they will be very happy with us here at Holy Cross

### Fundraising for Regina Coeli

Well done to Martha Edwards and Joseph Robson, who decided to fundraise for our sister parish of Regina Coeli. Through their combined efforts they managed to raise £5.



## Cardinal Nichols



We are made for glory, a lasting and total glory that only God can give. We speak of it as the 'kingdom of God', the 'reign of God'.

As this New Year begins, let us refresh that vision of how we really want life to be.

A happy New Year to all!



## Gospel Values Awards

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

1D: Elliot Thomson

1S: Amalia Lach

2HD: Rhea Matunge

2TE: Ronnie White

3N: Gilda Bosmpem

3P: Luciann Henry

4A: Nina Krasa

4C: Lilly Dundridge

5G: Angel Banjo

5S: Lola Andrews-Clark

6E: Molly Cozens

6N: Lucja Ostrowska



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Congratulations to **Ladybirds** and **1D**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with an amazing **100%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award is **4C**, who attained **99%** attendance this week.

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

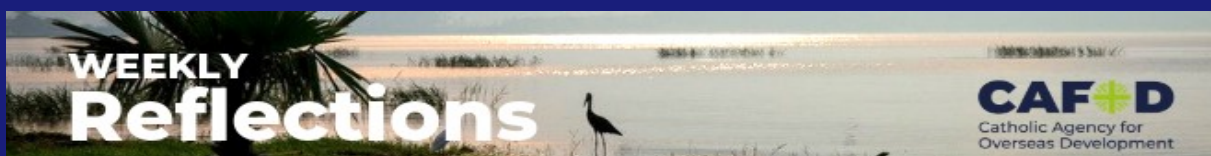
**It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school.**

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

R B	97%
R L	100%
1D	100%
1S	97%
2HD	97%
2TE	96%
3N	97%
3P	97%
4A	95%
4C	99%
5G	94%
5S	93%
6E	97%
6N	95%



# RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 12 January - Matthew 3:13-17

**"This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."**

Jesus comes to the river Jordan to be baptised. At first John the Baptist refuses, he does not feel worthy. But Jesus persuades him that this is what should be done.

How easy it can be to dismiss what God is asking of us. We might think that we cannot possibly be the one that God is calling. And yet, just like John the Baptist we each have a purpose which is ours to fulfil, if only we are willing to say yes.

Through our own baptism, we are given a new start and are called to live our lives as God asks of us.

As we look around us, we can see many things that are not as they should be. Violence and injustice mar God's beautiful world.

So, what is it that God is asking of us today?

Let us listen to his voice and make it our task to live out the promises made at our baptism. Let us open our eyes to see each person as a beloved child of God. And let us find courage in the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who is with us always.

God of light,  
You sent the Spirit down upon your Son so that all might know who he was.  
Send your Spirit on us, so that we might listen to your word and spread your message of love and peace to others.  
Amen.



## The Words of Pope Francis

In worshiping, we too will discover, like the Magi, the meaning of our journey. And like the Magi, we too will experience "a great joy" (Mt 2:10).



## **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 12<sup>th</sup> October 10.30 – 3 pm**

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

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 10.30 – 3 pm**

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

**Wednesdays 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm**

*The Gospel of Matthew:* Fr Adrian Graffy

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 10.30 - 3 pm**

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

**Wednesdays 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm**

*The Great Johannine Gospels:* Fr Adrian Graffy

**Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 3 pm**

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

**Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30 - 3 pm**

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

**Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - The Lord's Baptism

#### 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 12th January 2020 - The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)**

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said, 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

#### 3 Reflect

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

*The account of the baptism of Jesus in Mark, the earliest gospel, is also the simplest. In Mark the Voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus himself, and there is no sign that others heard it; it is an experience of Jesus: 'You are my Son'. In Matthew the Voice is addressed to the bystanders: 'This is my Son'. This makes the private revelation into a public scene, a declaration that Jesus' work is about to begin. In the same way our baptism is a public scene, a declaration that we are committed to Christ in his Church – even if we don't remember it! Matthew also records the little dialogue of John's unwillingness to baptise Jesus. Why should Jesus enter into the community of repentance which John was forming? He was no sinner! However, it was a gesture that Jesus was entering fully into the condition of all humanity. He shared fully in human nature, the nature of a humanity which had fallen even though he himself was sinless. At the outset of his ministry Jesus must reveal the fullness of his humanity, for only so could he redeem the fallen human race. Jesus is not merely passive, for he himself joins with John in making the positive step: 'We must do all that righteousness demands'.*

**A quick review: what difference has baptism made to my life?**

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](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020



## First Reading: *The Servant of the Lord*

### Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7

Thus says the Lord: 'Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.'

*Jesus knew the scripture; it was the only book he would have known. When he heard the Voice from heaven and he experienced the Spirit of God coming upon him, he must immediately have thought of this passage from Isaiah. He was, then, this mysterious Servant of the Lord about whom the scripture spoke. He was to bring Israel back to the Lord. He must have known that the Servant was to endure pain and to reach his fulfilment only through his bitter suffering and death for others. This realisation of his mission as Servant must have been with him throughout his ministry, a dark shadow and a challenge to service. At the same time it was a confirmation of the love of the Father who was 'well pleased' in him. This was to be the model for all Christian suffering. We all know someone – we may even have experienced it ourselves – who has to suffer lovingly and generously in caring for others. The awesome privilege of suffering after the model of the Servant who is Jesus must draw respect and bring comfort to those who serve in this way. It is a proof of God's love for them.*

**How can I tell what God wants from me?**

## Second Reading: *Peter Prepares Cornelius*

### Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise,' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

*St Peter was making this speech at the house of the Roman centurion, Cornelius. Peter himself was still reeling from the shock of being told that foods (like pork) which he had, as a faithful Jew, all his life, considered unclean were perfectly acceptable. Now he is about to welcome into the Church a non-Jew, a gentile! Before he could even finish his speech, the Holy Spirit came down on Cornelius and his household, just as the Spirit had come down on the disciples at Pentecost. All this is the consequence of the coming of the Spirit on Jesus at his baptism. That was when Jesus began his mission, which is so strikingly described here as 'the good news of peace'. Religion, even Christianity, has so often been the cause of strife and quarrelling, rivalry between different Christian churches, rivalry between Christians, Jews, and Muslims. We easily forget that the Spirit of Jesus is the Spirit of peace, openness, welcome. The Spirit of Jesus does not build barriers but dissolves them, does not inflict wounds but heals them, does not push people away but embraces them. Is this the community of Christ which I am trying to build with those around me?*

**Do I put up any barriers; do I exclude anyone from Christ's love?**

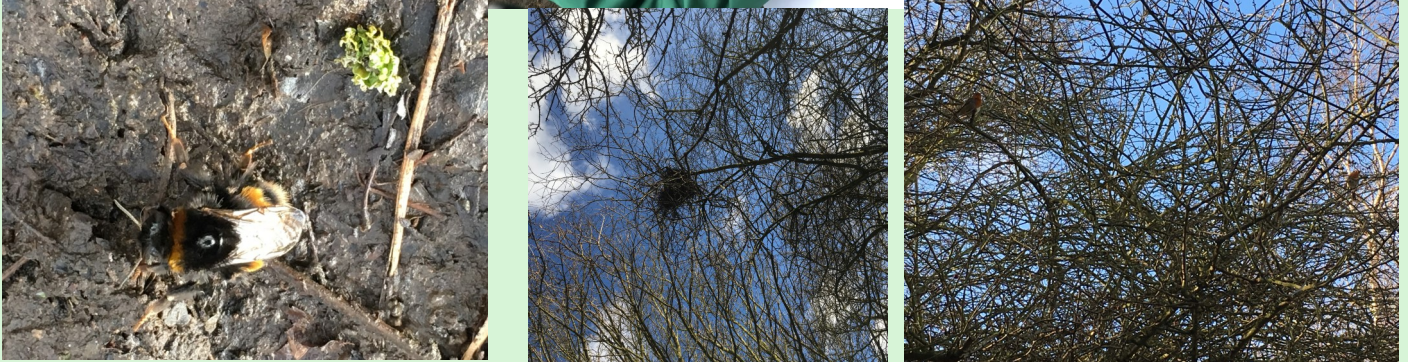
“The Spirit of Jesus is the Spirit of peace, openness, welcome.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*  
w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)



# Forest School

What a wonderful week of sun, wind and fresh air. The children have spent time this week absorbing the sights, smells and sounds of nature. We have observed the wildlife in detail by keeping still and being mindful of our surroundings. They thoroughly enjoyed digging for worms and made wormer's as part of a science experiment they had planned. It was fascinating to see the tame robins hanging around. Some even hid behind the bushes and observed the robins swoop down to take the worms. We spent time looking for nests and observing the birds behaviour. Other sightings this week included squirrels and several unusual insects. As well as the usual forest school activities such as whittling, den building and pond dipping, some children created art work using mud and charcoal from burnt wood.





Happy Birthday to... Chantelle Koranteng, Ollie Walsh, Amy Matthews, Nina Novosiadla, Angel Banjo, Alana Cox, Benjamin Gulka, Medhaj Bachoo, Matian Marti, Ema Maleckaite, Diana Serekaite, Liana Serekaite, Emilia Chapska, Izzy Cobie, Hendrix Morgan, Stevie Ginn, Caitlin Masambique, Ranniel Masambique, Julia Magryta, Jayden Bancroft, Mischa Hyde, Bobbie White



### Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Eliana Owusu-Adu, for her fantastic progress in literacy  
 1S: Stevie Ginn, for a lovely piece of writing using Trigraphs  
 2HD: Miles Agyei-Frimpong, for an excellent attitude towards learning especially in literacy  
 2TE: Nathan Kwey, for settling in so well  
 3N: Lilly Bergamini, for an absolutely starry start to the term  
 3P: Atilla Ozkisa, for working hard in all areas  
 4A: Ryan Kwey, for making a great start in Year 4  
 4C: Luca Sheppard, for amazing multiplication this week!  
 5G: Filip Szymanski, for always trying his very best in all subjects and never giving up  
 5S: Chika Eze, for excellent work in numeracy this week  
 6E: Orhianna Kwey, for making a fantastic start in Year 6  
 6N: Dawid Niedzwiecki, for excellent effort and attitude towards his learning

## Diary Dates

### Menu Week 1

<u>Monday 13th January</u>	<u>Tuesday 14th January</u>	<u>Wednesday 15th January</u>	<u>Thursday 16th January</u>	<u>Friday 17th January</u>
5S Swimming	Choir 3.15 - 4.20	Phonics & Reading Workshop 9.00	Choir 3.15 - 4.20	Karate 3.15 - 4.15
Be Still Club lunchtime	KS2 Homework 3.15-4.15	Newspaper Club lunchtime	Chess Club 12.00 - 12.45	KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15
Year 6 SATs Booster 3.15-4.15	Phonics 3.15 - 4.00	Year 6 SATs Meeting 3.30	Phonics Club 3.15 - 4.00	
	KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 4.15	Karate 3.15 - 4.15	Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30	
	Year 6 SATs Boosters 3.15 - 4.15	KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15	KS1 Cosmic Yoga 3.15 - 4.00	
		KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15	KS1 Dance 3.15 - 4.15	
		Phonics & Reading Workshop 5.00		

### House Points

**Congratulations to the winning house St Andrew**

*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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)

*Steen Kelliher*

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher