



24th January 2020



Newsletter



Dear Parents

Children were reminded in assembly this week that this year has been designated as The Year Of The Word. Pope Francis is urging us to familiarise ourselves with scripture and the Bishops of England and Wales have reinforced this by calling this year : The God Who Speaks.

In school we will be focussing on parables of Jesus in EYFS and Key Stage One, The Gospel of Matthew in Year 3, Mark in Year 4, Luke in Year 5 and the Gospel of John in Year 6. Can we ask that you please reinforce this at home - as we know that many of you already do. Talking about Holy scripture and sharing it will help children to understand its relevance in our lives today.

Caring for our environment

We are noticing an awful lot of rubbish on the playground! Children are being reminded about using the bins provided, but can we ask that you try to limit the amount of packaging that you provide for your child. Also a reminder - strictly only fruit or vegetables at break time please.

Handbags and Tote Bags

Most of us like a nice handbag - I have a few myself! However, they really are not suitable for children to bring to school. Please ensure that your child has a suitable bag for school - we do sell book bags and school rucksacks and these are far more appropriate.

Home/school contact

We hope that everything runs smoothly here at school but from time to time concerns are raised. Can I urge you to always speak to the class teacher first and via the school office. There is a notification sheet available for you to leave a note for your teacher who will contact you at the first available time. Thank you

Holy Cross Parent Choir

Calling all singers! We would like to establish a parent choir to sing at Holy Cross's 60th birthday celebrations.

Any parents interested please contact Mrs Lieu in the office.



Pokemon and Collectable Cards

This is a reminder that Pokemon, Match Attax and other collectable/trading cards are not allowed in school. Please ensure your children are not bringing them in.

Walking Through the Staff Car Park

Parents are not permitted to walk their children through the staff car park. This is for the childrens' safety. This will be monitored and anyone who continues to do so will be spoken to individually.

Gospel Values Awards

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



Butterflies: Liana Serekaite

Ladybirds: Isabella Tyson

1D: Annaliesa Osei-Flint

1S: Dylan Cater

2HD: Sophia-Jai Henry

2TE: Ema Maleckaite

3N: Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba

3CK: Bree Onwurah

4A: Bobbie White

4C: Jessica Wadding

5G: Lukas Semenka

5S: Ishwar Muraleedharan

6E: Max Doyle

6N: Steven Stewart-Evans

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2HD**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with an amazing **100%**, for a second week running! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **3N**, who also attained **99%** attendance this week.

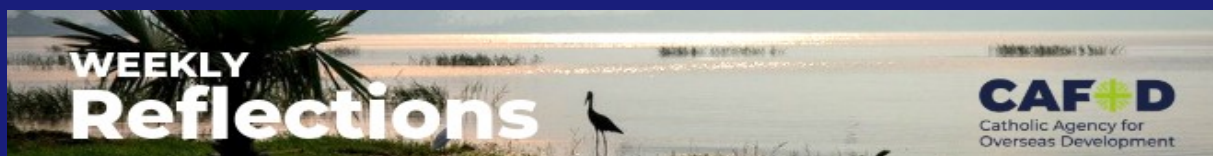
Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

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	99%
1D	97%
1S	96%
2HD	100%
2TE	99%
3N	99%
3CK	97%
4A	94%
4C	97%
5G	98%
5S	96%
6E	97%
6N	97%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 26 January - Matthew 4: 12-23

"From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'"

Jesus had heard of the imprisonment of his great friend, John the Baptist. He returns to Galilee and his ministry begins.

Jesus goes to Capernaum, a busy fishing port where Romans collect taxes, where it's easy to be distracted by worldly values. He takes his message to where the people are. And all this had been predicted in Isaiah. Jesus heard God calling him to his mission on earth. He listened and obeyed.

Jesus knew that his time had come to continue with John's message of repentance, a message to inspire us to remember what is important, remember why we have our very being.

We are here as God's light in a world which can easily be consumed by darkness. We are here to bring hope to those who feel abandoned. We are here as people forgiven, to witness how wonderful God's forgiving, absolving love can be.

And so, let us reflect:

How will I move closer to God? Will I read more of God's word in the Scriptures? Will I spend more time listening prayerfully to God and my neighbours? Will I open my eyes wider to the struggles and pain of those around me?

Dear Lord,
let me hear you calling now.
Let me sense the urgency of heaven being here now.
All I have to do is turn back to your love.
In doing so I pray I may sense anew my mission to bring your peace and hope to our struggling world.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Working together to practice hospitality, especially towards those whose lives are most vulnerable, will make us better human beings, better disciples, and a more united Christian people. #General Audience



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, Womersley)

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 22nd 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 26th January 2020 - The Third 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 Sunday 26th January 2020 - The Call of the first Disciples (Matthew 4:12-23)

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned." From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

3 Reflect

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

This is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Matthew first introduces us to Galilee, characteristically quoting the scriptures to show that they are being fulfilled, and in what way. Galilee is called 'Galilee of the gentiles' only in this passage, and the presence of gentiles was not a particularly notable feature of Galilee. Archaeology shows that Jewish observance was strong in the region. Contemporary literature indicates that there was a lively tradition of prayerful charismatic rabbis with a warm devotion to the Lord. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the imminence of the Kingdom of God, and this will be the subject of all his activity. Then he begins to form the new Israel by calling his team together. The Christian imagination tends to combine this scene with the scene of the Baptist in the Jordan Valley in the Gospel of John, which suggests that at least Peter and Andrew among the disciples had already some knowledge of Jesus. But today's narrative must be heard on its own, and the staggering factor is that this is the first time at any rate the sons of Zebedee have set eyes on Jesus. As he passes by, Jesus calls them, and such is the electrifying power of his charismatic personality that they simply drop everything and follow this total stranger – immediately, as the evangelist stresses each time.

Do I ever follow Jesus' call immediately and unconditionally?

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 26th January 2020



First Reading: *Light in the Land of Darkness*

Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

This prophecy of Isaiah is chosen as the first reading today because in the gospel reading Matthew sees its fulfilment in the healing activity of Jesus in Galilee, the region once allotted to the two northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali. Not long before the total collapse of the Northern Kingdom of Israel their area was invaded and devastated by the mighty power of Assyria. They are therefore given as the archetype of the ruined territory which will be restored to light, joy and rich harvest when God comes to save his people. In fact Galilee has rich soil and wide plains. The Jewish historian at the time of Jesus is lyrical about the abundance and variety of fruit grown there. The prophecy of restoration is expressed in the past tense ('have seen a great light') to emphasize its certainty: it is so sure that it can be described as though it had already happened, a tense known as 'the prophetic past'. The passage of Isaiah goes on, after our reading, to speak of the child to be born, who will bring about this transformation. He will be 'Wonder Counsellor, Prince of Peace'.

What is the most important element which would restore our country to God's service?

Second Reading: *A Divided Community*

1 Corinthians 1:10-13.17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul,' 'I am for Apollos,' 'I am for Cephas,' 'I am for Christ.' Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

It is hardly surprising that the Christians at Corinth were a divided community; there were so many different levels of employment and wealth: financiers, dockers, tent-makers, administrators and many others in that town with its double port, its booming trade, its biennial games and supporting trades. Paul shows us that there were also cliques claiming different personal loyalties. Some claimed to be Paul's own followers. Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria and a notable orator; perhaps he had the intellectual following. Cephas is the Aramaic name for Peter; his following may have been Christians sprung from Judaism who wanted to keep their Jewish practices in food, circumcision and Sabbath-observance. Paul will have none of this party politics, one group hurling slogans at another. They would not even come together as a genuine community at the Eucharist. Paul had baptised people to be not his own followers but followers of Christ. Later in the letter he will explain that Christians must form a single organic body, all working together in harmony, each with a special task and special gifts, but all contributing to the well-being of the whole. This is his basic vision of the Christian body, all living with the one life of Christ.

Are there any echoes of such disunity in your community?

“All working together in harmony...
all living with the one life of Christ.”

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



The weather this week has been so changeable however we've been able to get outside every day! Tuesday was beautiful sunshine so some of the children even enjoyed sunbathing whilst bird watching from our new chill out chair! Some children enjoyed the frosty morning spending time investigating the ice that had formed. They experimented with big sheets of ice, testing how long it took to melt. Because of the damp conditions, lots were in their element finding all different size worms. What has been exciting this week is observing the birds behaviour. The robins in particular, have become very tame watching and waiting for the children to arrive. We have learnt patience whilst enjoying wildlife first hand as the birds swoop down gently to catch the worms. They enjoyed reading books and information sheets about creatures they had spotted. Many small groups this week, worked fantastically in teams building secure dens with roofs for shelter. Each week the dens are changed, modified and improved by different groups of children. They are always so proud of what they have achieved.

We have introduced a new forest school certificate to be awarded to a pupil who has done particularly well each week. The certificate goes to *George Green* this week. Well done George.



Happy Birthday to... William Clark, Edward Guna, Harry Hollinsworth, Isaac Adisa, Taylor-Grace Maycock, Joey Uzuegbunna, Gabriel Lesny



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Dominik Gadomski, for amazing creativity making a clown

Ladybirds: Joshua Puddefoot, for working really hard to write pre cursive letters

1D: Ilinca Branistoreanu, for her fantastic spider web printing in Art

1S: Amelia Lach, for excellent printing of a spiders web in Art

2HD: Nathaniel Adeoye, for writing an amazing description of 'Grandpa's Garden'

2TE: Helith Alkegamage, for excellent understanding of division

3N: Lehna Ajong, for always giving her best—a pleasure to teach

3CK: Shauden Sesay, for showing an interest in lessons and trying his best

4A: Parvataa Muraleedharan, for working hard in all aspects of the curriculum

4C: Nikodem Smaglo, for creating a super collage

5G: Jayden Amorim, for always making valuable contributions to our class discussions

5S: Kobe Edochiem-Nnanyelugo, for his hard work and enthusiastic attitude in Numeracy

6E: Gene White, for a fantastic letter as an evacuee in Literacy

6N: Mario Olaru, for working hard in our WW2 topic and contributing in class discussions well

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Andrew

Diary Dates

Menu Week 3

Monday 27th January

5S Swimming

Be Still Club lunchtime

Year 6 SATs Booster 3.15-4.15

Tuesday 28th January

4C Library Visit

4A Library Visit

Choir 3.15 - 4.20

KS2 Homework 3.15-4.15

Phonics 3.15 - 4.00

KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 4.15

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3.15 - 4.15

Wednesday 29th January

Year 2 Family Lunch 12.00

Newspaper Club lunchtime

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 30th January

5G Library Visit

5S Library Visit

Chess Club 12.00 - 12.45

Choir 3.15 - 4.20

Phonics 3.15 - 4.00

Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30

KS1 Cosmic Yoga 3.15 - 4.00

KS1 Dance 3.15 - 4.15

Friday 31st January

6N Library Visit

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Football 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