



31st January 2020



Dear Parents

Children in Year 5 attended Mass this week in Holy Cross Church. This has proven to be very successful as our children can now attend a regular Mass in church on a rota in addition to their class Mass. This is a wonderful way to integrate with our parish family and next week 4C will attend on Tuesday morning at 9.00 and 4A on Thursday morning at 9.00.

Year 2 Family Lunch

Once again thank you to Mrs Alger and all kitchen and admin staff who worked so hard to make this day a success.



Holocaust Memorial

This year marked 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz - a place that I visited a few years ago. We continue to pray for tolerance and peace throughout our world in the shadow of such atrocities. The day was marked with a series of events throughout the country.

In the UK, the Reverend Canon Dr Christopher Collingwood and Joshua Daniels from University of York's Jewish Society lit 600 candles together, and laid them out in the shape of the Star of David on the floor of the Chapter House of York Minster.



Teacher contact form for parents

It is good to see that these are working so well. Please remember to ask for your class teacher in the first instance and Phase Leader if necessary. These are Mrs Peters for EYFS, Miss Draycott for Key Stage One, Mrs Nabil for Lower Key Stage Two (Years 3 and 4) and Mrs Noonan / Miss Clarke for Upper Key Stage Two (Years 5 and 6). Please direct any other queries to the school office during office hours - please do not be tempted to contact staff directly via the school Facebook page. Thank you.

Bag2school Collection

We are pleased to announce that Friends of Holy Cross in conjunction with the school ECO council have organised a clothes & shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds. The bags will be sent out next week. Please put any unwanted adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags, soft toys and other household textiles in these bags and return to school by 3rd March.



Science Workshop

Some of our children went to Harlow Study Centre today, for a science workshop.

They had an enjoyable and informative experience investigating electricity and learning about circuits.



Hockey Tournament

Congratulations to our Year 6 children who played in the hockey tournament at Church Langley school last Friday.

Team 1 stormed it with a clean sheet of 3 wins and a fantastic team effort. Team 2 played really well too with 2 wins and 1 loss, but achieved enough points across the board to earn themselves a place in the final.

What a fantastic achievement; out of 24 teams both our teams are in the finals, which takes place this afternoon, again at Church Langley school.

We wish them all the very best of luck!



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.

Gospel Values Awards

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



Butterflies: Axel Brooks

Ladybirds: Freya Bown

1D: Aria McGinty

1S: Sian Hanifin-Flynn

2HD: Rhianne-Joy Hombre

2TE: Emilia Mardyla

3N: Jake Doyle

3CK: Dominic Marshal

4A: Alana Cox

4C: Kailani Loughran-Ricketts

5G: Laura Norris

5S: Seren-Bliss Feast

6E: George Cundins

6N: Braydon Hand

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

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

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

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

R B	99%
R L	100%
1D	94%
1S	97%
2HD	99%
2TE	97%
3N	100%
3CK	97%
4A	99%
4C	99%
5G	99%
5S	98%
6E	96%
6N	91%

Time to Talk afternoon



Thursday 6th
February 3-6pm

AT



The Wellbeing Centre in Bush Fair, Harlow

Choose talk, change lives.
Together we'll end mental health stigma.

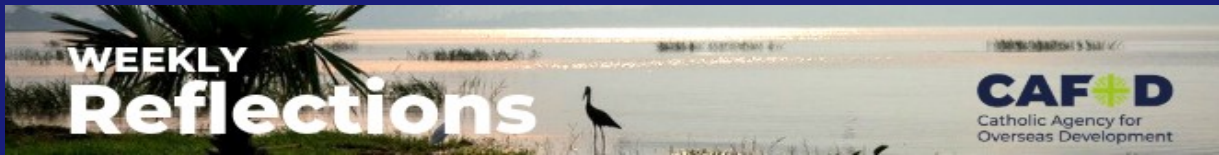
time to change
**time to
talk day**
06/02/20

#timetotalk

www.time-to-change.org.uk

proud to support
time to change
let's end mental health discrimination

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 2 February - Luke 2: 22-40

"They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"

Mary and Joseph were true to their faith as they presented Jesus in the Temple. They followed the traditions required of them and offered their son, this tiny holy child, back to God.

Imagine Mary's confusion when an overjoyed Simeon stated that the hope of Israel was in his arms but that her son would be responsible for the fall of many. Imagine Mary's concern at being told that a sword would pierce her own heart too.

There is so much happiness and sorrow in this one act of dedication. There is so much happiness and sorrow in our world today.

Simeon and Anna had many years of waiting for this moment when they would play their part, promised to them by God. They believed, waited and rejoiced in the birth of the Saviour; hope conquering fear.

Today in a world often overcome by fear, poverty and sadness, it can be so hard to believe, wait and hope.

Let's remember that in Baptism we were reborn, we became children of God and promises were made, either by ourselves or on our behalf, to renounce Satan, to overcome sin, to live in the hope of Christ Jesus.

Am I owning these promises today? In this moment is God inspiring me to live differently, to hope and believe more deeply?

Dear God,
we renew our dedication to you today, as we come afresh into your presence.
Inspire us to be your presence to others in all the happiness and sorrow in our world.
As the Baptismal candle shines brightly, may your light shine through us, illuminating the world to reveal the hope and joy you bring in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

If we lose our memory, we destroy our future. May the anniversary of the Holocaust, the unspeakable cruelty that humanity learned of 75 years ago, serve as a summons to pause, to be still and to remember. We need to do this, lest we become indifferent.

Wednesday 29th 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 2nd February 2020 - The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

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 2nd February 2020 The Child Destined for the Rise and Fall of many (Luke 2:22-40)

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

3 Reflect

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

The story of the Presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple is dominated by Simeon's welcome, 'a light to enlighten the gentiles and the glory of your people Israel', and by his warning to Mary, 'a sword will pierce your heart'. Simeon reiterates the angel's promise that the child would fulfil the destiny of Israel and Israel's mission to the nations. Much like any family life, the promised future included the delights of the growing, developing child, and the background fear that the great destiny of each child may include sorrow and even heart-break. How much did Mary and Joseph know about the precious child they were nurturing? As he grew to independence did he become more loving and supportive? How did his contemporaries find him? Was he a leader? Did he stand out from the pack? Each of us has a private picture of the child, the boy, the adolescent, the young man. If he was fully human, he had the same frustrations and worries as every child growing in youth and through puberty. All we know for sure is that 'the child grew to maturity' and that Mary 'pondered all these things in her heart' - with Simeon's welcome and warning before her mind.

Imagine Jesus' first serious conversation as an enquiring child with Mary.

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.**



WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 2nd February 2020



First Reading: *The Coming of the Lord*

Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

This first reading from Malachi is dire and threatening. The Lord will come to his Temple and refine it. The reading seems to fit better with the coming of Jesus to the Temple to cleanse it in the final days of his ministry than with the coming of the child Jesus in helpless innocence. Yet the searing, final coming is already presaged in the coming of the young Jesus to the Temple to be greeted by Simeon as the fulfilment of God's promise of salvation. Malachi prophesied the purging of the sons of Levi, and no one can deny that a dreadful purging of the sons of Levi took place at the sack of Jerusalem in the year 70AD; the people had failed to recognize their Lord. This cannot but give us pause to reflect whether we, who have theoretically committed ourselves to Christ, have in fact responded and been converted and purged. Are we in any way better than those who were condemned and suffered, or are we merely more secretive, better at concealing our faults and secret distortions from others? The thoughts of all hearts will be laid bare in the end. It might be as well to start laying our hearts bare (or purging them) now.

How is it that many people failed to recognize who Jesus was?

Second Reading: *The Faithful High Priest*

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

“ Jesus' loving obedience to the Father will save the human race. ”

The inclusion of this reading is unbelievably moving: the child presented in the Temple is also to suffer, the sword will pierce Mary's heart. But it is because Jesus is fully human, and now a helpless child, that his loving obedience to the Father will save the human race. 'What was not assumed was not saved,' say the Fathers. In Jesus, the source of our salvation, the disobedience of Adam was washed away. Adam is the representative of us all, personifying the human race. Jesus had to be like his brothers and sisters, to share their full human nature if he was to save their human nature. He shared our baby helplessness, our adolescent anguish, our fear of death, our loss of friends whom we thought were faithful. In all this he knit himself into the human race and, by taking it upon himself, saved it by joining it once more into the Father's love. The language of high priesthood is used in this Letter to the Hebrews because the letter is written to Hebrews who were pining for the rituals of the Temple. But the priesthood of Christ is radically different, according to the order of Melchizedek (an unknown priesthood), and no longer that of Aaron.

What was the purpose of Jesus' death?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org



Forest School

Another exciting week in forest school...bug hunting, digging for worms, observing and feeding the birds, den building, using flint and steels as well as enjoying outside reading!

As the weeks are progressing, the children's den building skills are developing. They are able to plan, assess and discuss what needs changing in order for improvement. Their team work and communication skills is wonderful to see.

This weeks Forest school certificate will be awarded to Otto Colussi.



Happy Birthday to... Marcel Sereda, Dominik Gadowski,
Fabian Jozefczyk, Alexandra Mazurek, Jake Doyle, Rafe Norris,
Naavah Dixon



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Zachary Timbrell, for having such a positive attitude to school

Ladybirds: Maxon Wienzek, for great shape hunting in the outdoor area

1D: David Owolabi, for writing great questions in literacy

1S: Catherine Kazakov, being an excellent friend to the class

2HD: Ethan Smith, for amazing efforts with his work this week

2TE: Thomas Hyde, for excellent, thoughtful R.E. work

3CK: Julia Magryta, for confidently contributing to whole class maths work

3N: Benjamin Gulka, for positive attitude to learning this week

4A: Lily Vetori, for writing an excellent description of Charlie Bucket's house

4C: Emilia Marsham, for an amazing description about the house of Charlie Bucket

5G: Temilola Olabode, for always trying her very best and never giving up

5S: Erin Barker, for hard work, always trying her best and being a positive role model

6E: Orhiana Kwey, for excellent writing in Literacy

6N: Vusi Mazibuko, for having a mature and enthusiastic attitude to learning

Learning Mentor: Marcy Reddin, for having a good week in school, Keep up the great work!

Diary Dates

Menu Week 1

Monday 3rd February

5S Swimming

Be Still Club lunchtime

Year 4 Mass 2.00

Year 6 SATs Booster 3.15-4.15

Tuesday 4th February

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 5th February

Newspaper Club lunchtime

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 6th February

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 7th February

1S Assembly 2.40

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Youth Group 6.30 - 7.45

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Patrick**

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