



28th February 2020

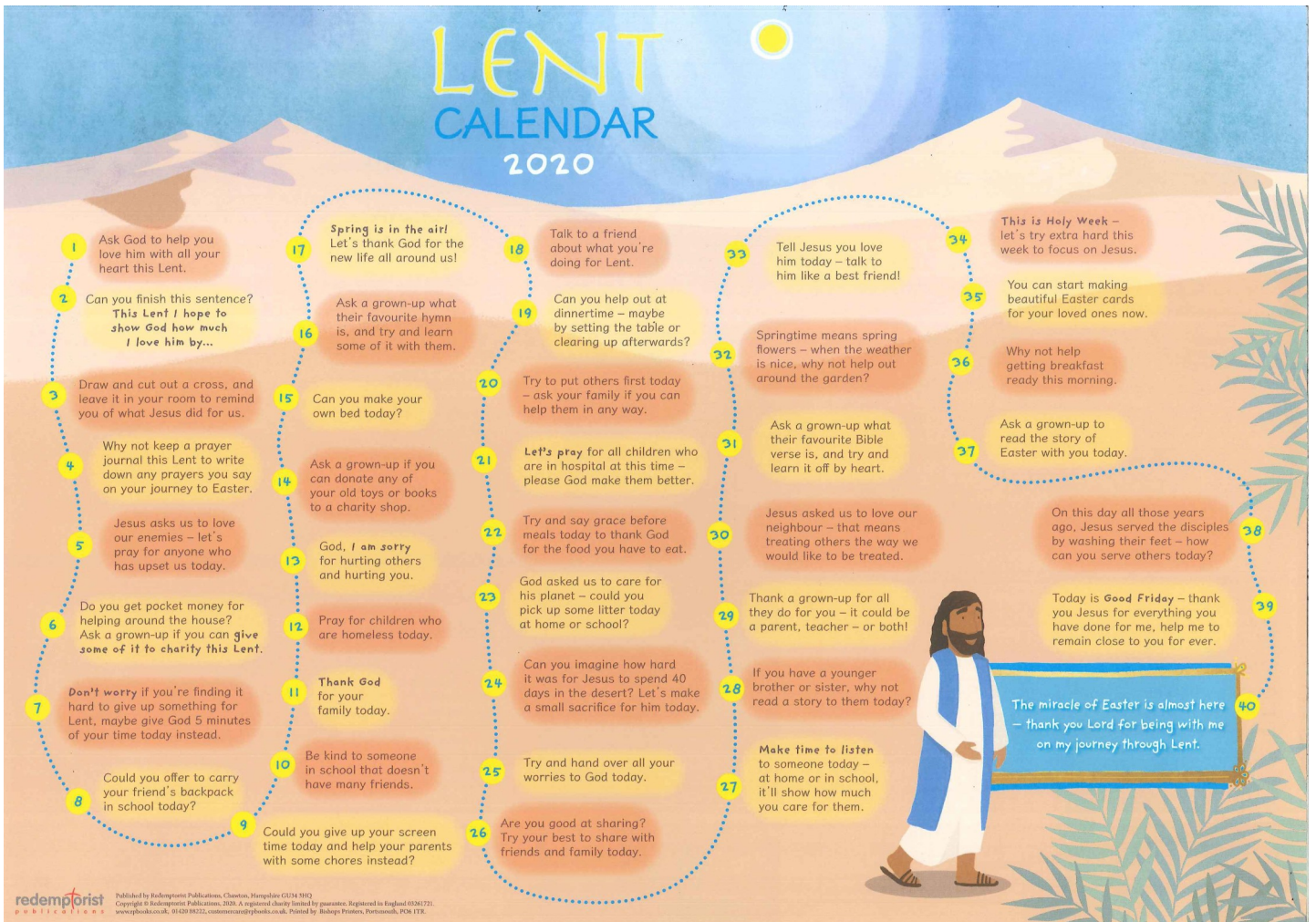
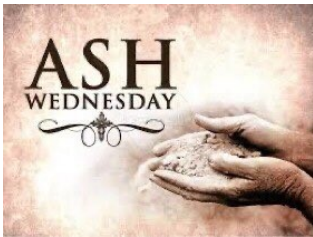


Newsletter

Dear Parents,

This week marked the beginning of Lent during our Ash Wednesday service. All of KS2 children will have received a Lenten book to bring home and share with you. We ask that they bring this book into school every Monday. All children will have received the Lenten challenge, which again we ask you share as a family to help make this period of Lent more meaningful.

Pope Francis has urged us all during lent to spend less time on the internet and more time with each other—I think that is a challenge worthy of us all to aspire to.



Pre-School Charity Cake Sale

Holy Cross Pre-School are having a cake sale at the end of school, on Thursday 5th March in aid of Brainwaves, a charity for children with disabilities.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **Butterflies** and **2TE**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with **98%**. The winner of the KS2 Attendance Award is **5S**, who attained **99.5%** 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	95%
1D	97%
1S	95%
2HD	98%
2TE	98%
3N	96%
3CK	97%
4A	96%
4C	97%
5G	97%
5S	99%
6E	98%
6N	96%

Gospel Values Awards

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

Butterflies: Dylan Ziya

Ladybirds: April Thorp

1D: Marshall Pavelin

1S: Evie Underdown

2HD: Kayla Umaru

2TE: Pola Bubetty

3CK: Isaac Lieu

3N: James Jeffrey

4A: Ethan Owusu-Boateng

4C: Marco Jardim

5G: Emilia Hyde

5S: Summer Leagas

6E: Izzy Cobie

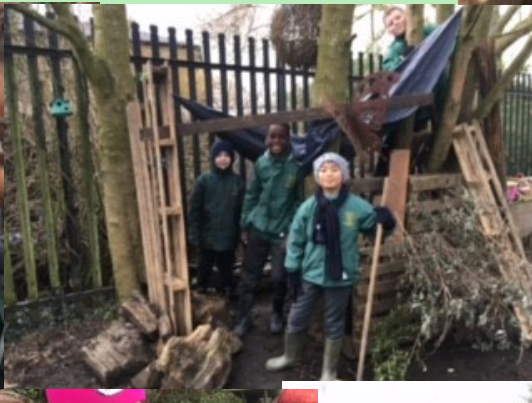
6N: Kerem Ahmetoglu



Forest School

This week, the children enjoyed sun, rain and snow! We spent time looking closely and studying nature through magnifying glasses. The children have found it fascinating how features of spring are unfolding in front of their eyes! We discovered new shoots, buds, leaves and blossom starting to emerge. It is an important skill to just be still and observe something, noticing the fine details of it. It develops patience, perseverance and a sense of calm. This week some fantastic dens were built, again with children demonstrating good team work, communication and negotiation skills.

The Forest School Award goes to Lucia Pintilei, for her consistent positive outlook, determination and perseverance.



Wednesday 26th February 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 1st March 2020 - The First Sunday in Lent

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 1st March 2020 - The Testing of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

3 Reflect

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

By putting this scene at the beginning of Lent, the Church shows that it sees Lent as a period of testing. Matthew sees this period in the wilderness as the testing of God's Son, just as the People of God (Israel – God's son, whom he brought out of Egypt) was tested for forty years in the desert. We may also see it as the time when Jesus reflected on the mode of his mission. His mission was to bring the Kingship of God to a new realisation: how should he do this? The Tempter suggests false ways, which Jesus rejects one after another, each time using a word from scripture, the Word of God. He rejects the idea of the Messiah merely producing the luxury of the plenteous messianic banquet (stones into food). He rejects the idea of a startling personal miracle which none could gainsay (the leap from the Temple). He rejects the suggestion of entering into league with the Tempter's own values of pride and dominion (rule over the world). At the same time Jesus shows himself to be the Second Moses, the founder of a new People of God: like Moses, he spends forty days and forty nights fasting; like Moses he is taken up onto a high mountain, from where he can see not merely all the territory of the Holy Land, but all the kingdoms of the earth.

What temptation do you find hardest to resist? What helps you to resist temptation?

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 1st March 2020



First Reading: *The Garden of Eden*

Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

In Lent the readings are especially carefully chosen. The first readings work through the history of salvation, starting with the story of un-salvation which makes it all necessary - the Fall of Adam and Eve. Presented in the form of a historical story, this is not simply history of what happened long ago to the first Man (Adam means generically 'Man') and Woman. It is also an analysis of what happens to us every day, an image of how sin happens: we are subtly tempted to go against what we know are the divine commandments for life. Look at the way the serpent flatters Eve to make her pleased with herself and so fall all the easier! We fall, come to our senses and find ourselves naked and defenceless. Even so, God does not desert the creatures whom he loves. He comes to their aid, to help them over the worst: he himself sews garments for them to ease their shame, and finally - a few verses later - promises that evil will not eventually prevail. Other cultures have other stories of how evil comes into being, but only the Hebraeo-Christian story ends with the assurance that evil will be conquered, that the seed of the Woman will crush the head of the serpent.

Does the story ring true? Fit it to your own experience!

Second Reading: *The Second Adam*

Romans 5:12.17-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

“Christ, by his supreme act of loving obedience, turned back the course of human destiny.”

Paul's letter to the Romans sets out in glowing confidence and clarity the process by which evil was overcome. Just as the representative of all humanity, Adam, turned away from God, and by his disobedience set humanity on a course leading to disaster, so Christ, by his supreme act of loving obedience, turned back the course of human destiny. Only Christ, who was not only the supreme Man but more than man, could so reverse the course of history and bring to God the homage of the human race which would wipe away and extirpate the rebellion from God wrought by human disobedience. We know full well that we were born into a world where evil begets evil, fraud begets fraud, violence begets violence, jealousy begets jealousy. Salvation consists in the conscious act of putting our faith in Christ, in the reversal he achieved. This understanding of salvation is expressed in Baptism, by which we enter into Christ and clothe ourselves in his redemption. So the one Man, Adam, prefigures the one Man, Christ. Only the direction is reversed. Adam is the paradigm of rebellion from God; Christ the paradigm of loving obedience to God.

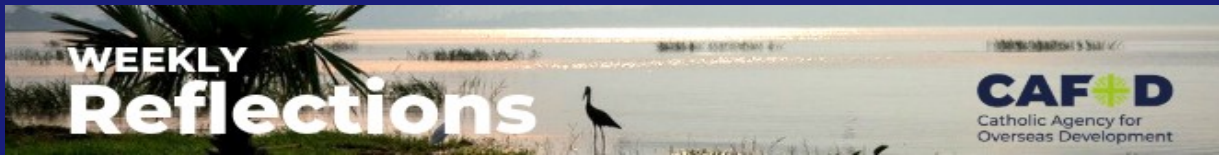
Can those who have never heard of Christ enter into his salvation?

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



"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry"

Jesus knew what it was like to go hungry. He fasted in the desert for forty days.

There he was tempted by the devil who offered him food, then power and glory, and then the chance to put God to the test. Jesus resisted.

We all know a little about feeling hungry. How it can make us feel shaky and weak, lead us to make poor decisions or become emotional.

For some of us, that hunger is temporary. But for many people, hunger is an ever-present concern. A dark shadow looms as they wonder when they will next be able to eat.

People like the expectant mothers who come to Mtora Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe. Often those who arrive here are famished. Sister Consilia Munkuli works at the hospital as a pharmacist.

She tells us, "Sometimes they would not have enough food to sustain themselves. Some come from home without any food."

CAFOD has supported the clinic to establish a nutrition garden. Women who need to stay here until they give birth now have maize and vegetables to eat.

As we fast this Lent, following Jesus' example in the desert, we remember that everything that we have comes from God.

As we feel hunger, let us take time to step back and consider how we can help others for whom fasting is not a choice.

Christ Jesus, you know what it is to feel hungry and alone.

Open my eyes to my brothers and sisters who will not eat today, and fill me with compassion, so that I may reach out to them in love.

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

#Lent is great time to make space for the Word of God. It is time to turn off the TV and open the Bible. It is a time to pull ourselves away from cell phones and connect ourselves to the Gospel

Happy Birthday to... Luca Nicolaou, Ella Stopplecamp, Liam Dunn, Leah Stopplecamp, Ellis Sofuwa, Isabella Tyson, Lucas Tyson, Roquiah Adams, Robyn Cope, Violet Aldous, Leah Still, Jeremiasz Seiler, Kailani Loughran Ricketts.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Amelia Owusu-Boateng, for writing a fantastic sentence to describe an animal

Ladybirds: Isabella Tyson, for a great description of a jungle animal

1D: Amber Williams, for her great maths work, finding one more and one less

1S: Stanislaw Marti, for creating an excellent character

2HD: Kassidy Anderson, for writing amazing sentences using co-ordinating conjunctions

2TE: Emilia Mardyla, for being an enthusiastic learner

3CK: Ruby La Ronde, for her helpful and considerate nature towards all

3N: Cosmas Eze, for his great attitude this week

4A: Isabella Bethell, for always being helpful and considerate to others

4C: Eva Gautis, for creating a wonderful verse for the hymn 'Gather Together' in R.E.

5G: Sasha Kureya, for her great effort in adding and subtracting fractions

5S: Jonjo Hanifin-Flynn, for his excellent attitude to learning and working hard in all subjects

6E: Taylor-Grace, for working hard in our Numeracy lessons

6N: Ben Kibirango, for his enthusiasm and excellent contributions in discussion during our WW2 history topic. Well done!

Learning Mentor: Braydon Hand, for wonderful help with organising Gardening Club

Midday Award: Joshua Greer, for being kind and thoughtful at lunchtime

Diary Dates

Menu Week 1

Monday 2nd March

St David's Cake Sale

5S Swimming

Be Still Club lunchtime

Year 3 Mass 2.00

Year 6 SATs Booster 3.15-4.15

Tuesday 3rd March

KS1 Mass 9.15

1S Library Visit 10.00

1D Library Visit 11.00

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 4th March

Year 6 British Legion visit

Year 4 Family Lunch

Newspaper Club lunchtime

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day—dress as a character from a book

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 6th March

Governors Day

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Parish Youth Group 6.30 - 7.45

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St David

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

Greer Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher