



6th March 2020



Newsletter

Dear Parents

We certainly all had great fun during World Book Day yesterday - what a wonderful array of costumes! Thank you to all parents, staff and children who worked so hard to make this day a success and a particular thank you to Mrs Nabil who, as usual, enthused us all with her passion for reading and joining in with the spirit of the day. Well done to everybody!

A Selection of photos will be sent out via Parentmail on separate emails.



St David's Cake Sale

Thank you to parents, children and staff who contributed to a successful sale this week. The total raised was £268 for charity.

Year 4 Family Lunch

Once again this was a great success. Thank you to Mrs Algar and all kitchen and midday staff as well as Mrs Slater and our admin team for organising this opportunity for our Year 4 parents and children. Well done everybody.

Thank you

Have you seen the kneelers in the church recently? A big thank you to Mr Marti who has worked so hard to install new kneelers in the church and donated his time free of charge. They look wonderful. A big thank you as well to our Mini Vinnies who raised the money for the materials used. Let's make sure now that we all look after them well!!!

Governor Day

Our Governors spent the day with us today, spending time in class with the children, meeting with subject leader teams and generally being engrossed in the day to day running of our busy school. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team who give so freely of their time.



Mass

Year 3 celebrated Mass on Monday and Key Stage One on Tuesday morning. These were excellent opportunities to be reminded about this very special time of Lent and to consider what we are doing to prepare ourselves for the great feast of Easter. Thank you to all involved.

Year 5 celebrate their year group Mass on Monday 9th March at 2.00 and you are all warmly invited to attend.

Uniform

We are noticing that some children are not wearing the correct school uniform which also includes our school coat. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct items and for further advice please check our school website. Thank you

School trips and activities

All of our trips and activities are costed out per pupil and we work hard to keep the costs down as we are so aware of financial issues for us all and this includes our school budget. Unfortunately we spend a significant amount of our time contacting parents for overdue payments - whether it is for school dinners, music tuition, clubs or trips and this is placing a huge financial burden on our school which we simply cannot afford.

Please ensure that your payments are up to date and if you find yourself in a financially difficult position, please contact us. Unfortunately too many parents are simply ignoring payments due and this results in a large debt for them and us which is just not sustainable.

Coronavirus update

We are keeping you up to date with information as we receive it and you will be aware that we have been teaching children about the importance of hygiene. We are ensuring that there are plenty of opportunities during the day to wash our hands but particularly before and after break and lunchtimes. Staff are being very vigilant and ensuring that they regularly clean tables and door handles throughout the day. We will continue to update you when we receive further advice but once again, thank you for your calm and considered response to this situation which affects us all.

6E visit to the Royal British Legion

On Wednesday 4th March, 6E were invited to spend the morning at the Royal British Legion learning more about how both world wars affected the local population. They had many opportunities to handle artefacts from the wars, including having a go at sending and receiving Morse code signals. They were also lucky enough to speak to a WW2 veteran who had served in the Royal Navy in the Pacific and also a gentleman who had been an evacuee during WW2. The children had lots of questions to ask and gained a lot of knowledge from this first-hand experience. We would like to thank the Royal British Legion for this fantastic learning opportunity.

6N will be going in a few weeks' time.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **Ladybirds**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with **100%**. The winner of the KS2 Attendance Award is **5G**, 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	91%
R L	100%
1D	98%
1S	98%
2HD	99%
2TE	93%
3N	94%
3CK	95%
4A	94%
4C	94%
5G	99%
5S	97%
6E	97%
6N	95%

Gospel Values Awards

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

Butterflies: Oliver Danel

Ladybirds: Sid Cundins

1D: Isabella Johnson

1S: Jessica Jeffrey

2HD: Amelia Randle

2TE: Gabriele Varnaite

3CK: Caitlin Masambique

3N: Conor O'Rourke

4A: Ryan Kwey

4C: Poppy Hughes

5G: Lola McGhee

5S: Martha Ejembi

6E: Olivia Wells

6N: Oliver Smith



Forest School

Despite the rain, we were able to get outside this week. Lots of muddy puddles, mud potions and bug hunting. We have continued to practise being still and mastering the art of absorbing our surroundings in great detail.

Julia Czarny in 1D is being given the Forest School award this week for her patience, perseverance and dedication to watching the birds and caring about the wildlife.



Wednesday 4th March 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 8th March 2020 - The Second 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 8th March 2020 - The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said. 'Do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

3 Reflect

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

Each year on this second Sunday of Lent we read the account of the Transfiguration. It was the moment when the disciples were shown the divinity of Jesus on the Holy Mountain. The scene is reminiscent of Moses' encounter with God on Sinai, when his face, too, shone like the sun. Moses and Elijah are present because they are the two Old Testament figures who experienced the presence of God on the Holy Mountain. With his usual impetuous generosity Peter attempts to 'freeze' the moment. The public declaration of Jesus as God's Son at the Baptism is repeated, but with the addition that Jesus is the authorized divine teacher; Matthew is alert to the implications for the Church of the presence of Christ as Teacher. The cloud is also a symbol of God's presence, to which the human response can only be to fall to the ground in fear and reverence. The awesome moment of revelation cannot, however, last, and Jesus brings his disciples back to the dire realities before them with the reminder that his death must precede the revelation of his glory at the Resurrection. Until they have experienced the limitless generosity of his death, and the vindication by God of this love, they are not ready to spread the message of Jesus.

What stands out for you in this account of the Transfiguration? How may it help you to deepen your own relationship with Christ?
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 8th March 2020



First Reading: *The Call of Abraham*

Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him.

Each year on this Sunday we have a reading about Abraham, for it is with him that the history of salvation begins: God prepares a people, the family of Abraham, from which will eventually issue his Messiah, Jesus. Here we have the account of that beginning. God calls Abram to leave his country, his family, his comfort-zone, to go out into an unknown land and an unknown future. Abram has no security beyond the simple promise of God that God will bless him and his family, with a blessing so great that all nations will recognise it and use the very name of 'Abram' as a blessing. In a fierce and arid land, which offers no protection to strangers, he has no family, no children to support him. He is to become a wanderer over the earth, not knowing the goal of his wanderings. He does not ask for the credentials of this Voice which calls him. He does not seem even to have any concept of God, and yet he follows this call. Just so, the first disciples at the lakeside will, without a word or a question, follow God's Son when he calls them. Abram's trust in this Voice is the model for all personal trust.

What for me are the real implications of unconditional trust in God?

Second Reading: *The Response to God's Love*

2 Timothy 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

“Grace is the loving way in which God has regarded us from the beginning of time.”

This reading is put before us by the Church as an encouragement to persevere in our Lenten resolutions. In his earlier writings Paul had often seen his own sufferings and those of other Christians as completing those of Christ. Not that there was anything faulty about the sufferings of Christ, but the members of Christ's Body, the Church, must share in the destiny of the suffering Christ. Now the recipients of this letter are also called upon to share the sufferings of Paul in prison, not to earn salvation but as a response to the grace of salvation. The word 'grace' has been much misunderstood, as though 'grace' were an independent gift, a thing in itself. In fact the word is used in the New Testament to express the love of God or of Christ, particularly the burning human love of Christ. Primarily it is a loving divine or human relationship. When Mary is addressed as 'engraced' or 'full of grace', it means that she is the special recipient of God's love, which in turn makes her more lovable. So here the 'grace granted to us in Christ Jesus' is the loving way in which God has regarded us from the beginning of time, though its fullness has become visible only at the Appearing of Christ Jesus.

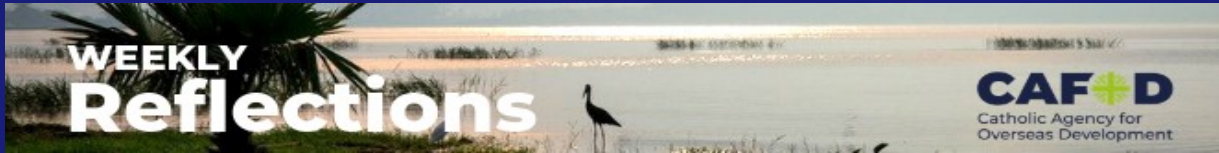
How can I best respond to the grace of salvation?

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



Based on the gospel for Sunday 8 March - Matthew 17: 1-9

"As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed..."

Jesus takes Peter, John and James up the mountain to pray. There his appearance is transformed. His clothes shine brightly and Moses and Elijah appear in their glory.

It can be hard enough in the UK to get a doctor's appointment. Imagine how much worse it is to access basic healthcare in the poorest countries.

No one should go without the support they need to lead a healthy, happy life. Something has to change.

Nobody knows this better than Sister Consilia, who witnesses patients arriving every day at the small hospital in Zimbabwe where she works as a pharmacist.

"In our congregation we work with the poorest of the poor. In Mtora Mission Hospital, those who come to the hospital, they come with a need and they want to be helped."

Positive changes are taking place here. A nutrition garden and a water tank, funded by CAFOD supporters, are now making life easier for women who stay at the hospital in the final stages of their pregnancy.

This Lent let us seek to change our own lives and reach out to our sisters and brothers to change

On International Women's Day, we remember all women who are faced with poverty and injustice in our world.

God of light, inspire me to listen to your Son Jesus and to follow his example of love and compassion. Work through me as I try to bring about change in my own life and throughout the world.

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of Christian life. #Lent

Happy Birthday to... Isabella Cundins, Marshall Pavelin, Emilie Patasiute, Rosalie Bridger-Moore, Rhianne Joy Hombre, Nikoleta Hristova, Ronnie White, Euloise Mansilavuvu, Erin Page, Rhea Baker, Vaughn Mojzes, Harry Tupper



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Liana Sereikaite, for making valuable contributions to all class discussions

Ladybirds: Freya Bown, for being a great independent learner

1D: Zara Snipes, for writing a fantastic story in literacy

1S: Luisa Marsham, for a really detailed story plan

2HD: Naomi Oregbhemhe, for trying very hard in all areas of the curriculum

2TE: Rafe Norris, for an excellent Little Red Hen story

3CK: Korneliusz Adamczak, for following class and school rules well

3N: Arlo McGhee, for a great, expressive freeze frame

4A: Lucy Richardson, for having a positive attitude at all times

4C: Bartosz Seiler, for excellent creativity on World Book Day

5G: Tahlia Abu-Rabi, for being helpful and considerate towards all children and staff

5S: Samantha-Aurelia Osei for her positive attitude to learning and working hard in all subjects

6E: Izzy Cobie, for a positive attitude to all her work

6N: Sienna Smith, for always working hard, trying her best and being a good role model

Learning Mentor: Jenna Bennett, for being a wonderful role model and a fantastic helper in school

Diary Dates

Menu Week 2

Monday 9th March

4C Swimming

Be Still Club lunchtime

Year 5 Mass 2.00

Year 6 SATs Booster 3.15-4.15

Tuesday 10th March

4C Library Visit 10.00

4A Library Visit 11.00

Choir 3.15 - 4.20

KS2 Homework 3.15-4.15

KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 4.15

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3.15 - 4.15

Wednesday 11th March

Year 6 Crucial Crew

Newspaper Club lunchtime

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 12th March

5G Library Visit 10.00

5S Library Visit 11.00

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 13th March

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15

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

Mr S Kelliher

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Deputy Headteacher