



13th March 2020



Newsletter

Dear Parents

You will by now have received our most recent letter regarding the Coronavirus situation and our response to it. Please be assured that we are continuing to monitor this, follow all advice given and provide you with up to date information. Thank you for your continued support as we all find ourselves in this unprecedented situation; we really value the fact that we are all working together for the good of each other.

Please keep an eye on our school website, we will of course continue to send information home via Parentmail.

Other news...

Mass

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV
for God gave us a spirit
not of fear but of power
and love and self-
control.



Year 5 celebrated Mass this week reflecting on Lent - 'Throughout lent we are called to turn away from our selfishness and to grow closer to God's love. There are lots of ways in which we can do this but especially we need to try to do things to help others' Thank you to Year 5, Fr Bernard, staff and parents for this lovely and timely message.

Reconciliation

Children from Years 4 - 6 continued to prepare for Easter by attending a Reconciliation Service led by Fr. Bernard.

How are we all doing with our Lenten Challenge? This is a time to reflect on ourselves, how we support others, how to love God more and how to be as ready as possible for the great feast of Easter Sunday.

Commonwealth Choir

A group of our children represented the Commonwealth Choir at the London Guild Hall as part of the Commonwealth Day celebrations on Monday. Thank you to Mrs Slater, Mrs Laporte and Mr Osei for accompanying the children.

Tag Rugby Tournament

Well done to the children in Years 3 & 4 who played in the Rugby Festival this morning at Harlow Rugby Club.



There were 24 teams competing and the children showed great enthusiasm and team spirit in a series of friendly matches with basic coaching of rules.

At the end of the festival, a Bowen Trophy was presented to Hatfield Heath school, in the 'spirit of Rugby'. This trophy is in memory of David Bowen, the former Head Teacher of St Nicholas School, who was a very keen rugby follower.

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend

Miss S McGuiggan Mr S Kelliher



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Gospel Values Awards

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

Butterflies: Aimee Fennelly

Ladybirds: Fabian Jozefczyk

1D: Jemie Kuttin

1S: Luisa Marsham

2HD: Araibella Morgan

2TE: Josie Ogbonze

3CK: Ruby La Ronde

3N: Ellice Osei-Flint

4A: Reece Atkinson

4C: John Jo Marti

5G: Lily Baker

5S: Erin Barker

6E: Molly Cozens

6N: James Kelly



The Words of Pope Francis

#Lent is the perfect time to allow ourselves to contemplate the pain of those who suffer without anyone to help them. It is the time to turn compassion into concrete acts of solidarity and care

Cardinal Nichols

As we move to the next phase of the response to **#coronavirus** the emphasis is very much on protecting the elderly, esp those who are particularly vulnerable. This will be a priority well understood & quickly accepted by the Catholic community &, I am sure, throughout our society.



Thank you

A huge thank you to Kailani and Parker Loughran Ricketts for donating a significant amount of stationary to the school. This stationary is very appreciated and will be put to good use

Forest School

This week has been a mixture of weathers...wet, rain, cold and beautiful sunshine. We spent time focussing on respecting the outdoors environment, ensuring we are always mindful of the living habitats and plant life. Year 1 children enjoyed meditating this week and some even whilst standing in a deep puddle! Due to the volume of recent rain, the depth of the puddles was fascinating. However it was a first time experience for many to actually stand still in one.

Many continued to practise fire lighting this week and a great sense of pride and achievement was shown when a spark was finally lit. During this, the level of team work, empathy and perseverance was remarkable.

We have been watching the frogspawn with a careful eye to spot any changes. Finally, it has been wonderful to see so many more children actively looking for natural changes now we have entered Spring.

This weeks Forest School award is being presented to Martha Edwards in 5G for her perseverance and determination with fire lighting as well as her patience with others by teaching them too.





Celebrating the Year of the Word
with The Wednesday Word.

Lectio Divina – prayerfully
preparing for the Sunday Mass.



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 15th March 2020 - The Third 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 15th March 2020 - The Samaritan at the Well (John 4:5-15.19-26.39-42)

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied, 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you "Give me a drink", you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered, 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied, 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said, 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus, 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

3 Reflect

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

In this lively dialogue Jesus almost seems to be teasing the Samaritan woman, deliberately leading her into misunderstanding about what he means by living water or about the conditions of worship. Nothing daunted, she gives as good as she gets, replying with a cheeky series of sarcastic questions, gradually edging nearer to the truth: an open-minded Jew – greater than our father Jacob – a prophet – and finally acknowledging him as the Messiah. With its serious message it is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people as they are, and of his openness with women. On these last three Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday in Cycle A, the Church lays before us the three great symbols of the baptisms which will be celebrated at Easter. This concerns not only those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, but all those who are invited to renew our baptismal promise and commitment at Easter. By so doing we enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink (the teaching given to the Samaritan woman), into the light which enlightens the blind (the Cure of the Man Born Blind) and true life (the Raising of Lazarus).

What does Jesus really mean by 'living water'? What is the real life that God gives us?

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 15th March 2020



First Reading: *Water from the Rock*

Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Throughout Lent the first readings dwell on the history of salvation narrated in the Old Testament; the third Sunday is always about Moses. In this year, Cycle A, the incident at Massah and Meribah is chosen to pair with the gospel-reading about living water. Christ is the living water of salvation, an image of which is the water God provided for his people when they were tortured by thirst in the desert. It was not just that they could do with a bit of a drink, which we in a well-watered country have the fortune to experience. When you run out of water in the desert you lose all strength, all will to advance, and eventually wilt to death. On two separate occasions in the Old Testament the story of Moses striking the rock is told, and the rabbis held that it was the rock that followed them through the desert. Paul interprets the rock as Christ, who always provides for his people, but in the Old Testament God was not well pleased with most of his people. They continued to rebel and complain about their hardships and to long for 'the leeks and onions' of their slave-life in Egypt. With the same ingratitude we continue to neglect the salvation offered us, absorbed in any passing pleasures we can find.

How do you use water? Is water of life a good image for the gifts of God?

Second Reading: *Peace with God through Jesus*

Romans 5:1-2.5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

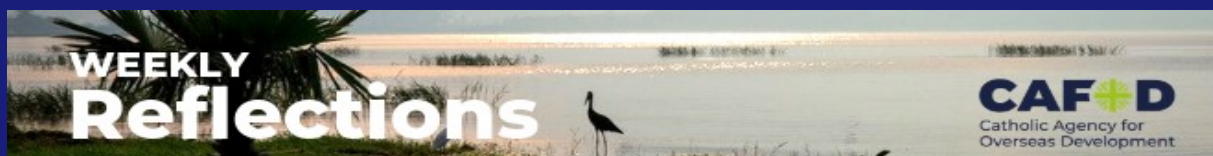
“An unshaken conviction that
God will come to our rescue.”

Gradually explaining the mystery of salvation in his great Letter to the Romans, Paul has described a world sunk in evil. Then he meditates on Abraham's trust in God's promises, the same unwavering trust which is our only way to salvation, an unshaken conviction that God will come to our rescue in our shame and our failures. But what is the means by which God fulfils his promise of obliterating the evil which grips the human race? It can only be the obedience of Jesus, shown in his loving and obedient death on the Cross, which outdoes the disobedience of the whole human race, represented in Adam's sin. It is not the gore and suffering which are in themselves salvific - like a price paid for human delinquency - but the total extent of the love shown in unflinching obedience to the Father's will. He did this out of love for the Father, and also out of love for us, for whom he established the Kingship of God on earth. Paul seems to argue that, though in normal terms we were not worth dying for, Christ did die for us, just as in his ministry he did not wait for sinners to repent, but actively and unconditionally called them to himself.

What evils grip the human race today, and what can Jesus' work do to solve them?

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 15 March – John 4: 5-42

"Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'."

In today's gospel, Jesus sits at the well and strikes up a conversation with a Samaritan woman who has come to draw water. The exchange quickly deepens to challenge her whole way of life.

For millions of women, drawing water from a well or borehole is still a daily reality. Awaiting their turn, conversations spring up, news is shared and confidences exchanged.

Evelyn is an expert in water, sanitation and health in Uganda. She helps and chats with women from a community at their new solar-powered water pump, funded with Lent donations from CAFOD supporters and matched by the UK government.

It is part of Evelyn's role to maintain a good rapport with local people, particularly the women, as they are key to making any changes in the future of a community.

Much of her work involves communicating about sensitive subjects related to hygiene and cleanliness.

She explains that in this area, going to the toilet in the open was normal. There had never been education around sanitation or hygiene. Even encouraging people to use mechanical pumps to draw water took time and sensitivity, starting by carefully listening to the women explain the difficulties they experienced in fetching water.

Now life is much easier. The pumps bring many advantages - people with disabilities can collect as much water as able-bodied people, and children stay in school because queues are reduced and it takes less time to pump water. Crucially, there is less disease, now that people understand the advantages of toilets and have been trained in how to build them out of basic materials.

Evelyn says: "Out of the ten villages where I have been working, nine are doing really well because they have seen the good effects of hygiene and sanitation."

In this Year of the Word, our encounter and exchange with the Word of God can change our outlook and inspire us to consider living in a whole new way, as happened for the Samaritan woman when she conversed with Jesus.

Word made Flesh, speak to us as we read the scriptures. Teach us to listen to the people we encounter so that we can understand their reality and work together to build a fairer world.
Amen.

Happy Birthday to... Janelle Morrison, Sammy Stevenson, Gene White, Oliwia Niedzwiecka, Dawid Niedzwiecki, Pirajina Singarathnam, Jeremy Cox, Antonio Davis, Emilia Hyde, Hector Onwurah, Chalie Usedon-Duff, Sydnie Johnson, Benjamin, Justin Nguyen, Bree Onwurah



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Livia Mazurek, for fantastic sentence writing about a pet

Ladybirds: Luna Milciute Blynovas, for writing great sentences about what a pet would need

1D: Leah Stopplecamp, for her fantastic sentence writing

1S: Evie Underdown, for not giving up when work gets tough

2HD: Mason Thompson, for amazing wax resist artwork

2TE: Harvey Driscoll, for listening carefully and giving great information about fractions

3CK: Rhea Baker, for her contributions to learning in class discussions

3N: Christopher Annobil, for always trying his best

4A: Florian Byram, for excellent fraction work this week

4C: Andrew Burns, for amazing work in Geography about the Rainforest

5G: Summer Moss, for her excellent attitude to learning, always trying her very best and never giving up

5S: Lily Tieu, for being an excellent role model and always working hard in all subjects

6E: Max Doyle, for fantastic work in Numeracy

6N: Ellis Kanio, for great effort and enthusiasm with our WW2 topic

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St George

Diary Dates

Menu Week 3

Monday 16th March

Mother's Day Gift Sale - Reception to Year 2

4C Swimming

Be Still Club lunchtime

Year 6 SATs Booster 3.15-4.15

Tuesday 17th March

St Patrick's Day Cake Sale

Choir 3.15 - 4.20

Phonics 3.15 - 4.00

KS2 Homework 3.15-4.15

KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 4.15

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3.15 - 4.15

Wednesday 18th March

Mother's Day Gift Sale -

Years 3 & 4

6N British Legion Visit

Newspaper Club lunchtime

Karate 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 19th March

Mother's Day Gift Sale -

Years 5 & 6

6N Library Visit 10.00

6E 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 20th March

Reception Lea Valley Farm Trip

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

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Deputy Headteacher