



1st October 2021



Newsletter



Dear Parents,



It has been a busy fortnight in school where we have been meeting with teachers, discussing gaps in learning for individual children and designing tailored, structured support to address these. Our autumn parent consultation evenings will provide an opportunity for your child's class teacher to share how best you can support learning for your child. We are delighted that we are returning to face to face meetings and these will take place on Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October. Bookings for this will be made online. You will receive details on how to book your appointment on Monday.

E-Safety

This week I was watching an E-safety presentation by 'The 2 Johns' as they recounted their recent experiences of working in schools. In their words, "It's scary how much children from Year 1 and 2 know."



They are offering a free presentation which I urge you to attend. They will raise your awareness of how children can be groomed unsuspectingly and how parents can monitor and advise their children so that they are as safe as possible. Their presentations are often a hard-hitting reality but it is essential to keep our children as safe as possible when they are online.

We have previously had a presentation by 'The 2 Johns' at Holy Cross and those parents who did attend were shocked by the potential dangers when their children are online and commented on how eye opening and helpful the training was for them.

This virtual session will take place on Tuesday 26th October from 8.00pm - 9.30pm. To book your place call 0300 247 0122 from Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

Prayers

We ask that you all continue to pray for Miss McGuiggan who remains in hospital. We continue to pass on your messages and prayers which she wants you all to know are gratefully received.



October – Month of Our Lady

We continue to remember our special devotions to Our Lady this month. The Rosary is such an important tool for prayer in our lives that the entire month of October has been dedicated to the Rosary. In the month of October, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we too can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary.



School coats

It has turned decidedly cooler this week. Please ensure that you send your child in with a school coat. We have noticed some children without the correct coat this week.

Collection of children

If you have arranged for another parent to collect your child, please telephone the office who can then inform the class teacher, alternatively send a note in with your child. We have had a few instances where teachers have had to contact parents to confirm arrangements at the end of the day, leading to unnecessary delay for all.



Holy Cross School Council Harvest Collection

Once again, we will be donating our harvest collection to Street2homes. This will take place between 11th and 22nd October. Donations of tinned food, cereal, rice, pasta, long-life milk, tea/coffee, sugar, juice and anything in date with a long shelf-life will be gratefully received.

#HelloYellow

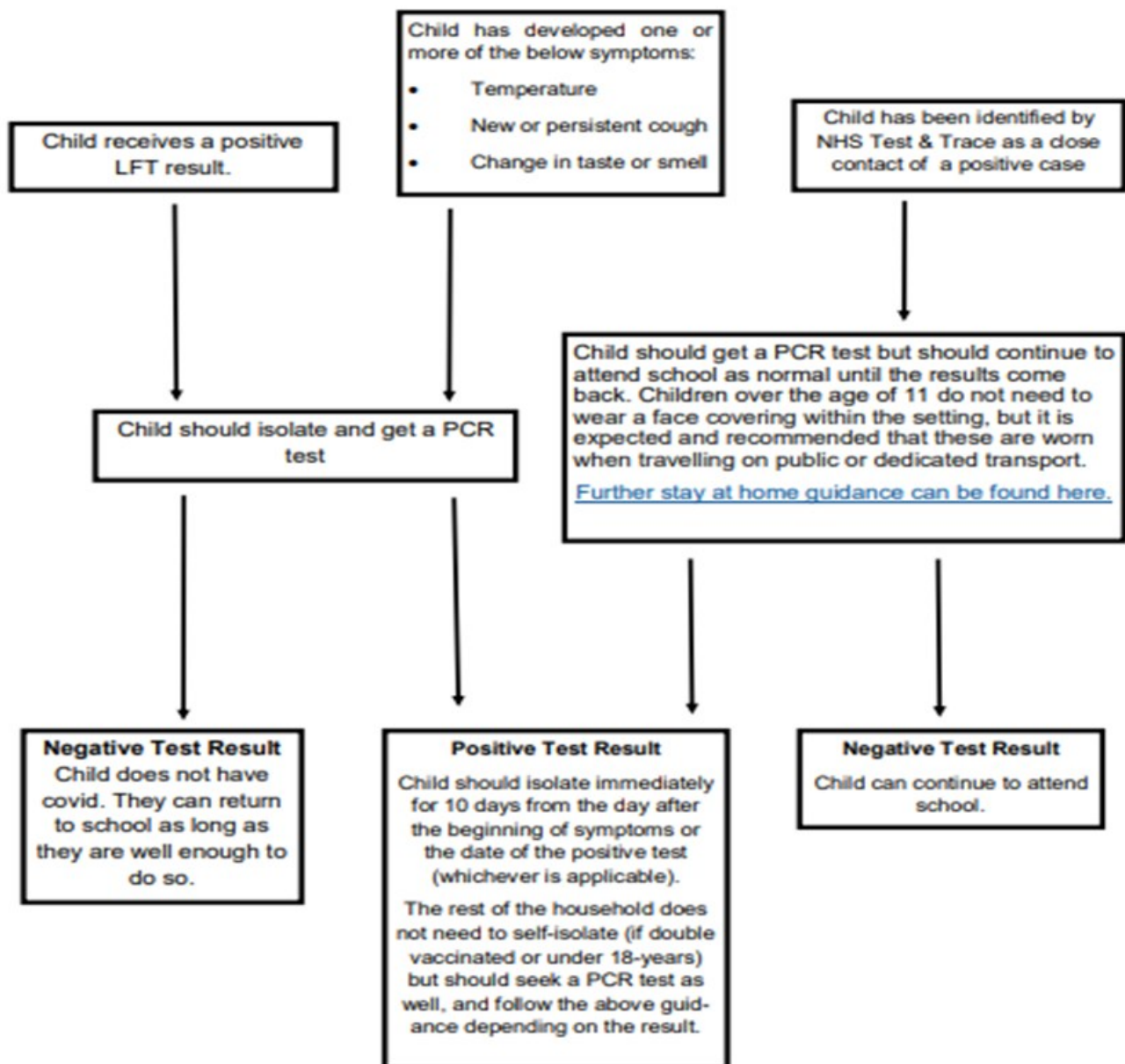
Holy Cross School Council will be Supporting Young Minds this year. Friday 8th October will be a non-uniform day. Please donate £1 and remember to wear something yellow. All money raised will be donated to Young Minds.

YOUNG MINDS

COVID-19

The way that Covid is managed in schools has changed from September. Please find a flowchart below which illustrates the self-isolation and testing guidance for children.

Self-Isolation and Testing Guidance



School App

How the app works

Firstly, you will need to download the app from either the [iTunes App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or [Windows Store](#) by clicking on the relevant buttons below or by loading up the app store on your phone and searching for 'School News'.

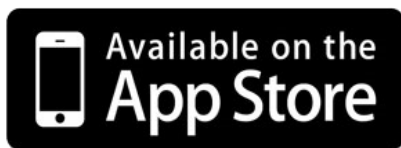
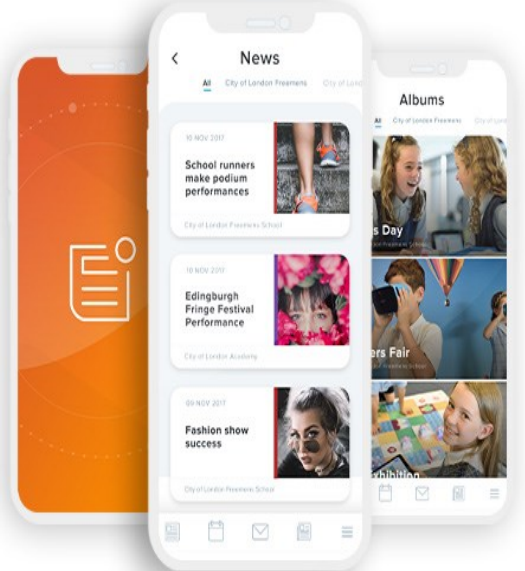
Once you have located and downloaded the free app, launch the app and you will then be able to either click on the 'Find my school' button which uses the phones GPS to locate all the schools in the surrounding 20 miles, or you can type in the schools postcode and click on 'Get my school' button.

Your school's postcode is: **CM18 6JJ**

You will then see a list of schools that use the app. Click on the school you wish to view news & events for.

You will then be able to click on the 'News' button to view all of the latest news items that have been added to the school(s) you have selected and also all of the upcoming calendar events by clicking on the 'Events' button.

Clicking on 'My Schools' will display a list of schools that you view news and events for. Clicking on one of the schools will display the school address, telephone number and email address which you can click on to either phone or email the school directly from the app.





Forest School



This week the weather has been varied however all classes were able to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. The children have thoroughly enjoyed collecting things on their Autumn hunt. We have harvested many of the vegetables (carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes and sweet corn) that were planted earlier in the year. The mud kitchen was in full use this week with many delicious mud cakes, pies, soup!

The various bugs have been out in force this week with the damp weather. The children have enjoyed researching the scientific names of the many creepy crawlers that live in our forest.

The children's responses this week to Forest school have been wonderful. 'I love Forest school' 'It the best day of my life!' 'I would love to live here' and I wait all week for this!

Forest School Award goes to Korneliusz Adamczak, for his perseverance and dedication in identifying and researching different insects



Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Integrity

- honesty, truth-telling -

"You will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify." (21: 12-13) "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup" (11:39)



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

1D: Elsie Bethell

1S: Tadhg Hanifin Flynn

2HD: Anayah Arbua

2PT: Luna Milciute Blynovas

3N: Praise Owolabi

3R: Victoria Banjo

4C: Nikoleta Hristova

4E: Amelia Tarczwska

5G: Ena Bulmuo

5S: Bree Onwurah

6CN: Ronel Sofuwa

6E: Bobbie White

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are 2PT attaining 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 3R and 4C, achieving a fantastic 100%. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at 8:40am until 8.50am. Any child not in their class by 9.00am will receive a late mark.

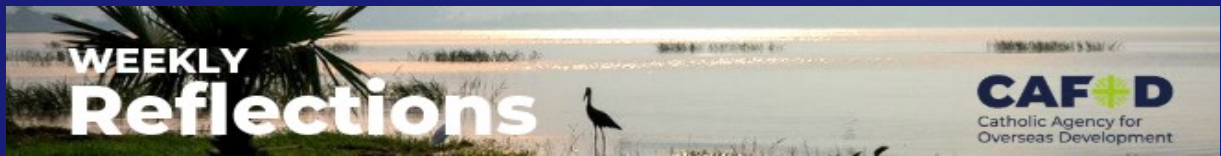
Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative PCR test before they may attend school. There is no need to keep your child off with a common cold, if they are well enough to come in.

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	87%
R L	80%
1DG	95%
1S	96%
2HD	90%
2PT	99%
3N	98%
3R	100%
4C	100%
4E	96%
5G	93%
5S	98%
6CN	91%
6E	96%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 3 October, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 10:2-16

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Jesus welcomed the little children, making time and space for them to be in his presence. He did not want them to be excluded, to be seen as somehow less important or less worthy, just because they were children.

We are called to do the same. Not just by looking out for children, but by making sure that all people, especially those who are vulnerable, those who are normally overlooked and unheard, have all that they need. That they are heard and welcomed, that they are listened to and supported.

The coronavirus pandemic is pushing millions of people around the world into poverty and has deepened inequality. The poorest and most vulnerable people are also the ones who are being hit hardest by climate change. Harvests are failing. Cities are flooding. Entire communities are struggling.

Pope Francis calls us all to dream and act together: "Let us dream, then, as a single human family... as children of the same earth which is our common home... each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."

Today on Family Fast Day, we can support people around the world who have a vital role as guardians of creation. And we can all play our own part in ensuring a hopeful future for the earth, for now and for future generations.

Grant us grace, Lord,
to put the flourishing of all people
and the wonder of your creation
at the heart of all we do.
Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

The response of faith demands that we be active in our love for God and in our love of neighbour. #GeneralAudience



A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School

THE Wednesday
WORD



SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shows us that the kingdom of God is open to everybody, to people of all cultures and backgrounds – and that includes you and me too!

Jesus puts forward a child as an example of how to enter God's kingdom. Why a child? Could it be a child's simplicity or dependency – or a child's openness to God?

Wednesday 29th September 2021

God wants us to accept him and to trust him always to be there for us. God has a great plan for each of our lives, and we can discover what it is when we are open to God.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **OPENNESS**.

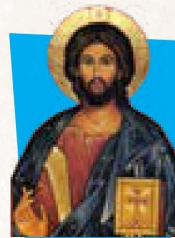
Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

"May you be content
knowing you are
a child of God."
St Teresa of Avila

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 3rd October 2021



People were bringing little children to be with Jesus. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was annoyed and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round the children and gave them his blessing.

Adapted from Mark 10:2-16
The 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church – all are warmly invited.

"Let's try to be open to God's word,
and open to the Lord's surprises
when he speaks to us."

Pope Francis



THE Wednesday
WORD

CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Jesus is open to everyone – he has time for us and cares for us.

Jesus hears our prayers and offers his blessing to every person.

Being open to Jesus helps us to be more open to one another.

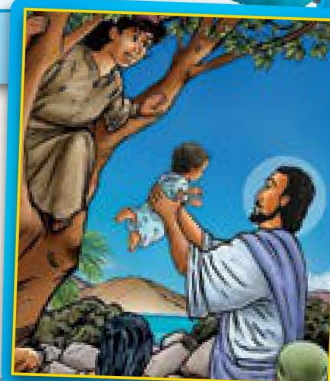


1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf
(or below for younger children)

Some people brought their children to Jesus so that he could bless them, but the disciples turned them away. So Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these little children." Then Jesus hugged the children and blessed each one of them.

Who did Jesus say that we must be like to enter God's kingdom? Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Look at the Sunday Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

OPENNESS

3

Loving God & Each Other

"Love, by its nature, is communication; it leads to openness and sharing."

Pope Francis

Openness to Jesus helps us draw closer to God. Ask your child what the word 'openness' means to them. Who is usually open with them – ready to listen to and support them? How does it make them feel when people are open with them? Good relationships depend upon openness. What happens to a family or community when people are open with each other?

"Prayer is first of all listening to God – it's openness."

Henri Nouwen

How can we be more open to God and to others in this coming week? Perhaps we can: spend a little more time in prayer; invite someone round and let them – not us – choose what to play; try to listen and understand if someone has a problem; be ready to forgive someone who may have upset us; try not to demand our own way; try to learn something new; be open and ready to accept praise or correction.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to be more **open** to you by being kind and **open** to the people I meet each day. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LITTLE CHILDREN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BELONG KINGDOM	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS WELCOMED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	HUGGED BLESSED	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **a c f** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

apecoplef tahefsec Gafocd's belfoncgas

Jesus said, "_____ ' _____ kingdom _____ to _____ who are like _____ little children."

Good relationships depend upon openness.

A simple way of showing your openness to God's ways is by treating people in a way you would like to be treated yourself, regardless of any differences.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...





Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 3rd October 2021 - The Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

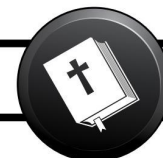
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this 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 3rd October 2021 (Mark 10:2-16): Two Become One Flesh

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" "Moses allowed us," they said, "to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce." Then Jesus said to them, "It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide." Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, "The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too." People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.



3 Reflect

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

The Pharisees are putting a trick question to Jesus, as is clear in Matthew's fuller account in his gospel. They knew the Law, which permitted divorce, and they will quote this Law to Jesus. The Law allowed divorce for 'indecency', but teachers were divided about what this meant: did it mean adultery or a lesser fault? So their real question is: what does Jesus consider grounds for divorce? As so frequently in his discussions with the legal experts, Jesus' response goes beyond and much deeper than a simple answer to the question: God made man and woman such that they should bond together permanently and become one thinking, living being. The word used for one 'body', or one 'flesh', really means one entity, not a hunk of meat, but a single, vibrant personality. God's intention was not that the two should be separable again. So Jesus does not answer the question about grounds for divorce at all. It is striking that here – and on other occasions too – Jesus' authority is such that he feels able to alter the sacred Law of Moses. For the Jews the Law of Moses was God's own gift, sacred and unalterable by any human authority. By altering it, by annulling the permission for divorce under certain circumstances, Jesus is implicitly claiming divine authority.

What does Jesus teach about marriage? And what does his welcoming of the children have to say about God's kingdom?

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 3rd October 2021



First Reading: *God gives Man a Partner*

Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate." So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed, "This at last is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The stories at the beginning of Genesis are intended to explain how God designed things and what their purpose is. The stories are, of course, not meant to be historical, but their teaching is of the highest importance: they show how things were meant to be. By giving the animals their names the Man is taking part in their creation. Made in the image of God, the Man's task is to promote God's work and foster creation and foster life, just as God himself does. The creation of human beings is the climax of creation, which means that human beings have a responsibility towards the rest of creation. The warm relationship between God and the Man before the Fall is particularly touching. God's care for the Man, putting him to sleep before the surgical operation which produces Woman, with God himself sewing up the wound, is delightful. So is God's careful moulding of the Woman and the presentation of his handiwork to the Man. It is important to see that there is no unevenness, no inequality between the sexes; each is personally moulded by God. The author paints word-pictures; the welcoming between the Woman and the Man is the author's way of showing that the bonding between them in marriage is a divine institution.

What does this story from Genesis say to us about the relationship between the sexes, and about our relationship with God?

Second Reading: *The Leader to Salvation*

Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

“By being made perfect Jesus leads all his brothers and sisters to the same perfection.”

The Letter to the Hebrews is going to be read during Mass for the next seven Sundays, right up until Advent. Its author is completely unknown, but it is very likely that the letter was written for Hebrew priests, who had become Christians and were missing the traditional rites of their people. It assumes knowledge of the Jewish ritual, and, with many allusions to scripture, it highlights two themes. Firstly, it shows that the Jewish sacrificial rituals were a pale shadow, but that their reality and fulfilment comes in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. Secondly, it points out that the People of God are still on pilgrimage. God's promise that they would reach a place of rest was not fulfilled by their arrival in the Holy Land under Joshua; it will be fulfilled only in heaven. In today's reading we glimpse part of the first theme. Jesus humbled himself to become man, only a little less than the angels (the author is alluding to Psalm 8), in order to become perfect through his suffering. He had to become fully human, so that by being made perfect he might lead all his brothers and sisters to the same perfection.

What does it mean when it says that Jesus became “perfect” through suffering? How do we too become “perfect”?

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Anayah Arbuah, Aimee Fennelly, Lucy Philpot, Joshua Puddefoot,
Oskar Skowron, Zoe Staines, Julia Czarny and Obaloluwa Akibola



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Thea Dixon, for her lovely writing in literacy
1S: Maya Kluza, for lovely sentence writing and description
2HD: Archie Vetroi, for an amazing start in 2HD
2PT: Emmanuella Boateng, for a fantastic reflective prayer in R.E.
3N: Ollie Kluza, for his excellent setting
3R: Giuseppe Portaro, for his excellent ideas and attitude when writing his story setting
4C: Phoebe McNamara, for her terrific attitude in all lessons
4E: Nathan Kwey, for taking pride in his work
5G: Christopher Annobil, for his amazing attitude to learning across all subjects
5S: Isaac Lieu, for his excellent attitude in numeracy and for modelling different approaches to solve problems
6CN: Jan Burbetty, for always working and presenting his work beautifully
6E: Zach Gauci, for thoughtful work in R.E.
Midday Award: Gerald Larbi, for playing so nicely with the other children
Obaloluwa Akibola, for doing really well at lunchtimes

House Points

Congratulations to the
winning house St David &
St Andrew

Menu Week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 4th October

5S Burwell House

Tuesday 5th October

Wednesday 6th October

2HD Library Visit
Years 2 & 3 Karate 3:10 - 4:10
5S return from Burwell House
5G Burwell House

Thursday 7th October

Years 4,5 & 6 Karate 3:15 - 4:15
KS2 Football Club 3.15 - 4.15

Friday 8th October

World Mental Health Day -
wear something yellow
6CN Library Visit
5G return from Burwell House
KS1 Football Club 3.10 - 4.10
KS2 Fitness Club 3.15 - 4.15
KS2 Art Club 3.15 - 4.30

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

Deputy Headteacher