



17th September 2021



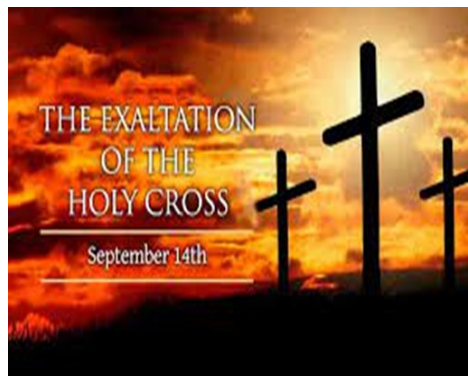
Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of our second week at school and the first full week for our children in Reception who I am sure will have slept soundly with all the excitement of their first school days.

On Tuesday, we held our new year school mass and, quite aptly, celebrated the Feast of the Holy Cross with Father Bernard and Deacon Tony.

The Exaltation of the Cross is a day where we look back on the crosses of life, the different physical, spiritual and emotional crosses. It's been quite a bumpy road this past 18 months, where everyone has been affected to varying degrees. Undoubtedly, there will be more twists and turns to come. We must remember that the power of the cross lifts us up, it triumphs and gives us courage. Thank you to all involved with this celebration. We wish you a happy and peaceful weekend.



Daily Procedures

All are familiar again with the one-way system for entry and exit. Due to the heavy rain and subsequent flooding on Tracys Road on Tuesday morning, this was disrupted as children and parents were asked to enter through the car park gate. This was necessary as the waves created by cars driving through would have resulted in children being wet for the day. The Council have been informed of the flooding issue. You know that we will do all that we can to keep children, parents and the wider community as safe as possible so thank you for your supporting us with our procedures.

Prayers

Your kind words and good wishes have been received by Miss McGuigan and she thanks you for these. We ask that you continue to keep her in your prayers.





Year 6 Visit to St. Marks and Open Day



On Monday, Year 6 visited St. Mark's to experience a day in the life of a secondary school pupil. This was followed by a presentation by Mrs. Long to Year 6 children and their parents in Holy Cross Church. There is an open day event at St. Mark's next Thursday 23rd September.



Year 5 Trip to Gibberd Gardens

As part of their learning about sculpture in art, Year 5S visited Gibberd Gardens today. Sir Frederick Gibberd bought the site in Marsh Lane in 1957, in order to make a landscaped garden and a family home. His wife had contacts with a number of sculptors and Lady Gibberd bought and commissioned many sculptures, which were sited in the garden. Sir Frederick bequeathed his house, gardens and sculptures to Harlow Council and it is now owned by the Gibberd Garden Trust. Thanks to his generosity Year 5 have drawn inspiration from these works which will now support them in their learning. Thank you to those parents who were able to assist with this trip.





The School Council

Congratulations to the new School Council, who have been elected by their peers.

Ronel Sofuwa, Jessica Wadding, Julia Magryta, Sammy Stevenson, Ethan Owusu Boateng, Araibella Morgan, Morayo Bolaji, Teddy White, Cian Hanifin-Flynn, Faith Williams, Violet Aldous, Jeremy Cox, Hector Onwurah, Julia Czarny, Isabella Cundins, Mark Adjaye-Kwofie and Kassidy Anderson.

Mrs Gallagher is looking forward to the first meeting Wednesday 22nd September.

There are going to be lots of exciting events to plan for the year ahead

#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.*

YOUNGMINDS

Forest School

This week the children have continued to enjoy exploring nature, looking for signs of Autumn, pond dipping, climbing trees and using their imagination in the mud kitchen!

Thank you for providing your children with boots to be able to utilise this wonderful opportunity they have at Holy Cross.

Forest school award this week goes to Theodora in year 2PT



Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Gentleness

- love and friendship

"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also." (6:29) Samaritan Village (9:54)



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

1D: Dominic Annobil

1S: Tawana Agyare

2HD: Skyla Hand

2PT: Freya Hyde

3N: Roxanne Hand

3R: Ella Stopplecamp

4C: Amelia Randle

4E: Kiera Hogkinson

5G: Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba

5S: Luciann Henry

6CN: Cian Hannifin-Flynn

6E: Isabella Bethell

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Ladybrids and 2HD attaining 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 3R, achieving 99%. 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.

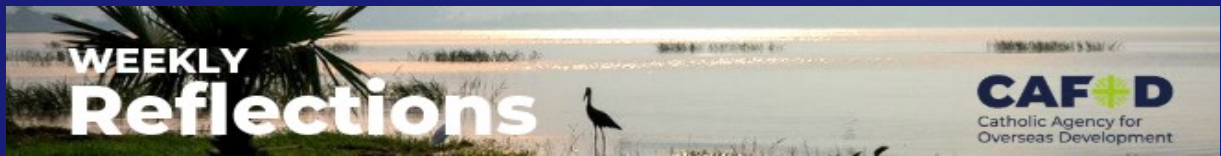
Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative PCR test before they may attend school. There is no need to keep your child off with a common cold, if they are well enough to come in.

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	98%
R L	99%
1DG	90%
1S	98%
2HD	97%
2PT	99%
3N	98%
3R	99%
4C	95%
4E	93%
5G	95%
5S	90%
6CN	95%
6E	95%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 19 September, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 9:30-37

"Anyone who wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all."

Who is the greatest? Jesus warns the disciples of the dangers of pride and urges them to follow a path towards humility.

It is very normal to feel pride in an achievement, particularly if it is hard won, but we should avoid boasting about it, especially in a way that belittles others .

The life journey of a Christian involves trying to become more Christ-like. It is a long, hard journey and a key part of that is becoming more humble - less worldly.

The disciples, who were close to Jesus, found it difficult and so it is not surprising that we do too. Nevertheless, it is a path we are called to follow.

We try, as in Colossians 3:12, to clothe ourselves in "compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience." We try not to look only inwardly to our own interests but also outwardly to the interests of the others.

As humans we are interdependent. We are also dependent on and must be good stewards to the earth our common home.

We are called to play a positive part in the solutions to the many issues facing humanity today. It is not for us to sit on the side lines hoping that someone else will address these issues, but rather to become actively involved in accordance with our ability to do so. And to do this in a selfless, humble manner considering the needs of others before those of ourselves.

Lord of all creation, help us to become more like you in our care for other people and our care of our common home. Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis



Do not be afraid to go out to encounter the marginalized. You will find that you are going out to meet Jesus. He awaits you wherever there is need, not comfort; wherever service rules, not power. Those are the places where he will be found.
#ApostolicJourney

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 once again reminds the disciples – and us too – that a life of service is the best life to live. Life can be so busy, full of the things we really like doing, that it's quite easy to forget about serving others.

The Church teaches that we grow in the love of God through serving each other. One of the oldest titles for the Pope is 'The Servant of the servants of God'.

Wednesday 15th September 2021

This emphasises the importance which the Church places on service. Jesus lived a life of service. Family and school life become more joyful when we follow Jesus' example and live as God intends.

So enjoy your week together – bring peace and joy into your home and community by spreading God's love – through **SERVING** each other.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



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

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 19th September 2021



After leaving the mountain, Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was teaching his disciples about what was going to happen to him; he said, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again." But the disciples did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. Later, Jesus said to them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing because they had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest. So Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all."

Adapted from Mark 9:30-37
The 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

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

"Jesus leads us to go out from
ourselves more and more, to give
ourselves and to serve others."

Pope Francis



THE Wednesday
WORD

CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Serving is part of everyday life, particularly family life. It is serving others which makes people truly great, deeply loved and warmly remembered. The happiest people on earth are actually those who serve others.

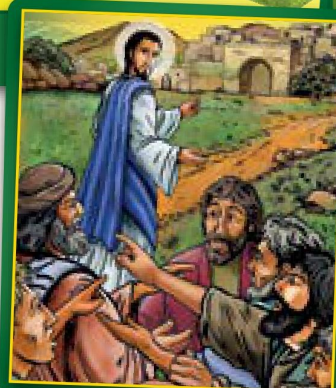


1 Our Special Time Together

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

After teaching his disciples about what was going to happen to him (how he would die, but, after three days, rise from the dead), Jesus asked them: "What were you arguing about earlier?" No one answered his question, because they'd been arguing about which one of them was the greatest. So Jesus sat down, gathered his twelve special friends around him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, they must put themselves last of all and become the servant of all."

What did Jesus say that those who wanted to be 'first' must do? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

SERVING

3

Loving God & Each Other

"To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others." *St Pope John Paul II*

What matters to God is that we care for, love and serve one another. We show our greatness by serving others. Ask your child what 'serving each other' means to them. Which people serve them as Jesus teaches? What do those people do? What happens in a family or community when everyone begins to serve each other? Ask your child if they can remember the last time they served someone.

"There is nothing small in the service of God." *St Francis de Sales*

We can show our faith in God by loving and serving other people in simple and little ways. As a family, consider if there is any person or organisation that could benefit from your physical or prayerful service in this coming week. Perhaps it could be: a charity, your school, a neighbour, an elderly or sick person. Then share ideas about how you might best serve (or offer to serve) them this week.

Dear Lord Jesus, you **served** others. Please help me to follow your example, so that my home, my school and my community may be filled with your love. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISCIPLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS HEARD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	QUESTIONED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	TAUGHT	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SERVE OTHERS	<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 **d w k** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

fiwdrstk bewcodmek skervwadnt danywonek

Jesus said, "If _____ wants to be _____, they must _____ the _____ of all."

Serving others helps to make the world a much better place. God lives in each one of us, so it's good to remember that when we're serving one another, we're serving God too!

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 19th September 2021 - The Twenty Fifth 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 19th September 2021 (Mark 9:30-37): The Second Prophecy of the Passion

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again." But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all." He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

3

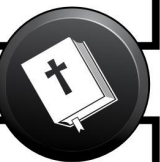
Reflect

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

Mark gives us three formal prophecies of the Passion, of which this is the second. He uses the triple number frequently to stress the importance and sureness of an event. So Peter denies Jesus three times, and Pilate three times asserts Jesus' innocence. Jesus is shown to be fully aware of the fate that awaits him: he goes into it with his eyes open, and accepts his Father's will; he is, moreover, aware that his Father will not desert him, but will vindicate him by the Resurrection. Again the disciples fail to understand the message: while Jesus had been giving them the message of triumph only through suffering and humiliation, they had been thinking about who would be the greatest. So Jesus sets before them a child as the model. In what way is a child a model? Like adults, children can be selfish and they can be devious and scheming from an early age. However, children are probably more aware than adults that they cannot totally control a situation and trustingly accept that they are dependent on others. The final words that Jesus speaks in today's Gospel suggests that it is this quality of dependence that Jesus proposes: like little children we should be dependent on the will of the Father.

Why does Jesus put forward a child as a role model for 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 19th September 2021



First Reading: *The Good Man Taunted*

The Book of Wisdom 2:12.17-20

The godless say to themselves, "Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true; let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after - we have his word for it."

This is one of the few readings we hear on Sundays taken from the Book of Wisdom. This book was written probably at Alexandria, and was written in Greek, so is not included in the Protestant canon of scripture, which includes only the books written in Hebrew. A major theme of the book is the contrast between divine Wisdom and folly. It also includes a wonderful poem to God's Wisdom, by which he created the world, 'the reflection of the eternal light, and the image of his goodness'. In today's reading we are presented with the taunts which those who refuse divine Wisdom make against those who embrace Wisdom. It is remarkable that in Matthew's gospel the taunts of the chief priests, scribes and elders against Jesus as he hangs on the cross use these very same words. This use of scripture is typical of Matthew's irony, and shows just how wrong those taunting Jesus were. The reading, therefore, both prepares us for the prophecy of the passion in the first part of today's gospel reading, and contrasts the boasts of the godless with the wisdom of simplicity represented by the child in the second part of the gospel.

What do we mean when we describe someone as "virtuous"?

Second Reading: *Peace and Prayer*

James 3:16 - 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly; you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

“True prayer submits in obedience to the Father.”

The reading from the Letter of James begins by contrasting quarrelling and ambition, and their evil effects, with the true wisdom which brings peace. Then it goes on to some stern words about prayer which is not answered, 'because you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires'. Is it wrong, then, to ask God for what we want? What about 'Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find'? The problem of unanswered prayers of petition is a difficult one. We do not really believe that we can change God's mind and intentions by praying. Nevertheless, we express to God our needs and desires, although we are well aware that he knows them already. This is what a child does to a loving father, 'Please, please!' We even link arms with our mother, Mary, or even our brother and Saviour, Jesus, to increase the persuasive power. But every prayer of petition, just as a child's prayer to a loving father, contains the hidden text that the Father knows best. The child or the praying Christian can want something desperately, but, for true prayer, the child or Christian submits in obedience to the Father; only in this way is our prayer an expression of trust and affection.

What is the point of petitionary prayer (prayers of request)?

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...

Faustyna Liszka, Nikodem Smaglo, Kingsley Udeagha, Maxon Wienzek,
Logan Coombe, Sebastian Darlea, Aurora Milciute Blynovas



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Jayden Ondiege, for writing a fantastic list
1S: Keziah Adisa, for lovely work on counting forwards
2HD: Parker Loughran-Ricketts, for amazing answers in class
2PT: Diale Ebhabha, for a fantastic start to Year 2
3N: Cristiana Sirghe, for her beautiful writing
3R: Leah Hyde, for working really hard on her writing and sharing her ideas in class
4C: Mason Thompson, for his outstanding reading to the whole class
4E: Emilia Mardyla, for excellent skills, knowledge and effort using place value
5G: Conor O'Rourke, for fantastic contributions to our class discussions
5S: Aidan Cater, for fantastic effort and knowledge on place value in numeracy
6CN: Mya Matunge, for creating the centre piece on our crucifix
6E: Gabriel Lesny, for great literacy work
- Learning Mentor: To the new School Council, congratulations on being elected, by your classmates!

Menu Week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 20th September

Year 3 Mass 2.00

Tuesday 21st September

Wednesday 22nd September

Years 2 & 3 Karate 3:10 - 4:10

Thursday 23rd September

Years 4,5 & 6 Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Friday 24th September

5G Trip to Gibberd Garden

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St George**

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