



18th March 2022



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

In assembly this week we discussed the Gospel according to Luke (9:28-36), which we heard at Mass last weekend. It was explained that the disciples thought perhaps they should stay on the mountain and worship Jesus, but Jesus took them back down in order to fulfil his ministry.

Our Christian life is mostly lived among people who need us to show God's love. Our faith is not something just for church, but it is something that we have to live out every day in all that we do.

We ask that you talk to your children about what they have heard in our assemblies and know that many of you already do. Talking about Holy scripture and sharing it will help children to understand its relevance in our lives today. Have a peaceful weekend.

Holy Cross Governors

This week, I would like to express an appreciation for our Governors. They work tirelessly behind the scenes in helping to ensure the best education for our children and all in a voluntary capacity. They are so important in ensuring strategic leadership, accountability for education and financial performance, statutory compliance and evaluation of our school development plan. Their commitment is very much valued.

Commonwealth Choir

On Monday, children from Holy Cross, as part of the Commonwealth Choir, travelled to Horse Guards' Parade to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2022. This held a special significance this year as Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service.

Each year the Commonwealth adopts a theme, which this year is 'Delivering A Common Future'. This celebrates the commonwealth countries' united efforts to achieve common goals, including protecting natural resources, delivering a peaceful, prosperous, and more sustainable future.

Many thanks to Katie, Lilly, Isla, Hayley, Ena, Marian, Morayo, Mmasi, Lucia, Maame-Yaa and Aidan who were in fine voice and represented us so well. We are grateful to Mrs. Slater, Mrs. Laporte and Mrs. Cater who supported this trip by accompanying the children.



Defibrillator Update

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Wear Red Day in February. Along with Holy Cross Parish and Holy Cross Pre-School we have managed to raise £1450 towards the defibrillator.

Special thanks to We are Warriors Muay Thai Academy, Epping for their kind donation.



Parent Consultation

We look forward to welcoming you next Tuesday and Thursday to discuss the progress of your child/ren. Please be mindful of the allotted time as running over impacts on other parents, especially when they have an appointment with a second or third teacher. If you need more than the allocated time to discuss a particular issue, please arrange this for another date with the teacher. These meetings will be held in the school hall.



Reconciliation

Thank you to Fr. Bernard who was in school on Tuesday and Wednesday for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with children in Years 4,5 and 6.

Crucial Crew

On Tuesday morning, Year 6 experienced 'Crucial Crew'. This a multi-agency event, involving the Police and Fire Service, which aims to raise awareness of safety issues. It also helps children to make the correct, considered choice when they encounter new situations as they move on to secondary school and gain more independence.



Mother's Day

This is fast approaching and is next Sunday 27th March. Children will be able to avail of a range of gifts in school throughout next week as we are setting up a 'Mother's Day Gift Shop'.

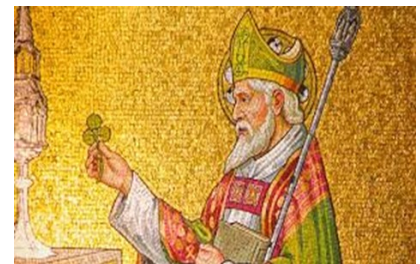
Gifts will be £3 each.



St Patrick's Day

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day in school on Thursday where all those children in that house did not have to wear uniform and enjoyed decorating biscuits before eating them!

May your days be many and your troubles be few.
May all God's blessings descend upon you.
May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.
May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.
May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.
May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore.
Amen.



Bikeability

Children from Year 5 were on their bicycles once more this week developing their skills through Bikeability training. Further information on accessing cycling training for children and families can be found through the following link. <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/>

PTA Meeting

Mrs. Slater hosted the first Parent Teacher Association meeting since 2020 on Wednesday morning. Thank you to Mrs. Cundins and all the parents who attended. The aim is to work together to create community events where funds will be raised for the direct benefit of our children. Once confirmed, we look forward to sharing these events with you.

Join the PTA!





Collection for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Ukraine refugees. Along with Holy Cross Church and Second Great Parndon Beavers, Cubs and Scouts we managed to collect a huge amount of essential items for a worthy cause.

Thank you to Mrs Slater, Mrs Lieu, Mrs Johns, Mrs Plowman, Mrs Blake, Mrs Rammell and Mrs Watling for sorting the items on Saturday ready for delivery to Harlow Civic Centre.

The staff at the Civic Centre were overwhelmed with our donations.

Holy Cross shine again!

Last Friday nine children from Years 5 and 6 attended Harlow Rugby club for an emerging tag rugby tournament in the wind and rain! This event was all about having fun and learning the rules. The team had never played together before yet performed superbly in matches against St Nicholas, Pemberley, Freshwaters and Church Langley. We matched the achievements of last weeks' team by scoring in every match!

Well done to Isla, Szymon, Lucy, Gabriel, Connor, James, Ronel, Maame-Yaa and Karmella. A special mention to Gabriel, who scored seven tries, including one in the first game after only 10 seconds!



Cross-Country competition

We wish all our children who are attending the cross-country event today every success. What lovely weather they've had for this. We will include a full report next week.



SCHOOL COUNCIL



Our School Council have been busy listening to all your views and have worked with Mrs Alger in the kitchen to listen to your ideas with lunches and items you would like to see back on the menu in the summer term.

Remember to report back your ideas and suggestions to your class School Councillors before our next meeting on Wednesday 23rd March



Did you know we have battery and ink cartridge recycling boxes at the front of school in reception where you can leave your used batteries and ink cartridges? The Eco Council arrange collection so it helps the environment.

Remember to report back your ideas and suggestions to your class Eco Councillors before our next meeting on Wednesday 30th March.



www.bag2school.com

Bag 2 School Collection

Next week the Eco council will be working with The Friends of Holy Cross (PTA) to organise a Bags 2 School collection.

We are asking for donations of clothes, paired shoes, handbags, soft toys, curtains, towels and household linen.

The last day of collection is Friday 22nd April.

For further information on what can and can't be donated please follow the link below:

<https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Parent Coffee Mornings are back

Every month on a Wednesday morning starting from
Wed 20th April

In the Church Hall

from drop off until 10am

Pop in for a cuppa and tell us what you would like to
see at your parent coffee morning

There will be a suggestion box and information with all
that is going on in school and how you can get
involved.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they have seen.



2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.



3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what is happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.



4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make us feel angry, scared. Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.



5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.



6 CONSIDER YOUR EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.



7 SET LIMITS

Managing screentime and content can be difficult at the best of times, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try and at least limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screentime limits.



8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.



9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.



10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.



11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.



12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.



Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



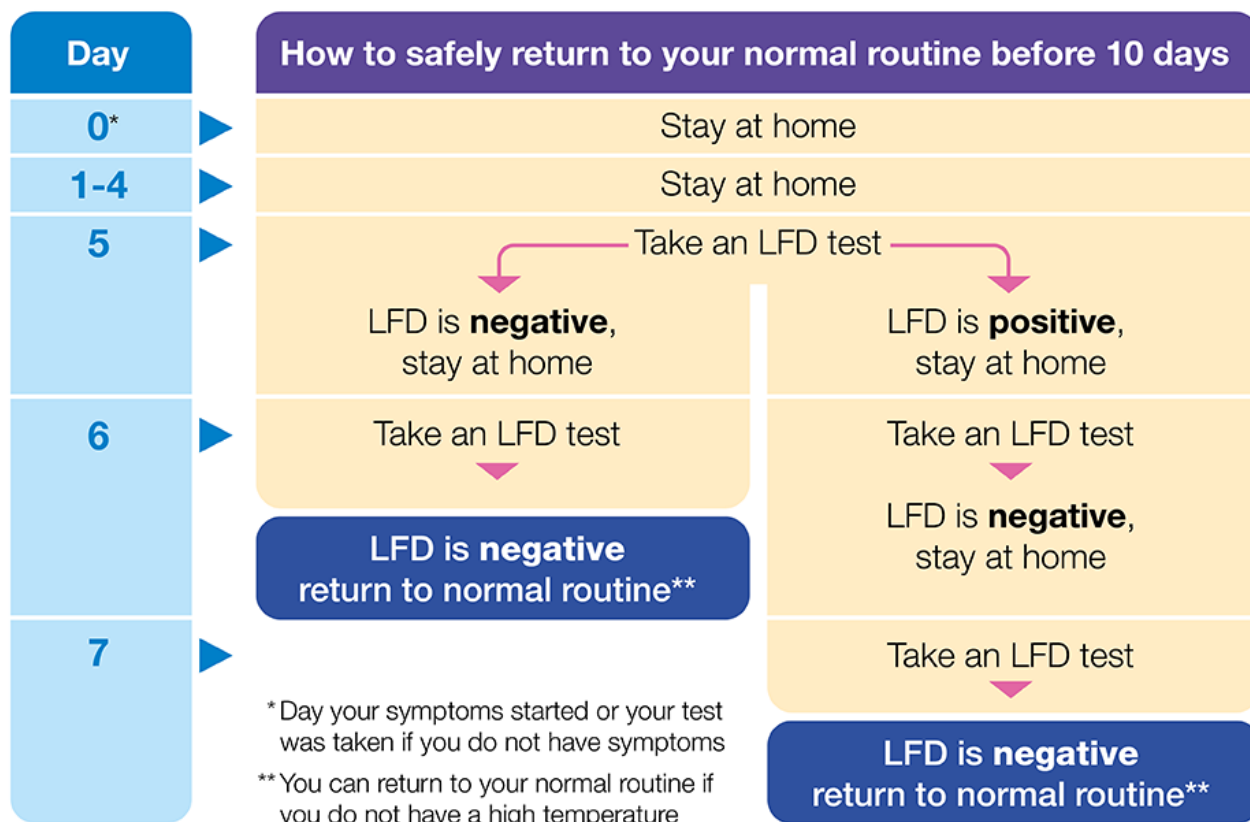
National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/round/20210406-how-to-support-your-child-with-upsetting-content> / <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/how-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war>

New COVID Guidelines

If testing positive for COVID the guidance recommends that those who test positive stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least five full days. We will continue ask all children, testing positive, to stay at home for 5 days and not return to school until they have had 2 negative LFD results.



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 6CN, 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 **8:30am** until **8.50am**.

Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative 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 Pupil Asset report absence option on every day of absence. 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	97%
R L	97%
1DG	94%
1S	97%
2HD	98%
2PT	98%
3N	92%
3R	97%
4C	99%
4E	93%
5G	97%
5S	97%
6CN	94%
6E	96%



Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children for trying really hard with their times tables this week.



2HD: Zachary Timbrell

3N: Rohan Clennell

4C: Kassidy Anderson

5G: Amanda Girciute

6CN: Corey Sheppard

2PT: Vivienne Padfield

3R: Victoria Banjo

4E: Isaac Adisa

5S: Elizabeth Kingston-Hyde

6E: Alana Cox

Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Simplicity

- non-attachment to wealth, live simply

"You cannot serve God and wealth." (16:13,

"Do not worry about your life." (12:22)



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

Butterflies: Anashe Mhiribidi

1DG: Nicola-Marie Kazamia

2HD: Liana Sereikaite

3N: Cristiana Sirghe

4C: Ethan Smith

5G: Amanda Girciute

6CN: Corey Sheppard

Ladybirds: Olivia Colussi

1S: Luca Yamgoue

2PT: Cathal O'Donovan

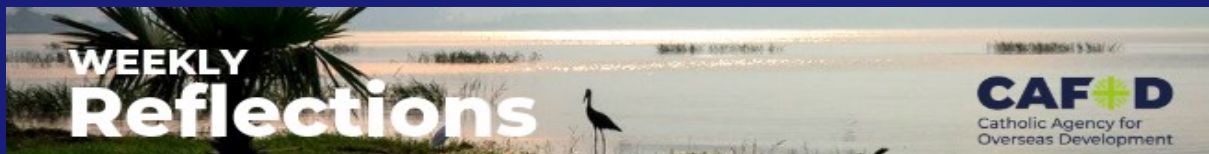
3R: Aniyah Adenuga

4E: Pola Bubetty

5S: Elizabeth Kingston-Hyde

6E: Alana Cox

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 20 March, Third Sunday of Lent: Luke 13:1-9

"It may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

In the parable Jesus tells a fig tree fails to bear fruit. The owner wants to dig it up, but the gardener persuades him to keep it for another year, to nurture it and see if it can change.

This is like our relationship with God - God is always looking to give us another chance to change and to bear fruit.

And so today, let's consider the times when we have got it wrong. When we have moved through the world in a way that has had a negative impact on others, whether deliberately or accidentally.

It could be down to our individual actions or because of our part in the systems and structures that define how the world works, who benefits and who loses out.

It is not always easy to admit our faults, but this is not about beating ourselves up. It is not about telling ourselves what terrible people we are. It is about recognising how we can grow.

Just as the gardener adds the manure and digs around the fruit tree, with God's help we can try to create the right conditions for ourselves - and for our brothers and sisters throughout the world - to flourish.

So today, let us all examine the ways in which we can grow closer to those who are in need, and bear fruit in our world.

Merciful God, forgive us for the things that we have done wrong. Lead us to cultivate our relationships with more care, so that all your children may grow and bear the fruit of their potential.

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Like the disciples, we too are in need of God's light, that makes us see things in a different way: it attracts us, it reawakens us, it reignites our desire and strength to pray, to look within ourselves, and to dedicate time to others.

Wednesday 16th March 2022 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 20th March 2022 - 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 20th March 2022 - Time for Repentance (Luke 13:1-9)

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, "Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did." He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, 'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"



3 Reflect

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

We have seen how St Luke, in his gospel, places great emphasis on Jesus' message of repentance and forgiveness. At the beginning of Jesus' ministry Peter must admit his sinfulness before he is called to be an apostle; at the end, the good thief acknowledges his guilt and is welcomed into Jesus' kingdom. This gospel reading, with its historical examples and its parable, reinforces the Old Testament lesson of repentance. Notice also how, in Luke's account of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector, the latter wins through: his prayer is only 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'. Every proclamation of the gospel in Luke's Acts of the Apostles ends with an appeal for repentance. Repentance means not simply bewailing our sins but doing something about it, changing our way of life, our scale of values. However, we are made in the image of God, and cannot expect God's forgiveness unless we too follow God's example and show the same forgiveness to others. The sinful woman who loved much was forgiven much (Luke 7:36-50). Nor is Luke the only evangelist to stress this point. Matthew adds at the end of the Lord's Prayer the saying of Jesus which underlines the importance of the single petition, 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive others'.

If you think of yourself as the fig-tree, what do you consider to be the most 'rotten' part of yourself that you really need to change? Would the sacrament of Reconciliation help? What sort of injury do you find it hardest to forgive - an affront to your pride, your pocket or your person? Is there anyone you have not forgiven?

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 20th March 2022



First Reading: *Moses at the Burning Bush*

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. "I must go and look at this strange sight," Moses said, "and see why the bush is not burnt." Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. "Moses, Moses!" he said. "Here I am," he answered. "Come no nearer," he said. "Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father," he said, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, "I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow." Then Moses said to God, "I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?" And God said to Moses, "I Am who I Am. This," he added, "is what you must say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come."

In our Lenten readings we have progressed through the story of God's people and now we come to the crucial point when God reveals his name to Moses. This is a decisive moment, because to give your name is a sign of trust and friendship. Someone who has your name has power over you in all kinds of ways, so you give your name only to those you trust. The Hebrew people, descendants of Abraham, are at a low point, a mere oppressed rabble of immigrants in Egypt, lacking land or security, marked out for extermination by a powerful bureaucratic state. It is as though God had waited for this moment to raise them up, to form them as a coherent group with a leader who could stand up for them in God's name. God does not yet give the meaning of the name; perhaps 'I Am who I Am' even means 'You mind your own business!' God's name does have something to do with Being, and the Greek translation of the Hebrew text understands it as 'Pure Being', 'the One who Is'. In the Hebrew Bible the meaning of the name is given later on at Sinai, after Israel's worship of the Golden Bull, when God passes before Moses crying out the name, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God of mercy and forgiveness'. This is the true significance of God's name which will echo in passage after passage later on in the Bible.

What does this understanding of God's name mean to you?

Second Reading: *The Rock which is Christ*

1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

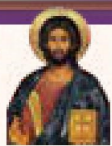
“The rock is Christ
who nourishes us.”

As with the readings of the previous two Sundays, the second reading moves the first reading into a higher gear. God revealed his name to Moses in the desert, led the Israelites across the sea and cared for them in the desert with manna for food and water from the rock to drink. Paul uses the current rabbinic explanation of the two accounts (in the books of Exodus and Numbers) of Moses striking the rock for water: it is not two accounts of the same incident, but they are separate incidents. It is the same rock who accompanied the Israelites on their journey through the desert. How does a rock follow the people in their wanderings? Paul explains to us that the real meaning of the rock is Christ who nourishes us. However, Paul is really writing to chide the Corinthians on their undisciplined behaviour, especially when gathered at the Eucharist. Despite the wonders that accompanied the Israelites, the desert wanderings were a time of infidelity and rebellion which even the God of mercy and forgiveness was compelled to correct. Let the Corinthians learn their lesson! Even though their Christian life was marked by plentiful gifts of the Spirit, they must repent of their wild behaviour. Is Christ the rock who is with you always - the one who gives you the waters of life?

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

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,

Throughout the school years, the whole family will grow and change – learning more about life and about one another.

Change can be an exciting part of family life. The Season of Lent presents a great opportunity to examine our conscience – do we need a change of heart, a change of attitude?

In this Sunday's Gospel, the fig tree represents God's people – it represents all of us.

Wednesday 16th March 2022

We are all called to change: to grow and so enrich the world around us – to love as Jesus loved.

That is what being fully human means! Jesus is like the gardener. He is patient with us, nurtures us and helps us to change for the better.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **CHANGE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



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

Adapted from **THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH** SUNDAY 20TH MARCH 2022



Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, 'Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?' 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 20th March 2022
Luke 13:1-9 (the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C)

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

"Lent helps us fight against any faults. We all can improve and change for the better." Pope Francis



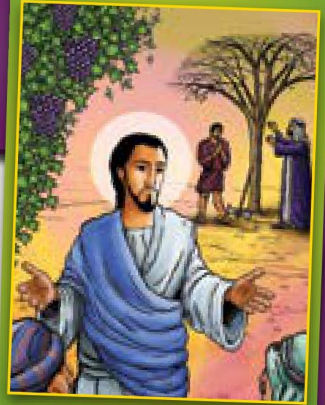
FAMILIES
GROWING IN FAITH

The Gospel above and the FAMILY TIME section overleaf can be read independently by adults or children alike. But reading them as a family really does help the family to grow in faith and love.



Lent is a time of change and each new day is an opportunity for us to change. God has 'planted' us on this earth to produce the good fruits of love, joy and kindness in our lives. Jesus helps us to keep growing in faith and goodness – to change the world and make it a better place.

Luke 13:1-9



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

One day Jesus told the people this story: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard which was taking up space and not producing fruit. So he said to the gardener, 'For three years I have been coming to look for fruit on this tree and finding none. Let's chop it down!' The gardener replied, 'Sir, let's leave it for another year. I'll help it to grow and produce fruit.'"

What was wrong with the fig tree? Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

CHANGE



3 Loving God & Each Other

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

Ask your child what the word 'change' means to them. As a family, share any positive changes which have recently taken place at home, at school or within the community. Let your child know about at least one way in which they have changed for the better and grown in goodness over the past months (e.g. in behaviour, in attitude, in helpfulness). How does your child think that changing in that way has helped them? How has it helped the family or their friends?

"Our friendship with God changes our life – filling us with passion, with joy." *Pope Francis*

Each of you say something about yourself that you would like to change this Lent – and say why. Perhaps it is: trying to listen better at school; trying to follow Jesus more closely; being more patient; helping out more at home; always remembering to say your daily prayers. How can you make that change? Do you need anyone's help? Are there any other ways to make a change for the better this Lent? You may also like to choose something new to do together that will make life better for the family.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your patient care for us. Show us where we need to **change** – to grow more in our love for you and for each other. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

P E G N A H C Y R O P
E C U D O R P E T D G
M H T I M E N W R A V
G A H N G E H A E M I
F N V M D W Y C E P N
R G A R D E N E R R T
U E A T N R E N W O R
I G V I N E Y A R D E
T Y V U E E M I T U W
G T U R F V V M I C N
T H T F R U O W N E R

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE 8 WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

☒ **TREE**
☐ **VINEYARD**
☐ **OWNER**
☐ **GARDENER**
☐ **TIME**
☐ **CHANGE**
☐ **PRODUCE**
☐ **FRUIT**

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

Whilst thinking about this week's Gospel, search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **b c d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

cfbrudit bledacve yebcard gbrowdc

The gardener replied, 'Sir, let's _____ it for another _____. I'll help it to _____ and produce _____'.



Change



This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus cares for us, just like the gardener cares for the tree. Listening and acting upon what our parents, teachers and others tell us about God, helps us to keep growing into the best people we can be.

This week I will try my best to ...

.....
.....



Happy Birthday this week to...

Joel Boateng, Benjamin Thorp, Justin Nguyen, Bree Onwurah,
Arribella Jones, Lucia Pintilei, Tadhg Hanifin-Flynn, Adjoa Kwakye,
Emil Danel, Amy Dawodu and Viktor Svoboda



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies:	Milo Bagram-Spicer, for great contributions and concentration in carpet sessions
Ladybirds:	Javonte-Blu Paraman-Humes, for trying really hard to learn his sounds
1A:	Dominic Annobil, for working very hard with his writing
1S:	Tilly Lentz, for persevering with your writing using 's' and 'es' suffix in a sentence
2HD:	Diana Sereikaite, for working hard on her symmetry work
2PT:	Attila Madarasz, for his excellent concentration and detail during his R.E. work
3N:	Aurora Boyce-Grace, for her great contribution during R.E. lessons
3R:	Amber Williams, for excellent effort in maths when multiplying and dividing
4C:	Araibella Morgan, for her super R.E. work on the advice from Jesus
4E:	Layla Santos-Ebejer, for choosing to complete extra work on Purple Mash
5G:	Conor O'Rourke, for writing an amazing summary of Macbeth
5S:	Ella Haley, for excellent and enthusiastic attitude towards her maths lessons on fractions
6CN:	Andrew Burns, for working so hard on his sci-fi writing this week. Well done!
6E:	Reece Atkinson, for working hard in maths this week

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St George**

Menu Week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 21st March

Mothers Day Sale - Years 5 & 6
Rock Steady Concert 2:30 - 3:15
Choir 3:15 - 4:15

Tuesday 22nd March

Parents Evening 3:00 - 5:00

Wednesday 23rd March

Mothers Day Sale - Reception,
Years 1 & 4
Years 2 & 3 Karate 3:10 - 4:10
Years 5 & 6 Football 3:15 - 4:15
Choir - Voice in a Million
Year 2 - Lion King Trip

Thursday 24th March

Crazy Hair Day - £1.50 donation
Mothers Day Sale - Years 2 & 3
Karate 4, 5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15
Years 1 & 2 Football 3:10 - 4:10
Years 3 & 4 Football 3:15 - 4:15
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Boot Camp 3:15 - 4:15
Parents Evening 4:00 - 7:00

Friday 25th March

Years 1 & 3 Multisports 3:10 - 4:15
Years 4 & 6 Multisports 3:15 - 4:15
Year 1 Science Museum Trip

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