



20th May 2022



Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support with the Marian Procession on Monday, through your donation of flowers, our community came together to honour Our Lady. After the service in church, Lilly and Cian, our Brentwood Diocese Citizenship Award winners, led the procession to place a crown of flowers on Mary. This was followed by the placing of flowers at the feet of Our Lady by all the children in our school. The location of the statue of Our Lady this year, at the front of our school, has allowed parents to pause for prayer and quiet reflection.

We wish you a peaceful weekend.



Brentwood Catholic Citizenship Awards

We are committed to the idea that; to be a good Catholic involves being a good citizen, 'the Gospel of Jesus Christ requires us to "love our neighbour as ourselves" and that is at the heart of the Christian interpretation of citizenship'.

Recipients of the award are the embodiment of what we at Holy Cross teach and stand for; a willingness to act for, speak for and serve the needs of those who, on their own, cannot do it for themselves. In a word, Catholic citizenship is 'service'.

Cian and Lilly received their award last Friday at Brentwood Cathedral and as they were presented with their award from Bishop Alan, the reasons for their nomination were shared.



Cian Hanifin-Flynn

"Cian is a conscientious, kind-hearted and valued member of Holy Cross Academy. Cian's perseverance and dedication in all that he does are attributes to be admired. He is a wonderfully supportive and a kind member of the class, he always encourages his peers to do their very best and always offers a helpful hand when others may need it. He is dedicated in his role as Sports Captain and School Council member where he always supports both staff and peers with events and represents our school so well. We are all so proud of Cian and congratulate him on achieving this special award."

Lilly Dundridge

"Lilly is a kind, caring member of our school community who is a friend to everyone. Lilly will always go above and beyond to support others in times of need and has been an absolute role model to the other children in our school. She can always be relied upon by staff and her peers and is a valued member of our community. Lilly takes on all responsibilities given to her with the utmost care and dedication which is particularly evident with her work as a Class Buddy. Lilly wholeheartedly deserves this award; we at Holy Cross, are all so proud of her."

First Holy Communion

This weekend will see more children from Holy Cross take an important step in their faith journey through the Sacrament of their First Holy Communion. Thank you to the Catechists and parents who have helped prepare the children.



Parent Coffee Afternoon

Our next coffee event is taking place on Thursday at 2pm, will be hosted by Mrs. Gallagher and held in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for you to pop along for an informal chat, let us answer any questions you may have or seek advice on a range of matters. We look forward to seeing you there.

Governor meetings

Thank you to our School Governors who were in school again on Tuesday evening. Their unwavering support in helping to ensure the best for the children and school community is much valued.



September	We formed a new School Council Committee for the academic year 2021/22.
October	Events were organised to support World Mental Health Day and we raised £325.48 for the charity, Young Minds. Our annual harvest collection took place. After the generous donations were received from our school community, we delivered the food to Streets2Homes. Once there, we were given a tour of their facilities and it was explained to us how the shelter helps the homeless in Harlow.
November	Through Operation Christmas Child, we collected 117 shoeboxes full of gifts and brought joy to children less fortunate than us who live in different countries.
December	We looked at what play equipment we had in school, and identified what it is that children would like to make playtimes more enjoyable. We then gathered fund-raising ideas.
January	We, as the School Council, asked children in the school about their opinions on a range of subjects. This is called 'pupil voice.'
February	We contributed to the summer lunchtime menu by discussing children's likes and dislikes with Mrs. Alger, our school cook, to help her create the menu. We also discussed waste at lunch times and put forward suggestions as to how to reduce waste.
March	We added a regular blog to our newsletter to share up to date information on school council activity.
April	At the request of our new Headteacher, we were given a project to find a popular nature theme to help rename all the classes from September 2022. The council gathered all the results. Woodland and meadow animals were the most popular theme.
May	We conducted a survey to find out what activities the children would like at lunchtimes, this was tallied and football, use of our environmental area, basketball and dance were amongst the most popular. We shared this information with Mr. Traveller and he has now set up lunchtime activities for all the children to enjoy. Thank you, Mr. Traveller!
	What we're looking forward to!
June	We will be holding a Platinum Jubilee colouring competition for all the children, there will be a winner from each class who will receive a certificate and a prize.
July	We will end our year by completing an end of year survey and celebrate our success with an ice-cream party.

Non-uniform Day

Next Friday we will be collecting items for the Summer fete through a non-uniform day.
Children from each year group are requested to bring in different items, as listed below.

**27TH
MAY**

NON UNIFORM DAY

**WE ARE GETTING READY FOR OUR
TAMBOLA STALLS!**



**RECEPTION, YEARS 1 AND 2
SWEETIES (NO CHOCOLATE)**

**YEARS 3 AND 4
NON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**



**YEARS 5 AND 6
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

**ALL DONATIONS, BIG AND SMALL, WILL BE VERY
MUCH APPRECIATED AND WILL HELP MAKE OUR
SUMMER FETE A BIG SUCCESS**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration, children from Holy Cross, as members of the Commonwealth Choir, travelled to Windsor Castle at the Royal Horse Show last weekend. Their performance was superb and can be viewed on the link below, in case you missed it or would like to watch it again.

<http://www.commonwealth-music.net/news-index-1.html>



Netball Tournament

Well done to the Year 6 girls who represented us at Passmores today in the netball qualifiers. They battled well against teams from Henry Moore and St Nicholas and developed their skills, teamwork and tactical knowledge as the tournament progressed.

Congratulations to Emma, Jessica, Lucy, Lilly D, Lily V, Nana, Mya, Alana and Naavah



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For the second consecutive week the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Butterflies and 1A attaining 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 5G attaining 99% attendance. 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	98%
R L	96%
1A	98%
1S	93%
2HD	92%
2PT	92%
3N	98%
3R	94%
4C	97%
4E	95%
5G	99%
5S	96%
6CN	98%
6E	95%

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING
13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content; a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.offthegridmag.com/post/dangers-of-discord-5-steps- safeguarding-parents-on-popular-chat-app/> <https://support.discord.com> <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/oct/26/discord-a-haven-for-gamers-and-sexual-exploitation> <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56466336>



Times Tables Rockstars

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

1A: Hannah Mahalik-Berec

2HD: Skyla Hand

3N: Sian Hanifin-Flynn

4C: Logan Coombe

5G: Mischa Hyde

6CN: Ronel Sofuwa

1S: Aoife Boland

2PT: Margaret Oregbhemhe

3R: Ella Thorpe

4E: Mark Adjaye-Kwofie

5S: Katie Johns

6E: Olivia Mardyla

Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Justice

- fairness and equality

"And will not God grant justice..." (18: 7) The Parable of the Ten Pounds (19: 11-26)

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



Butterflies: Viktoria Semenka

Ladybirds: Demilade Ajayi

1A: Afi Agyei-Frimpong

1S: Albie Gardner

2HD: Dominik Gadomski

2PT: Rose Dunn

3N: Praise Owolabi

3R: Jemie Kuttin

4C: Nikoleta Hristova

4E: Amelia Tarczewska

5G: Rochelle Nyarko-Mensah

5A: Dominic Marshall

6CN: Emilia Chapska

6E: Ka'Reem Mafueni



Based on the gospel for Sunday 22 May, Sixth Sunday of Easter: John 14:23-29

"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

These powerful words were spoken by Jesus to calm his distressed disciples. As Jesus tells us of times to come, times when he won't be physically with his disciples to instruct, guide and comfort them.

They are often spoken at funerals when we grieve the loss of a loved one. How hard to feel abandoned as those grieving feel, as many displaced people of the world must feel, as many of the people of the Ukraine must feel. Many struggling with churned emotions, empty stomachs and many wounded and lost.

With heartfelt thanks we hear Jesus' words, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you". Yet, how can this be for the displaced people of the world? How much those of us struggling with the impact of war must long for this peace. How might warring families dream of this peace? Where is this peace? It is found from within, the place where God the Father and God the Son live within us. A peace not that the world knows but a peace that comes from living the Gospel of love, inspired by the Holy Spirit sent to us by God.

Neither the disciples nor us who follow the teachings of Christ will be abandoned. God will live in and through us as we live his Gospel of love. Our troubled hearts will find peace in God.

Father God,
we thank you for sending us your Son and your Spirit. We pray we may experience your love, peace and comfort today. Help us to share the message of your peace which calms troubled hearts.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Let us allow Jesus the Living Bread to heal us of our self-absorption. May he open our hearts to sharing, heal us from rigidity and turning in on ourselves, and inspire us to follow him whenever he wants to lead us.

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



SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, the risen Jesus offers his disciples the Holy Spirit and inner peace.

True peace (the removal of all anxiety, worry and envy) comes only from God. The peace that God gives is not dependent on peaceful conditions: we can experience it even in the midst of turmoil and uncertainty.

Wednesday 18th May 2022

Even if you may sometimes doubt, or feel distant from God, be assured that God is very close to you and wanting you to be filled with his peace.

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 **PEACE**.

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 22nd May 2022



Jesus said to his disciples, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them and make our home with them. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I leave to you, my own peace I give to you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. I am going away, and shall return. I am going to the Father."

Adapted from
John 14:23-29 (the 6th Sunday of Easter, Year C)

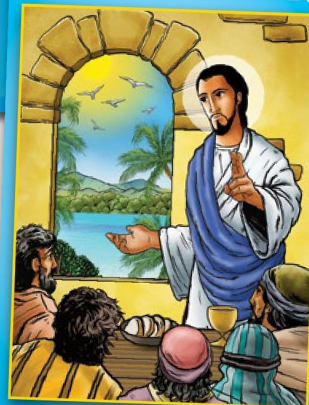
**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church - all are warmly invited.**

"All can work together to build a more peaceful world, starting from the hearts of individuals and relationships in the family." Pope Francis



The peace that Jesus promises to those who love him is an inner peace which comes from following him and knowing deep within ourselves that we are loved by God. Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus won this peace for us – a priceless gift which he offers to you and me!

John 14:23-29



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples, "What you have heard me say comes from the Father who sent me. I am returning to my Father, but do not worry: I will not leave you all alone. When I return to the Father he will send you the Holy Spirit to teach you and remind you of all the things I have said. Peace I give to you, a peace the world cannot give. This is my gift to you. So don't be troubled or afraid."

What did Jesus say his gift was to his friends? Which word or words stood out for you, and why? What does the Sunday Gospel picture opposite make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is...

PEACE



3 Loving God & Each Other

"Peace is always found in God, for God is peace." *Saint Nicholas of Flue*

Jesus never wants us to be worried or upset – he gives us the gift of God's peace. Ask your child what the word 'peace' means to them. Ask them when they feel most at peace, or when they feel most safe and not worried about anything. Do they know someone who is a good peacemaker – someone who always helps to ease trouble because they bring God's love with them?

"Peace of heart is more valuable than any treasure." *St Margaret Mary Alacoque*

Peace, like love, is a gift to share. How can we bring peace to others in this coming week? Perhaps we can: do what our parents and teachers ask us to do; not tease or make fun of friends, brothers or sisters; pray and ask God that we may be filled with peace. Why not, as a family, visit justice-and-peace.org.uk, get involved and help to promote peace around the world.



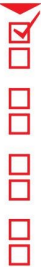
Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our special time together. Please help us to know your perfect **peace**, and to share that peace with those around us. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

S D N E S M L O H Y L
T S N S A T D C R L O
G E M P F E A C Y R M
I N H I F E P Y L O H
F D G R T R E M I N D
T I R I P S A P T N P
R E H T A F C M I E E
T E A C H T E M A C A
G L F A T H E R A Y S
S T I M E R S E T A F
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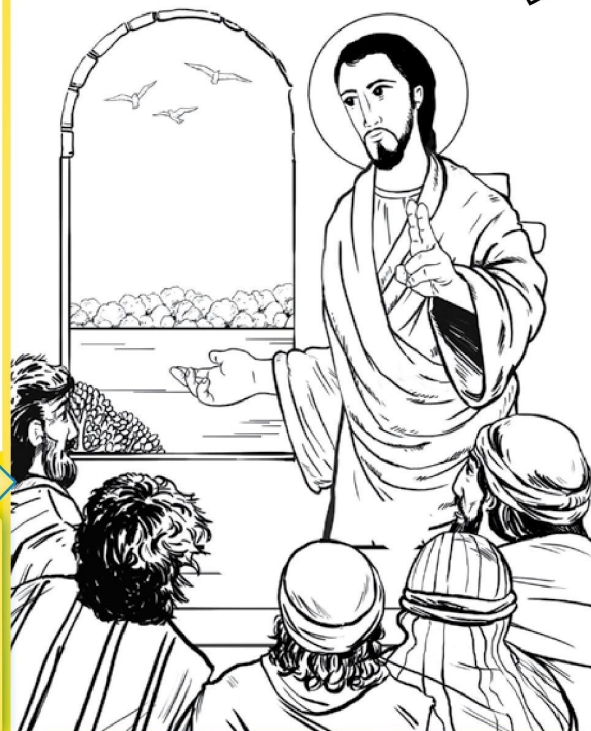
WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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



FATHER
SEND
HOLY
SPIRIT
TEACH
REMIN
GIFT
PEACE

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 **u s h** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

uspeaceh scannotuh uhgsift hguives

Peace I _____ to you, a _____ the world
_____ give. This is my _____ to you.

Jesus gives us the gift of peace. He tells us not to be worried or upset because he will always be there for us.

When he went back to his Father he sent the Holy Spirit to help us to live peacefully in his way. We are doing this when we try our best to share peace with others.

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 22nd May 2022 - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 22nd May 2022 - The Promise of the Spirit (John 14:23-29)

Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe."



3 Reflect

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

In these final discourses of Jesus at the Last Supper (as he sketches the outlines of his future Church) there are four passages which promise the coming of a Paraclete or Advocate, the Holy Spirit. 'Paraclete' and 'Advocate' mean the same: someone who is called to your side as a supporter, often in a legal situation. The Father will send this Paraclete, in the name and power of Jesus, so that the Paraclete will make Christ present in the Church in a new way. The Paraclete will strengthen Jesus' disciples with Christ's own strength. The Paraclete will lead the disciples into all truth, so that they gradually come to a fuller understanding of all the implications of the teaching of Jesus. Like any legal advocate, the Paraclete will provide the followers of Jesus with the power in teaching and argument to withstand opposition. This is the power which will guide the Church in ages to come, not only the official teachers of the Church, the successors of the apostles, but all the faithful who preserve and enrich the tradition of the Church by their prophetic office. The decree of Vatican II on the Church leaves no doubt that not only the call to sanctity but also participation in the prophetic office of Christ extends to all the members of the Church; this is an inspiring and awesome responsibility for us all.

For what special task do I most need the Paraclete's strength and guidance?

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 22nd May 2022



First Reading: *The Council at Jerusalem*

Acts 15:1-2. 22-29

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, "Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved." This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders. Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them: 'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

This was the crucial meeting of the whole Church at Jerusalem where the decision was made that Christianity was not only for Jews but was open to the gentiles too. Paul's activity in receiving gentiles into the Church had created a crisis: was not God's promise to Abraham limited only to Jews? Was it not limited only to those who observed the prescriptions of the Law? Could the Spirit of the risen Christ really dwell in and activate the uncircumcised? The staggering breakthrough achieved here at Jerusalem totally altered the course of history. Today's reading jumps to the concluding instructions and omits the details of the debate which, in fact, provides a model for a community discussion: in the awareness of the presence of the Spirit the apostles and elders heard the facts of the case, listened to the opinions on both sides of the question put forward by experienced leaders, and then made their decision in the Spirit. The letter of instructions which follows is also a model of its kind, firm in its decisions, but firm also in its appreciation of individual consciences. The restrictions imposed on gentile Christians were designed to make fellowship with Jewish Christians possible without outraging their sensibilities.

How do I make decisions in my life? Could I learn anything from the apostles in this reading? Is there some way in which I could be more involved in the life of the Church – in the Parish, for example?

Second Reading: *The Holy City of Jerusalem*

Revelation 21:10-14. 22-23

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The description of the New Jerusalem, the bride of Christ, begun in last week's reading, continues to be highly symbolic. The twelve gates of the city (drawn from a prophecy in Ezekiel) face the four quarters of the compass, to show that the city embraces the whole universe and is four-square solid. They symbolise the twelve tribes of Israel and so also the twelve apostles. The richness of the city is hinted at in the sparkle of precious stones, not only of diamonds but of many others too. The dimensions of the city are vast: a cube of 1,500 miles in each direction. No need for the light and warmth of the sun, for the Lord God and the Lamb provide a single source for the city's nourishment and illumination. No need for a sacred area, for the presence of the Lord God and the Lamb make the whole city a sacred area. This vision is the ultimate goal of creation, when we share in the very life of God, the ultimate fulfilment of 'thy Kingdom come'. The Letter to the Ephesians expresses it in this way: the whole universe is 'headed up' into Christ, thus making sense of creation and bringing creation to its completion.

If I really lived in the presence of God, what would be the most daunting thing - and what the most encouraging thing?

“The ultimate goal of creation,
when we share the very life of God.”

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...

Zach Gauci, Amanda Girciute, Freya Hyde, Maja Owczarz, Rohan Clennell,
Heather Owusu-Kumi, Thomas Hyde, Cooper Leagas & Elliot Thomson.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies:	Hanley Matthew and Memphis Wells, for an amazing effort in phonics and for making great progress
Ladybirds:	Edie Fitzpatrick, for great independent sentence writing
1A:	Eddie Cox, for his consistent positive attitude
1S:	Alexander Magryta, for writing a brilliant alternative ending to 'The Tiny Seed'
2HD:	The whole of 2HD, for amazing hard work this week
2PT:	Cathal O'Donovan, for amazing concentration
3N:	Stevie Ginn, for fantastic progress in reading
3R:	Ireoluwa Oyelami, for great effort in all subjects
4C:	Darrelle Koranteng, for his incredible writing in R.E.
4E:	Jake Sinyakin, for his enthusiasm for science
5G:	Conor O'Rourke, for amazing work in all subjects
5A:	Teri Olabode, for great improvement in his literacy
6CN:	Isla Kent, for working so hard with her writing this week
6E:	Gabriel Lesny, for fantastic writing this week

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Patrick**

Menu Week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 23rd May

5G Swimming Lesson

Tuesday 24th May

Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no
need to book

Choir 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesday 25th May

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

Football Club Years 1 & 2 3:10 - 4:10

Football Club Years 3 & 4 3:15 - 4:15

Thursday 26th May

Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no need to
book

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

Football Club Years 5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15

Bootcamp Club Years 5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15

Parents Coffee Afternoon 2:00 - 3:15

Friday 27th May

Non-uniform Day

6E Library Visit

6CN Library Visit

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