



17th June 2022



Newsletter

We celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi on Thursday and for the children who made their First Holy Communion, a 'Going Forth' Mass. In this, we were reminded that we receive Christ in a special way each time we receive Holy Communion. Because we all share the Eucharist, we are all joined to Christ and to one another.

The children were resplendent dressed in their First Holy Communion clothes. Their celebration continued throughout the day with a party and BBQ after Mass. A thanks to all involved for once again bringing us together as a parish family in such a meaningful way.



School Finance

We met with Governors on Tuesday evening to discuss the school budget for our new financial year which begins in September. We are all acutely aware of the squeeze on our own household budgets through the rapid rise in fuel prices. Similarly for us, we are facing great difficulty in setting a budget which still meets the needs of our school.

This coming academic year will be particularly difficult and it will be incumbent upon all of us to be as prudent as possible and to take great care with the resources that we have.

Thank you for continuing to donate to our Governors Fund. These donations enable us to maintain our school building and critically, allow us to apply for grants for building or maintenance works as we are expected to make a financial contribution to any such application.

Fathers' Day Gift Sale

This Sunday marks a special day, Father's Day. Mrs. Benson was here throughout the week and supported by parents holding the Fathers' Day gift sale. Children were able to choose from a selection of pre-wrapped gifts which I'm sure will be appreciated by many dads on Sunday morning. Thank you once again to all those who volunteered their time.

Sports Week

Congratulations to all the children who participated in the sports days this week. All could be seen to be giving their best. There had to be one winning house from each key stage and in KS1 that accolade went to St. Patrick's and in Key Stage 2, St. David's. The coveted trophies with their house team colours are on display in the trophy cabinet in the school foyer. All enjoyed a well-deserved ice-lolly at the end in return for their determined efforts. Thank you to the adults who organised and supported the sports days and to our invaluable Sport's Captains.



Car Park

Please be reminded that parents or carers should not be driving in to the school car park. A few parents have permission to do so but for specific reason. We're finding that other parents are entering by taking the opportunity to drive in when the barrier is temporarily raised when these authorised parents are coming in.

This is leading to congestion, some near misses with other cars and we have had staff and parents' cars hit in the last few weeks. Our next step is for Mr. Oliver to be on duty to ensure that only authorised people access the car park. This takes Mr. Oliver away from his other duties, which are many. We arranged for Nicholls Field car park, many years ago now, to be available for parents/carers of children who attend Holy Cross.

Year 6 Residential

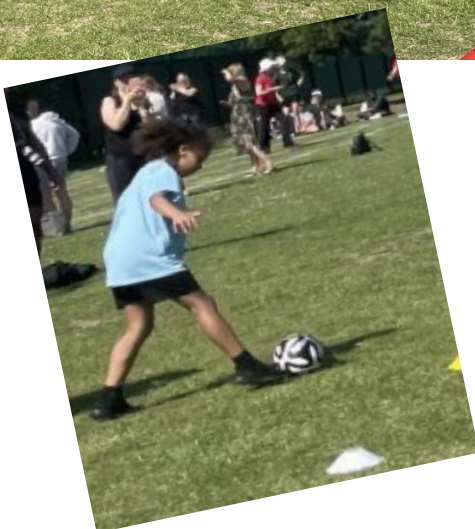
Our Year 6 children are attending their much anticipated, week-long, residential trip to the Isle of Wight on Monday. They will spend time on a range of outdoor and adventurous activities as well as visiting Robin Hill, one of the Island's most popular attractions. We wish them well and look forward to hearing about it on their return.

KS1



Sports Day

KS2



Year 5 visit to Hedingham Castle

On Monday 13th June 2022, the children in Year 5 at Holy Cross visited Hedingham Castle as part of our History topic 'Invaders and Settlers'. The trip gave the children the opportunity to travel back in time and experience some aspects of the castle life in the 12th century.

A group of medieval interpreters came together to present Living History for children of all ages and abilities. The children learned how to be an apothecary, an archer, how to use a pike and bow and arrow, all within medieval tents and the spectacular setting of the one of the best-preserved Norman keeps, with four splendid floors to explore.

We would like to thank all the parents and cares who came along and supported the Year 5 staff during this trip.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

For the third consecutive week the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Butterflies 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 3R 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.

RB	99%
RL	97%
1A	91%
1S	93%
2HD	91%
2PT	92%
3N	93%
3R	99%
4C	95%
4E	95%
5G	97%
5S	92%
6CN	93%
6E	94%



LET'S ALL GO TO **STANDON CALLING** FESTIVAL & RAISE MONEY FOR HOLY CROSS!



Standon Calling is a family festival in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside 21-24 July.

By booking weekend tickets through Holy Cross' unique link, you will get an exclusive discount AND 10% of every order will be donated to our school's fundraising body.

The more tickets bought via our unique link, the more money raised for our school and the more fun will be had at Standon Calling!

Join us this July!



SCAN HERE FOR
HOLY CROSS'
UNIQUE LINK





Times Tables Rockstars

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

1S: Eva Durchi	
2HD: Jayden Bancroft	2PT: Vivienne Padfield
3N: Jeremy Cox	3R: Ella Thorpe
4C: Mason Thomson	4E: Aimee Kuttin
5A: Dominic Annobil	5G: Teddy White
6CN: Michael Tanu	6E: Nina Krasa

Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Humility

- Trust in God

"God be merciful to me a sinner." (18:13)



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

Butterflies: Milo Bagram-Spicer	Ladybirds: Flynn Williams
1A: Gabriel Serada	1S: Kodie Moyns
2HD: Diana Serekaite	2PT: Pola Chrapek
3N: Ella Tanu	3R: Ella Stopplecamp
4C: Rhianne-Joy Hombre	4E: Blanka Trus
5A: Luciann Henry	5G: Inioluwa Oyelami
6CN: Jan Bubetty	6E: Gabriel Lesney



Based on the gospel for Sunday 12 June, The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord: Luke 8:11-17

"They answered, 'We have only five loaves of bread and two fish...'"

Last year, I decide to go back to college. My income dropped so I got in touch with all the different charities that I supported to either cancel or reduce my monthly contribution. A few months into the new academic year, I sat down to take a closer look at my bank statement. There was a long list of small payments and purchases that I could not account for. What were all those mysterious items or services that added up to a considerable amount of money?

The truth is, I was quick to end my relationship with the charities that I'd supported for years. But I was slow and unwilling to change any of the other habits that I used to enjoy as a working professional. I still wanted my take-away coffee, my nice snacks and other small treats, and I was unwilling to let go of those.

I am not demanding or advocating unrealistic and unnecessary self-denial. What I'm talking about is personal accountability, mindful spending and joyful giving.

As the Feeding of the Five Thousand story clearly demonstrates, through the grace of God, a little generosity can go a long way.

The less we have, the stronger is our awareness of our interdependency. Often our deepest sense of abundance comes from sharing and giving away.

May our relationship with money and finance be guided by this one principle, "We are one body because we all share in one bread."

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

The Spirit makes us see everything in a new way, with the eyes of Jesus. On the great journey of life, the Spirit teaches us where to begin, which paths to take, and how to walk.



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 19th June 2022 - Corpus Christi - The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord

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 June 2022 (Luke 9:11-17): Jesus Gives Food to the Crowds

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing. It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here." He replied, "Give them something to eat yourselves." But they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, "Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty." They did so and made them all sit down. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.



3 Reflect

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

On the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ should we not have the gospel reading about the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper? No, the Church puts before us this reading of the wonderful gift of food from Jesus. It is a sort of open-air picnic Eucharist. It begins with Jesus talking to the crowd about the Kingdom of God; this is what happens in the earlier part of our Eucharist, as we listen to the Word in the readings and to the homily which interprets the Word for us. Then the Lord heals those who are in need of healing, and that means all of us, for we are always in need of healing in various ways. Only then does Jesus raise his eyes to heaven, bless the bread and distribute it, just as he gives himself to us in the Eucharist. A sign of the generosity and plenty of Jesus' gifts in the Eucharist is represented by the twelve baskets of left-overs, ready for consumption by the twelve tribes of the new Israel. In the same way, on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we share joyfully in the sustenance which Jesus gives to us and to the huge numbers of his followers across the world.

How can I participate more fully in Jesus' gift of the Eucharist? Perhaps I could make better preparation before Mass begins; take time for reflection afterwards; give fuller attention during the Mass.

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 June 2022



First Reading: *The Blessing of Melchizedek*

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing: "Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you." And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.

Melchizedek is a historically mysterious figure; designated a king of Salem, he suddenly appears from nowhere to greet Abraham and bless him. In gratitude Abraham gives Melchizedek a tenth of the spoil he has just won in battle. The only other mention of Melchizedek in the Old Testament is in Psalm 110, where he is the priest-king of Jerusalem. The early verses of this Psalm are frequently cited in the New Testament as a fore-shadowing of the exaltation of Christ to the right hand of the Father at the resurrection: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool". In the New Testament the whole Psalm is understood to point to Christ, and so in the Letter to the Hebrews the verse, "You are a priest according to the line of Melchizedek" is interpreted as a reference to Christ's priesthood. Christ is a priest not in the line of Aaron, but in the line of Melchizedek. The Letter further argues that, since Melchizedek blesses Abraham, Melchizedek's priesthood is superior to that of Abraham and Aaron. So, by this slightly involved explanation, we are celebrating in this first reading the priesthood of Christ, a priesthood superior to that of the Old Law.

What does it mean when we say that all Christians share in the priesthood of Christ?

Second Reading: *The Lord's Supper*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me." In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me." Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

“The Eucharist is a celebration of the Body of Christ, in which we are all united in love.”

From several points of view this is one of the most significant passages of the New Testament. To begin with, the terms 'received' and 'passed on' are technical terms in the rabbinic process of oral transmission of tradition; they show that what Paul is about to say is part of the tradition conserved in the Christian community. Secondly, it shows us that the repetition of this rite of the Eucharist was seen to bring, to those who took part, a participation in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus – whether they were worthy or unworthy. Moreover, Paul's purpose is to rebuke the Corinthians for taking part in the Eucharistic supper without due seriousness. Thirdly, it underlines some of the most precious aspects of the Eucharistic meal: it is the sealing of the new covenant in the cup of Christ's blood, that covenant which brings to each individual the union with the Father wrought by Christ's death. Fourthly, Paul's chief rebuke to the Corinthians is that they are disunited and selfish at their Eucharist, treating it just like an ordinary dinner, neglecting one another's needs; but in this text he reminds us that the Eucharist is a celebration of the Body of Christ, in which we are all united in love, and in which we all depend on one another.

Do we always remember this when we come together to celebrate the Sunday Mass? How does the Eucharist nourish your own life and faith?

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TWITCH

Twitch is a livestreaming service which tends to focus on gaming. Users can publicly broadcast their gameplay and commentary online for other users to watch. It's a community-driven platform where viewers can support their favourite streamers' channels through PayPal donations, "Bits" and more. Each streamer or group creates their own community for fans to interact with each other. Twitch has more than 15 million daily active users and includes non-gaming topics such as music, cooking and art. Anyone can create a channel to livestream or watch videos.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNCENSORED STREAMS

Uncensored content obviously carries a greater risk of inappropriate language and behaviour (streamers can, however, list their broadcast as unsuitable for children). Twitch has strict rules for streamers to follow, but requires viewers to report any streams which breach these guidelines. Each livestream is accompanied by a text chat which it is the streamer's responsibility to moderate.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most people are already aware that some video games feature adult content such as violence, sexual content, profanity and so on. Twitch does prevent certain games from being streamed on the platform, but most are still allowed. It is relatively simple, then, for a child to find livestreams of games that aren't suitable for them – including horror games.

HIDDEN COSTS

Twitch is free to use because it's supported by advertisers. Removing the ads requires a subscription to Twitch Turbo – or the Twitch Prime package (free for anyone with an Amazon Prime account), which blocks the ads and offers additional goodies such as bonus games. Streamers earn most of their income by asking users for direct donations or gifts of the virtual currency Twitch Bits.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

As well as streamers talking directly to their audience, Twitch enables viewers to use text chat to speak to the person they're watching. It's a social platform which also allows viewers to interact with each other via text while they are watching livestreams – including exchanging private messages. This raises the possibility of a child being approached and messaged online by total strangers.

WEBCAM SHARING

It's common for streamers to use their live webcam footage. This allows better interaction with their viewers, but also adds risk: the stream might include sponsored content or product placement that isn't child friendly. Using a webcam in livestreams increases the chance of malicious viewers finding out where the streamer lives and provides bullies with visual reactions to their hurtful behaviour.

PRIVATE CHAT ROOMS

Twitch encourages streamers to create their own communities, which extend beyond its platform. Many create a public Discord group, for example, for viewers to join and communicate with each other. Discord is a completely separate entity to Twitch and offers a higher risk of predators, grooming and cyberbullying if your child gets involved in the voice or video chat with strangers.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EXPLORE IT YOURSELF

Twitch doesn't have any parental controls, but it is possible to block troublesome users if it becomes necessary. The best solution is to watch some Twitch channels by yourself or with your child to find some that are suitable. Watching some streams by yourself is also a good route to understanding the sort of content that your child would be consuming regularly on Twitch.

LEARN HOW TO BLOCK

'Security and Privacy' in Twitch's settings lets your child block messages from specific users. Teaching your child how this works will help them avoid online abuse. If they livestream, knowing how to block people in the chat also helps to prevent cyberbullying or harassment. Evading online interaction is impossible, of course, so talk to them in advance about boundaries and safe online communication.

WATCH WHAT THEY WATCH

Twitch does have a lot of child-friendly content; some streamers use a 'family friendly' tag to highlight material that's suitable for children. However, anyone can use this tag – including users who (accidentally or otherwise) stream games with less appropriate adult themes. The best way to counter this is to view different streams and follow suitable channels for your child to watch.

LIMIT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Reduce the chance of accidental purchases by ensuring your bank card isn't saved on Twitch or the Amazon account that Twitch Prime could be linked to. Restricting access to your PayPal account is also wise if your child watches Twitch on the device you use to make purchases. Explain to your child that they don't need to subscribe to channels to watch them and that donating or gifting 'Bits' is optional.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Happy Birthday this week to...

James Hanmore, Milo Bagram-Spicer, Jan Bubetty, Kojo Kwakye, Erin Downing, Rhea Matunge, Demi Osiname, Ethan Owusu-Boateng & Blanka Trus.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies:	Emilia Jaczewska, for her fantastic attitude and enthusiasm in all lessons
Ladybirds:	Oskar Skowron, for great participation during Sports Day
1A:	William Powell, for fantastic work in Big Writing
1S:	Blake Leagas, for working really hard with his writing
2HD:	Liana Sereikaite, for creating a fantastic art picture
2PT:	Freya Hyde please have it for enthusiastic participation in phonics lessons
3N:	Catherine Kazakov, for her excellent reading comprehension
3R:	Annaliesa Osei-Flint, for always having a fantastic attitude towards everything she does
4C:	The whole class, for their times tables
4E:	Demi Osiname, for great progress in your maths this year. Well done!
5A:	Karmella Marriott, for her great contribution in Music
5G:	Arlo McGhee, for his great effort in writing a recount of our trip to Hedingham Castle
6CN:	Keira Fennelly, for always being a kind and helpful member of our class
6E:	Amelia Cowell, for a great effort on Sports Day

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St George**

Menu Week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 20th June

Y6 Residential Trip
5S Swimming Lesson

Tuesday 21st June

Dance Fit Lunchtime Club - no
need to book

Wednesday 22nd June

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 23rd June

5G Library Visit
5A Library Visit
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

Friday 24th June

Reception Sealife Southend
Trip
Year 1 Victorian Day

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