



8th February 2019



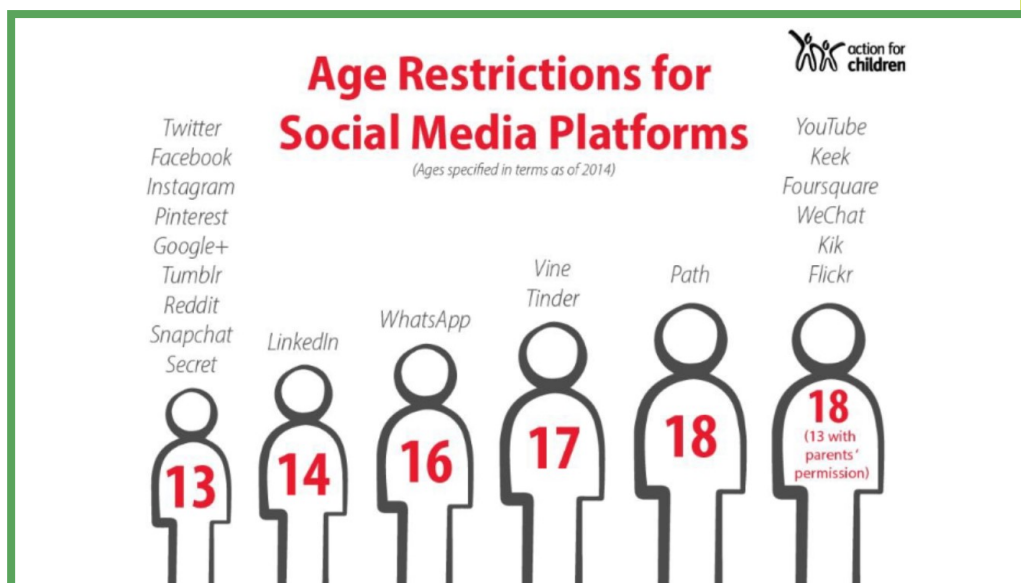
Newsletter



Dear Parents

We hope that you all received information about NOS - National Online Safety - and that you have taken the opportunity to register your interest. This will enable you to access an online safety course for Parents and Carers' and will also provide you with very useful resources. We are becoming increasingly concerned about the over use and misuse of many apps, which are pervading school life. It is so very important that we all work together to not only teach our children about the dangers of internet use but also to model appropriate use ourselves.

Please be aware of age appropriateness of all Apps and Sites. You will find this chart useful.



We have attached two information sheets relating to popular games that children play, neither of which are age appropriate for our children. Both games are not suitable, however Grand Theft Auto is particularly damaging. We are seeing the direct negative effects of their use in school.

Please monitor carefully your children's gaming activities.

Staffing

Class 2C welcomed a new member of staff this week. Mrs To is supporting the children in her role of TA and we feel sure that she will be very happy with us here at Holy Cross.

Class Mass

Children in 4C celebrated Mass this week and we were reminded about our many talents, gifts and skills. We also remembered how important it is that we treat everybody with respect -

I pray that I see the face of Jesus in all I meet

And I pray that they see the face of Jesus in me.

Amen

Family Mass

A reminder that our next Family Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd March at 11.00.

Chinese New Year

Thank you to Mrs Alger and the kitchen team for our delicious feast celebrating Chinese New Year. Happy New Year to you all.

Lion King

Our Year 2 children, staff and helpers thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon at The Lion King. Thank you to all involved.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to 2C, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with 98%. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 5P, achieving 98% attendance. Well done!

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to chase 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	96%
RL	93%
1D	94%
1S	93%
2C	98%
2HD	96%
3G	96%
3N	94%
4C	96%
4E	94%
5P	98%
5S	94%
6CA	96%
6ND	95%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 10 February - Luke 5:1-11

"Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

So far Jesus has preached only in the synagogues of Galilee. This time he chooses to preach from a fishing boat in Lake Gennesaret.

After speaking to the crowd he calls the earliest disciples: Simon, James and John. All three fishermen are overcome by the huge catch of fish, but it is Simon who first puts his feelings into words. "Leave me, Lord", he says in awe, falling to his knees, "for I am a sinful man."

Jesus sees his humility and his faith, and loves him; far from leaving him, he makes Simon the head of the Church. It is his very humility that qualifies him for the job. Simon Peter must accept the great gifts he is offered, and go forth to share them with all those in need.

The disciple's instinctive exclamation calls to mind the words we say in Mass when the host is held up and we declare "Lord, I am not worthy..."

Like Simon Peter, we respond with awe when faced with the great abundance and generosity of God. And like him, it is our responsibility to share the gifts we have received with people in need.

Lord,
You have given us the gifts of creation, provided for all and to be shared by all. May we
share your abundance with all who go hungry.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

We all need to be healed, and we can all heal others if we are humble and meek: with a good word, with patience, with a glance.

**Come along to our
Holy Cross Coffee Afternoon**

Once a month in the Parish Hall

2pm - 3.15pm

Children welcome.

Refreshments Choir Guest speakers

Raffle E – safety School Nurse

Community Police Officer

Learning Mentor Mrs Gallagher

Parent workshops

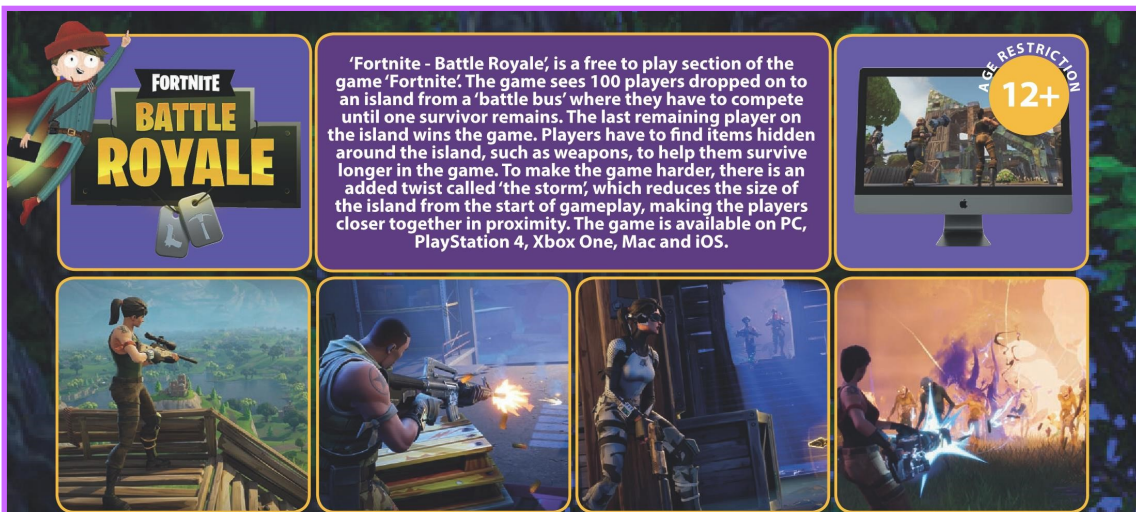
English Additional Language support

Mrs Laporte

**Please try to attend ; These sessions
will be very informative and a chance
for you to ask questions and make**

**Suggestions to make these gatherings
helpful for all our parents and carers
in our school community.**





What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

New featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which change the look of the characters but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are made admirable for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can play a series of challenges to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies with each game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and continue to play until they achieve the result they want. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for children to stop playing halfway through as it could affect their position in the game.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile in April 2018 meaning it can be played without a games console at home. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes said it had seen "dozens" of reports online by people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users' accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones in the game to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and work towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is chargeable.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, there is no proof of age required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check if your child has the game downloaded.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V bucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slap", making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

#1 LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be hard to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

#2 RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest using a paysafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

#4 PREVENT THEM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means they wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. Your child will still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

#3 SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

#5 LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

#6 USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

Sources

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/store/p/fortnite-deluxe-founders-pack> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-43626075>
<http://fortnitehelp.epicgames.com/> <https://pegi.info/> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2018/03/12/fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised/#140c9e7ca7f9>

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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com



AGE RESTRICTION
18+

What parents need to know about

GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)

grand theft auto

Grand Theft Auto is an action-adventure video game series where players control criminals and wreak havoc in order to complete missions and progress through the game. During the early stages of the game, it solely focuses on completing missions to go up a level. However, as the game grew more popular the makers of GTA decided to introduce a narrative to each edition of the game. The aim of this was to increase user engagement, making gamers believe that they were not just playing as the character, but they became the character. Grand Theft Auto is accessible on a number of devices including: PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.



Top Tips for Parents

THE RISK - PLAYING WITH STRANGERS

When buying GTA V you automatically have access to Grand Theft Auto Online, a version of the game that allows players to play online. They can play alone, invite players to a game, or be involved in public 'sessions' where people will be picked at random to play. When you first load into a game you are automatically placed into an open lobby, meaning you play with random people. The 'social club' is GTA's very own social platform where users can bet money, share in-game photographs (which users can like and comment on), and even message other users directly.

What parents can do

To prevent your child playing with strangers on the game, you can change the settings to ensure they only play with their approved friends list. Upon signing up to the 'social club', it automatically sets a player's visibility settings to 'everyone', meaning their name and profile information is made public. Parents can alter this by changing the visibility settings to 'only me'.

WARNING!

Due to the nature of the game and the age restrictions, GTA includes content that is inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18, including sex, nudity, violence, profane language, and substance abuse. These are the main components that make up the game - you have to do certain things and witness certain things in order to move on in the game. Exposing your child to this type of content could affect their morals and understanding of right and wrong. Additionally, your child could become desensitised to similar situations, reinforcing the fact they would find it hard to differentiate between right/wrong and good/bad.

THE RISK - ONLINE HACKERS

Hackers can make money by helping users cheat in the game. They can do a number of inappropriate things, including killing people, stealing weapons, spawning money into the game, and even raping other characters. Spawning money tends to be a gamer's most popular choice, being able to buy \$100,000,000,000 (of in-game currency) for as little as five US dollars.

What parents can do

Actively monitor your child's online activity. These websites are very easy to find, meaning children and young people can easily navigate their way to these websites and pay for hackers. Not only is this an illegal activity, but you have the risk of giving your personal information to someone who may misuse it.

THE RISK - ADDICTION

Addiction is a risk with any game. Game developers use persuasive design techniques to force users to invest their time, and often money, in a game. Within GTA, your character is able to progress through the game for completing missions within a certain time frame, encouraging children to keep returning to the game. Gaming addiction is now a recognised health condition and the side effects are concerning, including sleep deprivation, decreased attention span and erratic emotional behaviour.

What parents can do

There are a number of things you can do if you are concerned about your child's screen time, including setting time limits within the home, especially during meal times and before bedtime. Talk to your child and ask why they are spending so much time on the game, and encourage healthy alternatives such as outdoor activities and spending quality time with friends and family.

THE RISK - LIVE CHAT

When playing GTA online, players have the option to use a microphone to broadcast their voice live to other players involved in the 'session'. These live voice chats are not moderated, meaning anything could be said, including inappropriate language, as well as verbal forms of bullying.

What parents can do

Talk openly with your child about not giving away personal information. Also remind them that conversations can be recorded, which could damage their online reputation. Depending on the device/platform, there will be ways to mute conversations. Make yourself aware of the device's/platform's individual settings and ensure that your child knows how to block and report.

THE RISK - MICROTRANSACTIONS

By completing missions and partaking in certain activities you earn in-game currency. This allows you to buy things such as prostitutes, vehicles, weapons, ammo, new outfits, cars, apartments and more. However, the items that are available to buy often have a high price that require a lot of game time, meaning the items are pretty unrealistic to buy.

What parents can do

If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest purchasing a pre-paid gift card for your child. These can be purchased in specific amounts which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit or debit card to be used with their account.

SOURCES:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2103188/parentalguide>
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gaming/news/grand-theft-auto-v-has-made-money-film-history/>
<http://www.techaddiction.ca/addiction-to-video-games.html>



National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

Happy Birthday to... Takunda Zimba



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Emilie Patasuite, for creating a fantastic tangram

Amelia Lach, for beautiful Chinese New Year artwork

Ladybirds: Layla Still, creating an imaginative dancing dragon

Eliana Owusu-Adu, for trying hard with her sounds

1D: Aurora Milciute Blynovas, for her fantastic question writing in literacy

1S: Rhea Matunge, for excellent writing about her special meal

2C: Gilda Bosompem, for being an excellent ambassador for Holy Cross at the Lion King

2HD: Ella Haley, for producing excellent work on Internet Safety Day

3G: Sebastian Darlea, for being a fantastic role model and for his fantastic attitude for learning

3N: Crystal Onyechere, for writing a very good introduction

4C: Laura Norris, for having a super attitude towards fractions in numeracy

4E: Evie Hannay-Spalding, for great effort with her spellings

5P: Lucja Ostrowska, for working well during the Cafod workshop

5S: Chantelle Koranteng, for showing mood, atmosphere and emotion in her "Flashback Story"

6CA: Evie Rocha, for persevering with time problems in Numeracy this week

6N: Jimi Ginn, for being helpful and having a positive attitude to learning

Learning Mentor: Dominic Nguyen, for always being a wonderful role model

Diary Dates

Menu Week 3

Monday 11th February

5S Swimming

5P Class Mass

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3:15 - 4:15

Funky Fingers 3:15 - 4:15

Dance KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Multisports 3:15 - 4:15

Tuesday 12th February

3G & 3N Library visit

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3:15 - 4:15

Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Football Team 3:15 - 4:30

4E Chocolate Museum Trip

Valentines Disco KS1 3:30 - 5:00

Valentines Disco KS2 5:30 - 7:00

Wednesday 13th February

5S Eucharistic Service

Football KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Karate 3:15 - 4:15

4C Chocolate Museum Trip

Thursday 14th February

Hockey KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15

KS2 Hamlet Production

Friday 15th February

Netball KS2 3:15 - 4:15

Girls' Football Team 3:15 - 4:30

Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Year 3 Roman Day

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Georges**

Miss S McGuiggan

Headteacher

Please download our News & Events
App for dates for the year. Details
are available on the schools website
under News & Events at
www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday 6th February 2019 - 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 10th February 2019 - The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 10th February 2019 - The Call of the First Disciples (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets." And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boats to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch." Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

3 Reflect

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

There were obviously several different versions of the call of the first disciples circulating in the early Church. In the gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus is passing along the shore of the lake when he calls two pairs of disciples. In John it takes place where John the Baptist was preaching. The story in Luke has many similarities to the story at the end of John's gospel after the Resurrection, when the risen Christ commissions Peter: a night of failed fishing is followed by a huge catch as a consequence of obedience to Jesus' instructions, and so the Church has always seen this event as signifying the need for obedience to Christ. Luke's version combines the same play on words as in Mark and Matthew about fishing for people, but Luke sets the story a little later. In Mark the fishermen have never seen Jesus and follow him blindly; in Luke Peter and his friends have already got to know Jesus before they are commissioned. A special feature in Luke is Peter's cry that he is an unworthy sinner. Luke often teaches us that no one can be a disciple of Jesus without first admitting their sinfulness: Zacchaeus the tax-collector (Luke 19:1-10), and the woman who wept at Jesus' feet (Luke 7:36-50) are other examples.

What is significant about the Lord's call of his disciples according to Luke's account?

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 10th February 2019



First Reading: *The Holy One of Israel*

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out one to another in this way, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth." The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said, "What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts." Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said, "See now, this has touched your lips; your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?" I answered, "Here I am; send me."

This passage recounts the first calling of the prophet Isaiah. For Isaiah God is primarily the Holy One of Israel. This vision of the Triple-Holy, seated on the throne of glory in the Temple, does all that is possible to convey in words the daunting otherness of the One whose glory fills the whole earth. The human reaction to this manifestation of God is acute awareness of uncleanness. Isaiah can only shrink away from God until his uncleanness has been purged by the burning fire of God's love upon his lips. No human being can see God and live. The glory seen by Isaiah (and by Moses on Mount Sinai) is only the outer fringe of the fullness of God's glory, but it leaves the human visionary stunned and aghast at the contrast between the divine holiness and human unworthiness. Throughout the Book that bears his name Isaiah will revert again and again to the awesome holiness of the Lord. God is our loving Father, but there can be no neglecting the distinction which lies between Creator and created. At the same time we are both attracted and daunted by the living God.

What does it mean to describe God as "holy"? What does it mean when we describe a disciple of Christ as "holy"?

Second Reading: *The Earliest Gospel*

1 Corinthians 15:3-8. 11

In the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it. But what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

“It is the primary task to witness to the resurrection of Christ, not merely by our words, but by the way we behave.”

The most precious element of this reading is the proclamation of the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection, which the earliest Christians already saw as fulfilling the Scriptures. We can tell that by Paul's time this recital of the Good News was already traditional. Firstly, Paul here uses the terms which were used by the rabbis for the handing on of tradition, 'I taught you what I had been taught myself'. Secondly, the language is not quite Paul's own; for instance: for scriptural fulfilment Paul always writes 'as it is written', whereas here we twice have 'in accordance with the scriptures', which Paul himself never says. To witness to the resurrection of Christ was the primary task of the apostles. For us, too, it is the primary task: not merely by our words, but by the way we behave, we need to live in the awareness that Christ's resurrection (after his endurance of humiliation and dreadful suffering) is the basic fact of life. The central factor in Christian faith and witness is not the empty tomb but the experience of the apostles in meeting the Risen Christ. This is what unbelievably transformed them from being a defeated and hopeless rabble, huddled in hiding, into courageous and enterprising witnesses.

What lies at the heart of our tradition which we hand on to others?

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