



15th February 2019



Dear Parents

We come to the end of a busy and productive half term. This week has been no exception!

PTA Valentine Disco

Thank you to our PTA for organising such a fun evening for our children. The disco was complete with games, healthy snacks and bubble machine and I know that our children had a great time.

Young Shakespeare Company

Children in Key Stage Two enjoyed a production of Hamlet. The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, often shortened to Hamlet, is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare at an uncertain date between 1599 and 1602. Set in Denmark, the play dramatises the revenge Prince Hamlet is called to wreak upon his uncle, Claudius, by the ghost of Hamlet's father, King Hamlet. This interactive production really captivated our children and enabled them to appreciate the detail of this well known play.

Thankyou to
Mrs Nabil for
organising
this.



Roman Day

Children in Year 3 had another opportunity to fully explore aspects of Roman life and culture with a Roman Day which was held today. Thankyou to Mrs Nabil, Mrs Guna and Year 3 staff for organising such an enjoyable day.

Family Mass

Just to remind you that our Lenten observances begin just before Lent with a special Family Mass which will be celebrated on Sunday 3rd March at 11.00 in church. Please make every effort to attend.

We are asking for donations of cakes - homemade would be great but any donations gratefully received - for refreshments after Mass. Please contact the school office if you could help. Thankyou.

Spring is Springing

We have set your children a challenge to look for any signs that spring is on the way and report after half term on Monday morning. If they could bring a photograph or drawing, or simply tell us about what they have seen, smelt, heard or touched.

Year 4 visit to Brixton Chocolate Factory

Year 4 went to the chocolate factory in Brixton, where they learnt more about different types of chocolate and had the opportunity to create their own packaging and chocolate to take home. They thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and learnt so much!



Healthy Eating Party

Year Two had a fantastic party this Wednesday to celebrate all their amazing work about 'Oliver's Vegetables' and Healthy Eating. The children had designed and made their own party hats, wrapped presents and prepared all the very healthy food including a delicious fresh fruit salad. Well done children and thanks to the Year Two team who all worked so hard to create a fabulous party.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **1S**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **100%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **4C**, 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	96%
1D	98%
1S	100%
2C	95%
2HD	95%
3G	97%
3N	92%
4C	99%
4E	96%
5P	97%
5S	89%
6CA	96%
6ND	94%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 17 February - Luke 6: 17, 20-26

"How happy are you who are poor... But alas for you who are rich."

I remember as a young girl reciting with pleasure Matthew's beatitudes. Would those that applied to me be enough to get me into heaven?! These beatitudes were positive and hopeful.

But Luke records them differently in today's gospel, listing just four beatitudes followed by four woes or maledictions. "Alas for you," says Jesus to the rich, the well-fed, the famous, "you are having your consolation now."

With his first blessings, Jesus is addressing people like his disciples, who often suffered real poverty and hunger. But by now the crowd is huge, people from all over Judea: locals, foreigners, Jews and non-Jews alike. Some, perhaps the wealthier listeners, will have been shocked by what followed - Jesus's harsh words to the rich.

Luke was writing for a gentile audience and knew that his readers included well-educated, well-travelled Greeks, like himself. He must have known this account would make them uneasy.

In our day a relatively small number of people hold most of the world's wealth in their hands, while the poor have next to nothing. Jesus is issuing a warning to us: we must not grow comfortable, while such injustice prevails. And, awareness of what the word of God meant for his listeners, and means for us - what it demands

Lord,

You called us to work for justice and peace. Let us start with our own hearts, and make sure that we each remain one of your disciples upon whom you fixed your eyes. Let us be worthy of your gaze.

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

If we practice seeing with the eyes of Jesus, we will always be able to recognise those who need our help.

The very first Holy Cross Coffee Afternoon will be on Thursday 28th February. In this session the school nurse will be visiting

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 children need to know about

ONLINE BULLYING



What is online bullying?

ONLINE BULLYING – ALSO KNOWN AS CYBERBULLYING – IS BULLYING THAT TAKES PLACE ON THE INTERNET OR VIA ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND MOBILE PHONES. IT CAN INCLUDE:

1. SENDING SOMEONE MEAN OR THREATENING EMAILS, DIRECT MESSAGES OR TEXT MESSAGES
2. HACKING INTO SOMEONE'S ONLINE ACCOUNT
3. BEING RUDE OR MEAN TO SOMEONE WHEN PLAYING ONLINE GAMES
4. POSTING PRIVATE OR EMBARRASSING PHOTOS ONLINE OR SENDING THEM TO OTHERS
5. CREATING FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS THAT MOCK SOMEONE OR TRICK THEM
6. EXCLUDING SOMEONE FROM AN ONLINE CONVERSATION OR BLOCKING THEM FOR NO REASON



BE KIND ONLINE

BEFORE PRESSING 'SEND' ON COMMENTS, ASK YOURSELF THESE 3 QUESTIONS...

1. WHY AM I POSTING THIS?
2. WOULD I SAY THIS IN REAL LIFE?
3. HOW WOULD I FEEL IF SOMEBODY SAID THIS TO ME?



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



Why does it happen?

GOING ONLINE MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO SAY AND DO THINGS THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO FACE TO FACE. ONLINE BULLIES DON'T GET TO SEE THEIR VICTIMS' REACTIONS IN REAL LIFE, SO THIS CAN COOON THEM FROM THE REAL DAMAGE THAT THEY ARE DOING. QUITE OFTEN, PEOPLE BULLY BECAUSE THEY ARE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING DIFFICULT THEMSELVES AND TAKING IT OUT ON OTHERS IS THE ONLY WAY THEY KNOW HOW TO GET CONTROL OF THEIR OWN EMOTIONS.

How does it feel to be bullied?

BEING BULLIED CAN IMPACT ON YOUR SELF-ESTEEM, CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL SKILLS. BECAUSE IT HAPPENS ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER, IT CAN FEEL LIKE YOU ARE UNDER THREAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, SUCH AS YOUR BEDROOM. DON'T FORGET...IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT IF YOU'RE BEING BULLIED.



Am I an online bully?

SOMETIMES IT ISN'T OBVIOUS THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS WRONG, BUT IF YOU USE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO UPSET, ANGER OR EMBARRASS SOMEONE ON PURPOSE, THIS MEANS YOU'RE INVOLVED IN ONLINE BULLYING. IT MIGHT BE AS SIMPLE AS 'LIKING' A MEAN POST, LAUGHING AT AN ONLINE VIDEO, OR SPREADING A RUMOUR. BUT THE PERSON BEING BULLIED COULD FEEL LIKE THEY ARE BEING GANGED UP ON. THINK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL IF IT HAPPENED TO YOU. EVERYONE CAN MAKE MISTAKES, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO LEARN FROM THEM – GO BACK AND DELETE ANY UPSETTING OR NASTY POSTS, TWEETS OR COMMENTS YOU'VE WRITTEN.

Who do I tell?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BULLYING ON YOUR OWN. TALK TO AN ADULT THAT YOU TRUST – A PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR TEACHER. MOST WEBSITES, SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES AND ONLINE GAMES OR MOBILE APPS LET YOU REPORT AND BLOCK PEOPLE WHO ARE BOTHERING YOU. YOU COULD ALSO CONTACT CHILDLINE (WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK), WHERE A TRAINED COUNSELLOR WILL LISTEN TO ANYTHING THAT'S WORRYING YOU – YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME.



How do I prove it?

WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAPPENS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DOCUMENT AND REPORT THE BEHAVIOUR, SO IT CAN BE ADDRESSED – RECORD THE DATES AND TIMES WHEN CYBERBULLYING HAS OCCURRED, AND SAVE AND PRINT SCREENSHOTS, EMAILS, AND TEXT MESSAGES.



How can I stay safe?

MAKE SURE YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS ARE SET SO THAT ONLY PEOPLE YOU KNOW AND TRUST CAN SEE WHAT YOU POST. NEVER GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE, SUCH AS IN PUBLIC PROFILES, CHAT ROOMS OR BLOGS, AND AVOID FURTHER COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE SENDING THE MESSAGES. KEEP AWARE OF FAKE PROFILES AND INTERNET USERS PRETENDING TO BE SOMEONE THAT THEY ARE NOT.



AGE RESTRICTION
17+



LiveMe is a streaming video app that lets you watch live streams and broadcast your own live videos to anyone interested. The service, which claims to have amassed more than 60 million global users and streams around 300,000 hours of footage a day, is aimed at giving creators a 'platform to reach a wide audience and share their talents and passions directly with their fans'. Users can buy virtual coins and gifts and send these to broadcasters who create content 'they love', which can be redeemed for real money.



LIVE

Sexy

Beautiful

What parents need to know

LiveMe



Sweet

Beautiful

LIVE

ONLINE PREDATORS

Law enforcement agencies have warned that LiveMe is placing children at risk from online predators. A sheriff in Texas even issued a warning that 'paedophiles have a virtual open window to your child's bedroom'. Live chat can be used by groomers to target young people who may be manipulated into sending sexual images and videos. LiveMe also has a chat feature, which allows users to speak to each other in private. In 2018, a 65-year-old in the UK was jailed for posing as a teenage boy to groom young girls on LiveMe, and offered virtual currency in exchange for teenagers exposing themselves.

INAPPROPRIATE & ADULT CONTENT

Live streaming apps can potentially expose young people to graphic and inappropriate content. Live.Me says it is 'explicitly intended to be used by individuals 17 years of age or older, and those under 18 should have their parents' permission to download and use the app; but there are no age verification checks. As soon as you open the app or website's homepage, you are greeted with scantily clad adult broadcasters posing suggestively with captions, such as 'Join me in bed', and some people even have inappropriate usernames. There is every chance your child will watch content that is not suitable for them or be encouraged to share similar content themselves.

Sexy

ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO SEEK FAME

LiveMe describes itself as for new stars and famous celebrities, and suggests that 'influencers' can make up to \$20,000 to \$30,000 (£14,000 to £21,000) in a week through broadcasting live about all types of things, from fashion, music and gaming to art and beauty. Those who use the site seek to gain 'likes' and 'electronic gifts' from others, as the more they receive, the higher their status within that online community. Glorification of fame for fame's sake can be a concern for parents.

SPENDING MONEY ON VIRTUAL GIFTS

Coins are the Live.Me currency. Viewers and broadcasters can buy coins and use them to purchase gifts or do coin drops to interact with one another. When viewers send gifts, they immediately earn the same number of diamonds. Once someone has made a certain level of diamonds, they can cash them out for real money or convert them back into coins. There is always the danger of children spending too much on in-app purchases without you knowing.

CYBERBULLYING

Users of LiveMe can send private messages, videos and public comments to their connections. Some people can use the anonymity of the internet to be abusive towards others or threaten, tease, upset or humiliate someone else. If your child broadcasts live, there is a very high risk of receiving hurtful comments on their video. Bullying videos can also be posted on live-streaming sites, which can leave children feeling worried or helpless. One British teen told The Sun newspaper that she had been mercilessly bullied and that trolls on the app told her to 'go kill yourself', and her address was even shared on Twitter as a target for burglars.

PRIVACY & SECURITY CONCERNS

Many of the broadcasts by teens come from their bedrooms, often sharing peaks at sleepovers, hangouts and parties. Anyone can watch live broadcasts at the LiveMe website without even registering or logging into the service (although you can't interact with the user). By sharing too much information about their home life, your teenagers could unwittingly share their location and other identifying features with others. Last year, The Sunday Times also reported that a covert method of extracting the locations of users had been widely shared on the internet, exposing children's addresses to predators.

Top Tips for Parents

BROADCASTING TO STRANGERS

It is important for children to understand the risks of broadcasting live. Live-streaming services have limited privacy controls, so it is hard to know who is watching, and is difficult to prevent people accessing the stream. Explain to your child that it is possible for any video to be recorded and shared without the permission or knowledge of the person who made the video.

MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS WATCHING OR BROADCASTING

The only way to know what your child is watching or broadcasting on LiveMe is by regularly monitoring their usage. Chat to your child about what they like about LiveMe and what videos they enjoy watching. Ask them why they want to broadcast live and who they hope will see their videos – understanding their intention could guide you to suggest more appropriate services.

DON'T SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Remind your child that they should never share personal information with people online, including their last name, home address, school name, or telephone number. If someone asks them for personal information, it does not mean they have to tell them anything.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

If someone has been acting inappropriately, you are encouraged to ask for help by emailing LiveMe@cmcm.com with the subject line 'ATTENTION: INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR' and send evidence, including a screenshot of their profile. You can also directly report inappropriate, offensive, and harmful content from inside the app using the Report option. However, it is worth remembering that it is not wise to screenshot and save inappropriate material.

BLOCKING PEOPLE

Explain to your child that if they notice inappropriate behaviour, bullying, or any other rule-breaking conduct on LiveMe, they can block a user from chatting on their broadcast and profile by tapping on their name, navigating to the profile page, and then choosing 'block'.

RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASES

Stop your children from making in-app purchases by changing the app and device settings. For example, you can change the settings so a password is required to proceed with a transaction. Advise your child not to buy anything online without talking to you first.

LOCATION SHARING

Publishing live video can give away clues to your child's identity and location. Predators will search videos to identify information in the background that gives details about your child, such as street names or school uniforms. Explain to your child that they need to think carefully about where and when they broadcast live.

THINK BEFORE YOU BROADCAST

As with anything that is posted and shared with other people and online, remember that once it is up, it is hard to take back. Once videos are shared online, they become public. Videos can attract the attention of sex offenders or someone may threaten to share videos with others unless the child sends money or more videos.

BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS

Remind your child to always consider what they are about to comment on and to think about whether they would do that in the 'real world' or may regret posting at a later date. Encourage your child to think about the language they use online and to think carefully before commenting on content posted by someone else.

DISCUSS SEXING

Although it is an awkward subject, it is important to explain to children that creating or sharing explicit images of a child is illegal. A young person is breaking the law if they take an explicit video of themselves or share a video of a child, even if it's shared between children of the same age.

SOURCES: <https://www.liveme.com/safety.html> | <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/paedophile-grooming-liveme-livestreaming-childabuse-a7893456.html> | <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/live-me-the-app-that-exposes-childrens> | <http://www.newschannel6now.com/2018/09/26/sheriff-children-targeted-through-live-stream-app/> | <https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/police-warn-liveme-app-after-14892432>



**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... Lola Andrews-Clark, Andrew Burns,
Szymon Janczewski, Luca Nicolaou, Ella Stopplecamp, Ellis Sofuwa
Leah Stopplecamp, Roquiah Adams.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Mahayla Hackett, for making a huge effort with her letter formation
Jessica Jeffrey, for making imaginative models
Ladybirds: Cooper Leagas, for learning the class hymn actions quickly
Edward Guna, for playing an excellent Father Bernard
1D: Pola Bubetty, for her fantastic story writing in Literacy
1S: Heather Owusu-Kumi, for consistently trying hard with her spellings
2C: Lilly Bergamini, for creating an amazing part hat in D.T.
2HD: All 2HD, for fabulous behaviour at our Healthy Eating Party
3G: Eva Gautis, for outstanding work in R.E.
3N: Ethan Owusu-Boateng, for being an excellent Polonius
4C: Anne-Marie Konadu, for incredible writing in the 500 Words Literacy Challenge
4E: Aliyah Fraser, for thoughtful work in R.E.
5P: Ben Kibirango, for working very hard in Geography lessons focusing on volcanoes
5S: Jenna Bennet, for her persistence and determination in Numeracy.
6CA: Jack Cater, for his amazing contributions of knowledge and facts about our World War 1 topic
6N: Smuel Reed-Langley, for always working so hard in Literacy lessons
Learning Mentor: 5S Door Monitors, for doing a fantastic job

Diary Dates

Menu Week 1

Monday 25th February

Year 6 SATs Boosters 3:15 - 4:15
Funky Fingers KS1 3:15 - 4:15
Dance KS2 3:15 - 4:15
Multisports KS1 3:15 - 4:15
Year 1 Discovery Centre Trip

Tuesday 26th February

4E Library visit
Year 6 SATs Boosters 3:15 - 4:15
Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15
Football Team 3:15 - 4:30
Board Games KS1 3:15 - 4:15
Dodgeball KS1 3:15 - 4:15
Cosmic Yoga KS1 3:15 - 4:00

Thursday 28th February

Hockey KS2 3:15 - 4:15
Choir KS2 3:15 - 4:15
Year 6 Cafod Workshop
Coffee Afternoon 2 - 3:15

Friday 1st March

Netball KS2 3:15 - 4:15
Girls' Football Team 3:15 - 4:30
Karate 3:15 - 4:15
4E Class Assembly
St David's Cake Sale

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Patrick**

S. McGuigan

Miss S McGuigan

Headteacher

Wednesday 27th February

6N Eucharistic Service
Football KS2 3:15 - 4:15
Karate 3:15 - 4:15
Class Photographs

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

Seew Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher

Wednesday 13th 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 17th February 2019 - The Sixth 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

The Gospel for Sunday 17th February 2019 - The Beatitudes (Luke 6:17. 20-26)

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.

3 Reflect

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

Matthew's Sermon on the Mount and Luke's Sermon on the Plain are both collections of sayings of Jesus about the basic conditions of Christian living. Each begins with a set of 'Beatitudes', announcing who is specially blessed by the Lord. One frisky modern translation renders them, 'Congratulations to you who are...!' Matthew's set of eight Beatitudes focuses more on spiritual qualities, poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice, whereas Luke's four are more directly on the circumstances of life. The stress is therefore on the reversal of values which Jesus brings. Jesus turns the world upside-down. His gospel or 'good news' comes to the poor, the neglected, the oppressed. True blessedness does not consist in wealth, fame or festivities. It is those who struggle now who will receive a lasting reward. Are the four negatives which follow too hard on the rich, the contented, the frivolous, the famous? Through this gospel runs a thread of warning about the dangers of contentment, and we seldom pay attention to warnings unless they are overstated! The worry of those who have plenty (about how they should use their advantages responsibly for others) must be as least as great as those who worry to survive.

Is money a positive bar to eternal happiness, or a challenge?

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 17th February 2019



First Reading: *A Curse and a Blessing*

Jeremiah 17:5-8

The Lord says this: 'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Actually, this passage is neither a curse nor a blessing. It is not invoking or wishing upon a person the blessing or the curse. Instead, the prophet is here saying that people who behave in these two ways are respectively blessed and accursed. There is no need to wish it on them, for their own behaviour merits it and brings it on themselves. Such statements of blessing and its opposite are frequent in the Bible; an example very similar to this is in Psalm One. In Jeremiah's prophecy here, unlike most of the instances in the Bible of 'beatitudes' in both Old and New Testaments, there is no list of ways of moral conduct; blessing is simply a matter of trust or faith. It is not a person's achievements which count, for we cannot earn blessedness; we can only trust in God. However, if God is the real centre of our trust and reliance, we will try to behave as we were created, in the image of God, imitating the divine generosity, forgiveness, attentiveness to human need, fostering life rather than restricting it. This will mean that our heart is truly turned to the Lord, and the Lord will care for us, as the stream does the tree.

How true is it that we bring blessing and curse on ourselves?

Second Reading: *A People of the Resurrection*

1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

“We will be wrapped in the joy of the presence of God.”

As he nears the end of his great letter to the Corinthians, which we have been reading for five Sundays, Paul teaches about the resurrection, the bedrock of Christian faith. Last Sunday he was rehearsing the most primitive proclamation, that Christ had truly risen from the dead and had encountered a host of witnesses. Now Paul tackles the resurrection of Christians, of which Christ's resurrection is the first fruits and the model. The importance of Christ's resurrection is not only that it places him in glory at his Father's right hand, but also that it is the forerunner of our own resurrection. We can know little about the transformation which will take place in us at the resurrection. We will be physical, but physical in a quite different way. The glorified body is a body, but not like any body which we know. The traditional Christian picture of clouds and harps is not to be taken too seriously. The only important thing is that we will be wrapped or rapt in the joy of the presence of God, enveloped in utter contentment. Nothing else will matter but the enjoyment of the most lovable of all beings.

Why will it not be possible to get bored in heaven?

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org