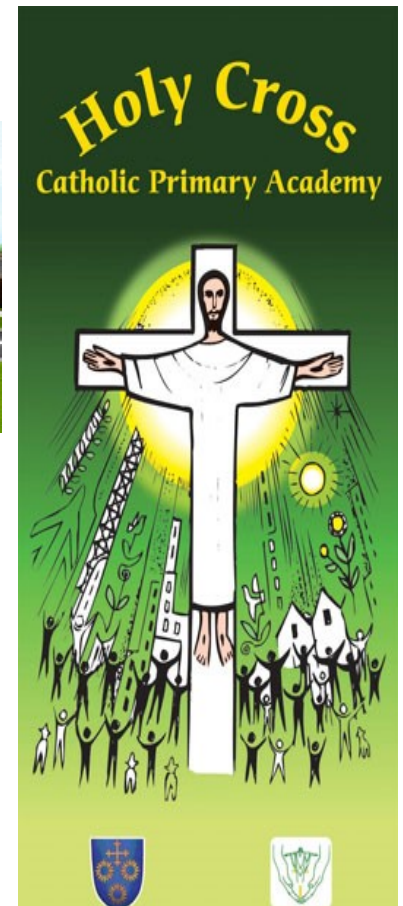




5th April 2019



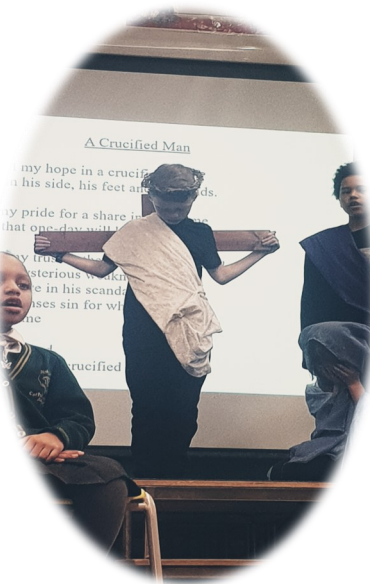
Dear Parents,

As we look towards the end of our Lenten observances, this seems to be a valuable opportunity to reflect on and congratulate our staff, pupils, parents and governors for supporting and providing so many meaningful and purposeful events at school. These can only help us to prepare more fully for the greatest event ever Easter Sunday.

Have a very happy and holy season.

Best wishes from us all at Holy Cross.

Here is a selection of photographs from our last week of term, Thank you to all involved.



Car Park

Advanced notification that from the beginning of the summer term our carpark will only be used by staff and visitors. There will be two disabled bays established on the grass area in front of the yellow barrier. Our governors have taken this decision owing to the congestion caused by the number of cars that currently access the carpark. Please make use of Nicholls Field car park which is only a 5 minute walk away.

Easter Bonnets

Well done to all children who entered the Easter Bonnet competition. They were all very colourful and creative and must have taken a lot of time and imagination to make. Judging was a very difficult task, as they were all so beautiful. The winners are:

Butterflies: Erin Page

Ladybirds: Ilinca Branisteanu

1D: Benjamin Thorp

1S: Phoebe McNamara

2C: Lily Bergamini

2HD: Tinashe Agyare

3G: Nikodem Smaglo

3N: Nina Krasa

4C: Lily Baker

4E: Seren Feast

5P: Braydon Hand

5S: Tudor Fedeles

6CA: Abigail Sanderson

6N: Jimi Ginn



Easter Masses



Sat 13 th April	5.30 pm	Palm Sunday (Teresa Hall RIP) (HX)
Sun 14 th April	9.00 am	Palm Sunday (Len Rebello RIP) (JL)
Sun 14 th April	11.00 am	Palm Sunday (Leonard Lycett RIP) (HX)
Mon 15 th April	7.30 pm	Penitential Service (HX)
Tue 16 th April	9.05 am	Holy Week (Nina Goddard RIP) (HX)
Wed 17 th April	9.15 am	Holy Week (EUCCHARISTIC SERVICE) (HX)
Thur 18 th April	8.00 pm	Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper (Fr. Bernard's Int's) (HX)
Fri 19 th April	3.00 pm	Good Friday - Liturgy of the Passion (JL)
Fri 19 th April	6.00 pm	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross (HX)
Sat 20 th April	8.30 pm	Holy Saturday - Paschal Vigil followed by the first Mass of the Resurrection (HX)
Sun 21 st April	9.00 am	Easter Sunday (Kitty Patrick RIP) (JL)
Sun 21 st April	11.00 am	Easter Sunday (In Thanksgiving - M.T. Nguyen) (HX)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **1D**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **95%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **6CA**, with **99%** attendance!

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 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	90%
RL	90%
1D	95%
1S	93%
2C	91%
2HD	95%
3G	96%
3N	97%
4C	94%
4E	94%
5P	91%
5S	97%
6CA	99%
6ND	91%



Eco Council

Our eco council took part in the Harlow Council spring clean, and helped to tidy and clear the local area around the school. As a reward for all their efforts Harlow Council are donating £100 to the eco council, which they are going to use to educate the rest of the school on green issues, especially plastic waste and how it affects the environment in an assembly.



Gardening Club

Mrs Gallagher runs a open gardening club at lunch times on Wednesdays. This term they been have tidying up the spiritual garden in preparation for May, the month of Mary, when parents and parishioner are welcome to come and use for reflection. All the children have been working very hard and the garden is looking lovely.



Holy Cross Footballers Shine!

In the final league fixtures of the season our boys football team went to Passmores and competed in Group B of the Harlow Schools competition. We sat in third place after the previous fixtures in a group consisting of Purford Green, Potter Street, The Downs and Pear Tree Mead.

A change in tactics worked perfectly in the first game, as we defeated Pear Tree Mead 3-0, with goal machine James Kelly bagging a hat trick! (one after a superb pass by Oliver Smith). Next we took on Potter Street who we had never previously beaten. The team defended amazingly, with Dawid making many vital interceptions and Gene pulling off some crucial saves. Near the end of the game our captain Lucas slotted home from close range to give us a crucial 1-0 win.

In the third game v Purford Green we performed superbly again, with Liam powering through the defence to score two goals, while James and Roman also scored to give us a 4-0 win. Artiom came into the team for this match and did a superb job in goal. The final and decisive match came against group leaders The Downs, who had scored plenty of goals and were undefeated for the whole season. Again the team were solid and performed incredibly in a very tight game, which ended in a 0-0 draw. The Downs progressed as group winners and went on to face Abbotsweld in the group B playoff and we narrowly missed out, finishing in second place. The boys really couldn't have done any more on the day, winning three games, drawing one, scoring eight goals and conceding none! We even had time to play a friendly match against Mr Clarke's former school Katherines and we won this game too, one nil! It was amazing to see how much the team had developed since the last league fixtures and we are already looking forward to next season!

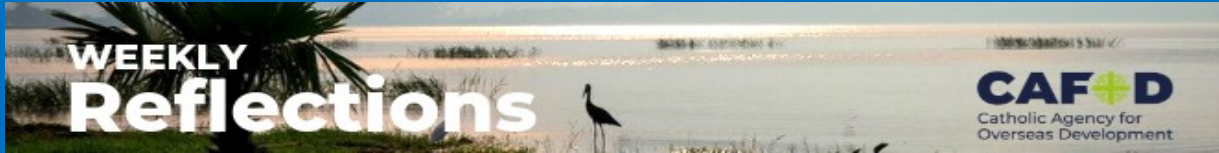
Well done to Artiom, Gene, Dawid, Liam, Lucas, Roman, Oliver and James!



Karate

Congratulations to our Junior Sempeis. They will be assisting Sensai Geoff on Wednesday afternoons. Well done Anne-Marie, Lily, Vaughn, Samantha and Isabell!

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 7 April – John 8:1-11

“Neither do I condemn you,’ said Jesus ‘go away, and don’t sin any more.”

The story of the woman caught in adultery gives us much to think about.

Every single one of us has sinned and we know what it feels like to feel guilty and ashamed. It is hard to look others in the eye when we know we have done wrong.

We also know what it feels like to be caught out judging others when deep down we know that we too need forgiveness.

Hopefully we also know what it is like to be merciful to others.

This story places us face to face with the mercy of God. In fact, God is mercy, God is love. If we ask for forgiveness, then we can be healed, because God is infinite mercy and wisdom. Broken relationships can be mended, and we can have the chance to put things right and try again.

Lent is a season when we repent, we try to turn things around, we try to mend brokenness. Is there someone you have hurt, to whom you could say sorry?

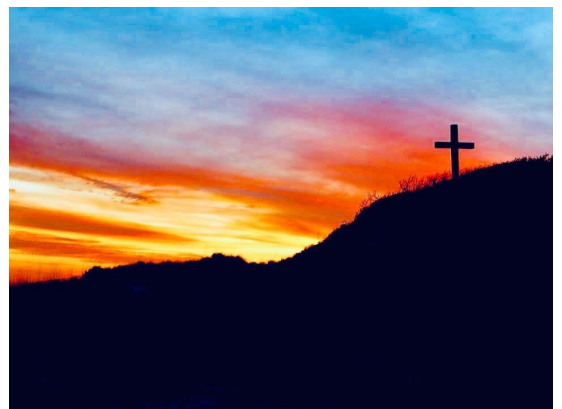
When we reflect on our attitude towards people who are poor, as we do during Lent, we recall Pope Francis’s warning about “the globalisation of indifference”.

As one global family, we need to mend our broken relationship with those who are excluded from the good things of the earth. Do they truly matter to us, like our own family?

God, you are infinite mercy, wisdom and love. I am sorry for the times that I have taken the wrong path and hurt other people. Help me to forgive those who have hurt me. Lead me towards healing and rebuilding broken relationships, in my home, locally and globally.
Amen.

Thank you Lord for this period of Lent, where we journey again to the Cross knowing that the end is the beginning.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 7th April 2019 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

1 Relax & Remember

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



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 7th April 2019 - The Woman Taken in Adultery (John 8:1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and, as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, "Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?" They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this, they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she replied. "Neither do I condemn you," said Jesus. "Go away, and don't sin any more."



3 Reflect

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

Why this reading from John in the middle of the Year of Luke? All the other gospels during this Lenten season have been from Luke. The answer is that it is an independent, floating story which does not even fit into the Gospel of John. In early manuscripts of the gospels this story moves around and is found in various places before it becomes anchored as an example of Jesus' teachings just after he says, 'Our Law does not allow us to pass judgement on anyone without first giving them a hearing' (John 7:51). It is appropriate for this Year of Luke because the tone of the story and the theme of welcome for the repentant sinner are both thoroughly Lukan, a theme which is constantly stressed in Luke's Gospel (for example, in the Parable of the Prodigal Son). What did Jesus write on the ground, or was it that he was just doodling to allow the accusers time to reflect on their self-righteousness? The latter is certainly one of the main concerns of St Luke's Gospel, where it is made clear that you cannot be a follower of Christ without first admitting your sinfulness: when Peter meets Jesus, he tells Jesus to go away, because he (Peter) is a sinner; Zacchaeus recognises that he is a sinner and promises to make multiple restitution for his embezzlements; the woman at the supper weeps for her sins at Jesus' feet.

Why do you think Jesus wrote on the ground? Do I find myself judging others too quickly and too often?

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 March 2019



First Reading: *The Covenant with Abraham*

Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, "Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants," he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. "I am the Lord," he said to him, "who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land." "My Lord, the Lord," Abram replied, "how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" He said to him, "Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon." He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: "To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River."

There are different stories of exactly how God's pact with Abraham (or Abram) was made. There is no doubt that it was a promise of lasting protection for Abraham and his descendants. This version takes the form of an ancient sacral covenant, of a kind known from other ancient New Eastern sources. The offerings are cut in half, and the parties making the pact pass between the halves, as a symbol that they will observe the pact faithfully until the two halves come together again. Such covenants were frequent between equals, or between overlord and vassal, but no such covenant is known between a deity and a human being. It perhaps marks the inequality between God and Abraham that only the wondrous symbols of God (the furnace and firebrand) here pass between the halves of the offering: Abraham cannot impose conditions on God! Nor can Abraham do anything to earn or justify the promise God makes: he can only trust in God, for he himself remains a nomad without a settled territory to call his own. Only his descendants will inherit the land and become as the stars of heaven. The awesome mystery of the scene is increased by the deep sleep (the same sleep as fell on Adam for the creation of Eve) and by Abram's terror.

What covenant does God make with us Christians? What must we do to keep our part of the Covenant?

Second Reading: *Citizenship of Heaven*

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Last Sunday's second reading (from Paul's letter to the Romans) built on the first reading (from Deuteronomy); the Israelite profession of faith in God becomes the Christian's profession of faith in Christ as Risen Lord. So this Sunday Abram's promised ownership of the land is transfigured into the promise of citizenship in heaven to the followers of Christ. In this world we are aliens rather than citizens: neither our fundamental values nor our final aim are those of this world. We cannot rest in contentment except in the expectation of the Risen Lord coming in triumph to assume lordship of all things. This, rather than food or any material goods, must be the basis of our whole system of values. To modern conventions Paul's repeated encouragement to follow his rule of life or to imitate him may seem boastful and complacent. But Paul asks us to imitate him not for his own glory, but because he sees himself as the servant of Christ, suffering for Christ, just as Jesus suffered as the Servant of the Lord. Paul's sufferings are the badge of apostleship. In other passages, Paul shows that he is as aware as any of us of his own failings and of his inability to live up to his ideals.

Who are "models" for us? How can we follow Christ more closely?

“We cannot rest in contentment except in the expectation of the Risen Lord.”

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

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.**





**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
In Partnership With
Natural Flair Coaching
Presents:**

Enough of The Huff!

Tantrums, Tears and Parenting Tools

**A Masterclass for
parents & carers of
children; EYFS2, KS1
and KS2**

**Delivered by one of
Hertfordshire's Top Parent
Coaches and winner of
Parent Coach of The Year
2015.**

**GUEST SPEAKER:
Sharon Lawton**

Topics covered include:

- **Learn why your child's personality and temperament is important in how you parent them**
- **Tried and tested tips on motivation and discipline strategies that work**
- **Tips on boundary setting, conflict and dealing with feelings and friendships**
- **Keys to positive communication and a calmer family life**

Time: 1-3pm

Date: Thursday 25th April '19



**Natural Flair
Coaching Ltd**

**To book – please advise school office of your
attendance**

***Come along and have a relaxing coffee and listen to our guest
speaker.***

***Places are limited - Please call NOW to secure your place on
this popular workshop***

Happy Birthday to... Lily Tieu, Sian Hanifin-Flynn, Jimi Bolaji, Florian Byram, Amelia Cowell, Alexandra Gronert, Christabel Smith, Keir McGarrity, Neriah Edochiem-Nnanyelugo, Jemie Kuttin, Szymon Budzynski-Wadja, Abbie Stopplecamp, Kelechi Eze, Lewis Ridler.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Evie Underdown, for super spelling, segmenting unfamiliar words

Luisa Marsharm, for a detailed retelling of the Easter story

Ladybirds: Jemi Kuttin, for a great attitude to all her learning

Hector Onwurah, for remembering important facts about Lent and Easter

1D: Ronnie White, for her fantastic retelling of the Easter story

1S: Dominica Nguyen, for showing a great attitude when learning about the Stations of the Cross

2C: Noah Corrigan, for trying very hard on the presentation of his work

2HD: Dominic Marshall, for being an amazing learner

3G: Nikodem Smaglo, for always taking pride in his presentation

3N: Reece Atkinson, for maintaining a good attitude to learning this week

4C: Tahlia Abu-Rabi, for reading confidently in our Stations of the Cross service

4E: Isla Ryall, for great work in Numeracy

5P: Christabel Enwere, for a wonderful powerpoint on seasons

5S: George Cundins, for his positive attitude, helpfulness and always trying his best

6CA: Abigail Sanderson, for her continuous effort and hard work in everything she does

6N: Isabela Kilvington, for always working hard trying her best in everything she does

Learning Mentor: Callum Hollingsworth, for a wonderful effort in the Stations of the Cross

Lunchtime: Kerem Mafueni, for making good choices at lunchtime

Diary Dates

New Menu Week 1 **No clubs this week.**

Monday 22nd April Tuesday 23rd April

School Closed

'He is Risen' Mass 1:45

Wednesday 24th April

St George Cake Sale

Thursday 25th April

Coffee Afternoon 2-3:15

Friday 26th April

Easter Saturday Vigil

Please make every effort to attend the most important Mass of the year, which begins at 8.30pm. Choir, please arrive by 8.15 at the latest.

House Points

Congratulations to the winning houses St Andrew and St David

S. McGuigan

Miss S McGuigan

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

Seew Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher