



26th April 2019



Newsletter



Dear Parents

Happy Easter to you all! Special thanks to all who were able to attend our Holy Saturday evening service in Holy Cross Church. Our choir sang beautifully and we have received many compliments, in particular relating to how much the children enhance the service.

We continue to celebrate Easter. During this period, please take time with your children to stand by our Easter garden and look at the empty tomb. This is a very significant and poignant reminder of the beauty of this season.



Prayer for Easter

Risen Christ, we praise you and give you thanks for your glory as we celebrate your resurrection. Fill our hearts with your love, so that we too may renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Inconsiderate Parking

There have been a number of complaints from our neighbours in Spencers Croft regarding the inconsiderate parking of parents from this school. Private parking spaces are being used and drives are being parked over. When approaching parents, the residents are being met with aggressive responses. This is highly inappropriate, disappointing and against the ethos of our Catholic school.

Please ensure you are always considerately parked. We have our car park at Nicholls Field, which is just a 5 minute walk away. Please speak to the school office if you are unsure where the Nicholls Field car park is.

Car Park

Since the beginning of the summer term our carpark is only for use by staff and visitors. There are 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.

Coffee Afternoon and Parenting Workshop

On Thursday afternoon Holy Cross hosted a parent workshop run by Sharon Lawton from Natural Flair coaching Ltd . The topics covered were tantrums, tears, parenting tools and looking at children's personalities and strategies. This included tips on conflict, feelings, boundary settings and good communication. Thank you to all parents that attended, I had some very positive feed back
Mrs Gallagher



Spiritual Garden

At the end of last term Mrs Gallagher worked with the children in both key stages to help prepare the spiritual garden for the month of May for our Lady Mary. The garden is looking wonderful, thank you to all the children who helped.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **Butterflies**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **99%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **5S**, with **98%** 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	99%
RL	95%
1D	88%
1S	98%
2C	95%
2HD	97%
3G	93%
3N	95%
4C	94%
4E	95%
5P	95%
5S	98%
6CA	94%
6ND	98%

Forest School

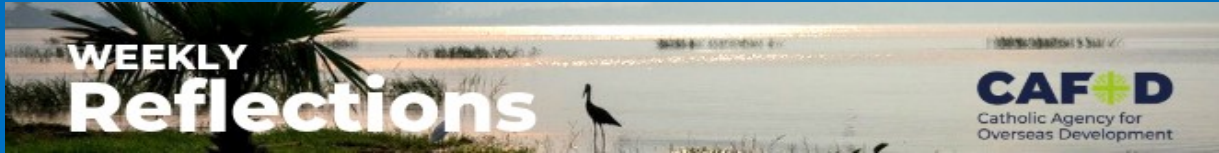
This week, year 6 children worked extremely hard clearing and preparing the allotments, so that new seeds can be planted.

Children enjoyed spending time in the tent that was used during the Easter Holiday club. They collected more firewood, ready to use when fire lighting during the summer term.

We are waiting for the pond to be refilled after the lining was repaired. However lots of life is still present, including our resident newt. The children are also excited to see the tadpoles change into frogs very soon!



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 28 April - John 20:19-31

"Peace be with you."

In Sunday's gospel, one phrase is repeated:

The disciples were afraid. Jesus said, "Peace be with you".

The disciples rejoiced. Jesus said, "Peace be with you".

Thomas doubted. Jesus said, "Peace be with you".

It's as if the evangelist REALLY wanted to make sure we got the message!

If we are willing, in our own fears and joys, doubts and hopes, Jesus will speak peace to our hearts too and invite us, like Thomas, to touch his wounds.

Dare I touch the wounds of Christ in the lives of others and share his peace with them?

CAFOD works with many deeply wounded communities yearning for peace. Conflict has marred the lives of refugees from Syria, Myanmar and South Sudan, communities surrounded by gangs in El Salvador, Colombian young people born during more than 50 years of fighting... and too many others to mention.

But our local experts are speaking peace in all these places, supporting communities as they work to heal their wounds and move forwards in hope. We often hear inspiring stories of forgiveness, loving service and determination to build a peaceful society.

How will I build a more peaceful world?

Jesus, Prince of Peace, enable me to notice the wounds in others and learn how to touch them with your peace. Amen



Christ is risen, and with Him our creative hope arises to face the problems of our day, because we know we are not alone. #Easter

Wednesday 24th April 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 28th April 2019 - The Second Sunday of Easter

1 Relax & Remember

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



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 28th April 2019 - Jesus in the Upper Room (John 20:19-31)

The doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. He said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained." Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, "We have seen the Lord", he answered, "Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe." Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, "Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."



3 Reflect

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

Two aspects of this meeting with the risen Jesus are especially striking. This is the last scene of the Gospel of John, for chapter 21 is an appendix. At the end, before the concluding reflection, Thomas gives the only direct acclamation in the New Testament of Jesus as God: nowhere else is Jesus hailed as 'God', though there are other ways in which his divinity has been indicated. So in a way Thomas' greeting of the risen Christ is the climax of the New Testament. Secondly, it is striking that Jesus' final blessing is one of peace and forgiveness. The mission of all Christians is to bring these gifts to a troubled world. Throughout the Bible God is a God of forgiveness. The Old Testament consists of a series of covenants, each in turn broken by God's chosen people, but then re-created by a forgiving God. There was the covenant with Noah after the Flood, the covenant with Abraham, the covenant with Moses after the worship of the Golden Calf, and finally the new covenant is promised by Jeremiah after unfaithful Israel had been exiled to Babylon. Christianity is not for the perfect but for the sinner, who is surrounded by other sinners. As forgiven sinners we are exhorted to bring forgiveness to all those around us.

How, as a forgiven sinner and part of a community of forgiven sinners, do I demonstrate the power of God's forgiveness?

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**

www.wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 28th April 2019



First Reading: *The Early Community*

Acts 5:12-16

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Before he tells us of the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, St Luke (the author of the Acts of the Apostles), describes the ideal community in Jerusalem. He stresses the unity of this community, their prayer together, their common ownership of all their possessions, their generosity to those in need, and their steadfastness under persecution by the authorities who refused to accept their message. It is the model for any Christian community, which all our Christian communities need to strive to imitate and become real centres of the love and confidence of Christ. In today's reading St Luke tells how in the early community the same signs and wonders of healing which Jesus himself had worked are now worked by the apostles too, and especially by Peter. It is a theme throughout the Acts that the followers of Jesus, filled with his Spirit, continue his work and are alive with his life, expressing the power of the risen Christ, who remains with them always. St Luke also wants to underline that Jerusalem is being given a second chance: the people there had rejected Jesus, but now they have another opportunity to welcome him, this time at the hands of his apostles, the witnesses to his resurrection. This is why St Luke underlines that the numbers of believers increased steadily. But the martyrdom of Stephen will mark the end and the failure of this second chance.

What work of Christian healing can I do now?

Second Reading: *A Vision of the LORD Jesus Christ*

Revelation 1:9-13. 17-19

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, "Write down all that you see in a book." I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of Man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle. When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come."

“The risen Christ will release her people from all sorrow and sadness.”

The first reading during the season of Eastertide is about the beginnings of the Church; in Year C the second reading (taken from the Book of Revelation), is about the end and completion of the Church. This book, the last book of the Bible, was written to assure Christians, struggling under persecution from the Roman Empire, that the risen Christ would eventually bring his Church to triumph and release her people from all sorrow and sadness. It uses extravagant, cosmic imagery to emphasize God's total control of the universe, heaven and earth, and all that is in them. It is very imaginative, drawing heavily upon the imagery of the Old Testament and upon the symbolism of numbers. The narrator is the Apostle John, exiled to the Greek island of Patmos, and it begins with a vision of the risen Christ in all his glory. The phrase 'Son of Man' (used in this reading), was Jesus' favourite way of referring to himself. Here the 'Son of Man' is also reminiscent of the Son of Man in the prophet Daniel's vision; to him God gives all power over the universe. The seven lamp-stands (seven is the perfect number), represent the seven local Churches of Asia to whom the Book was primarily addressed.

This vision of Christ was written down to inspire and energize a real Christian community; can it help to inspire and energize mine?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Luize Mafueni, Naomi Oregbhemhe, Daniel Ogunleye, Neriah Boateng, Ollie Kluza, Marcus Lucan.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Catherine Kazakov, for great work , labelling a dinosaur

Ladybirds: Leah Stopplecamp, for being a great independent learner

1D: Daniel Ogunleye, for his fantastic maths work on position and turns

1S: Kayla Umaru, for fantastic literacy writing

2C: Harry Acheampong, for writing an excellent recount of what he did in the Easter holidays

2HD: Taylor Leagas, for some amazing homework about animals

3G: Bartosz Seiler, for showing increasing confidence in all areas of the curriculum

3N: Beau Walsh, for his amazing shapes visualization

4C: Joe McCoy, for a tremendous javelin throw in our athletics lesson

4E: Marcy Reddin, for working hard in all areas of the curriculum

5P: Callum Hollingworth, for working really hard in all lessons

5S: Cheri Uzeqbuna, for her positive attitude to learning and producing fantastic work in all subjects

6CA: Patricia Ejembi, for her consistent care and compassion shown to others

6N: Jermaine Hyde, for exceptional effort with homework this week

Learning Mentor: Kavindya Alkegamage & Luize Mafueni, for being fantastic helpers at the parent workshop and coffee afternoon

Diary Dates

New Menu Week 2

Monday 29th April

Geography Week

5P Swimming

Dance Club KS2

Year 6 SATs Booster -
Mrs Ennifer's group
only

Tuesday 30th April

Year 3 Trip

Phonics Workshop Year 1
Parents 4pm

Multisport Club KS1

Year 6 SATs Boosters

Year 1 Phonics Club

Wednesday 1st May

Athletics Club KS1

Cricket & Rounders Club KS2

Thursday 2nd May

Phonics Workshop Year 1
Parents 9:15

Athletics KS2

Year 1 Phonics Club

Friday 3rd May

No afternoon assembly

Tennis Club KS2

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St Andrew**

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