



3rd May 2019



Dear Parents

Doesn't time fly - here we are at the end of another week, a week that takes us in to May the month of Mary. The weather has been very unstable and it does make it difficult to decide on appropriate clothing, so a little polite reminder that children should be wearing either summer or winter uniform but not a combination of both. Also, the summer dress should have a skirt and not culottes bottom. Thank you.

#### Miss Clark

We wished Miss Clark a fond farewell and all best wishes as she began her Maternity Leave this week. We look forward to the updates and will give you the news as soon as we know.

#### Phonics Workshop

Thank you to staff and parents for organising and attending the phonics workshops this week. I know that those who attended found them to be useful and enabled them to more fully support their children at home.

#### Social Media

It has come to our attention that there have been conversations in groups on media such as WhatsApp which are quite disrespectful and damaging to our school. Please be aware that there is no such thing as a private conversation on social media and in particular please be reminded about the importance of discussing issues with us directly. There is little point in winding everybody up and making a huge issue when it could have been dealt with in a calm and purposeful way with us at school.

We are all working together for the same aim.

We all want the best for our children.

Please use social media sensitively, appropriately and respectfully.

Thank you.

#### Gardening

Our children are busy preparing their allotment plots and planting a variety of fruit and vegetables.

Are there any parents or grandparents that could give some time to help?

Please contact the school office. Thank you.

#### Beginning and end of school day

Please be reminded that children must not be on school premises before 8.30 am as they are unsupervised.

Also could you please keep watch of your children at the end of the school day as we are finding that several children are using the adventure playground or using their scooters on the playground, both of which are not allowed. Thank you.

#### New Parish Spiritual Garden

A new spiritual garden has been created situated outside Father Bernard's house for all to use between 2pm and 4pm daily. The school spiritual garden will be open during the month of May every Wednesday from 1.30pm.



## May Procession

Just a reminder that this date has been rearranged to Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 2.00. As usual, we ask that all children bring in flowers for this beautiful annual service.

## Believing in the Resurrection

When you forgive your enemy  
When you feed the hungry  
When you defend the weak  
**You believe in the resurrection.**

When you have the courage to marry  
When you welcome the newly born child  
When you build your home  
**You believe in the resurrection.**

When you wake at peace in the morning  
When you sing to the rising sun  
When you go to work with joy  
**You believe in the resurrection.** *Carlo Carretto*



## Frozen Fridays

Frozen Fridays are returning from Friday 10th May. Lollies will be sold by the Mini Vinnies, School Council and Eco Council after school, for 50 pence. Funds raised will go towards Kneelers for the church and bins for the playground.

## Geography Week

This week we had the first Holy Cross Geography week, where the children have enjoyed learning about and participating in Geography skills and fieldwork. The children have learnt how to use a compass and to navigate around an orienteering course. They had to use their direction and measuring skills to locate letters, which spelt a word.

We have had lots of outdoor learning in and around the school area, with Year 3 also taking the minibus into Harlow Town centre to carry out their fieldwork. Lots of maps have been produced, which have included an understanding of OS map symbols and scale as well as use of a key.



The weather instruments, which some children made over the holiday have been put to use in the school grounds and the children have enjoyed looking at these and finding out how they work. Children have used the data they collected to draw bar graphs. Also in numeracy, children have used data to draw and interpret line graphs and have linked their map work to finding coordinates and translating and rotating shapes.

The iPads and laptops have been well used this week to explore Google Earth and the interactive games and activities on the OS website.

The children have been really benefitted from and been inspired



## Year 3 Trip to the Town Hall

On Tuesday year 3 went to the town centre to carry out a series of geographical field survey. They visited the Gibberd art exhibition and interviewed some shoppers. The children thoroughly enjoyed this practical geography day and their behaviour was exemplary.







### Swimming Gala

Well done to all the swimmers who competed in the year 5 & 6 swimming gala at Leisurezone on Friday 26th April.

The children performed magnificently with a hectic schedule of 40 races to be completed in just over an hour. There were up to 16 contestants per race, so winning a medal was no mean feat.

Special congratulations to the following winners:

Abbie Stopplecamp 5S 3rd place - Year 5 girls 25m Backstroke

Oliver Walsh 5S 2nd place - Year 5 boys 25m Freestyle

Brooke Jones 6CA 1st place - Year 6 girls 25m Backstroke



### Essex Cross Country Final

What a super achievement from Oliwia N in 5P who flew the flag for Holy Cross in the year 5 girls Essex cross country final held at the picturesque Hadleigh Park in Benfleet. She was our only qualifier from the event at Mark Hall and ran superbly on a windy day. Oliwia ran 500 metres more than last year (1500 metres in total) and finished 36th in a race of over 150 runners from a range of schools across Essex. Brilliant job, well done!

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2HD**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **99%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **3N**, 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	98%
RL	98%
1D	91%
1S	92%
2C	97%
2HD	99%
3G	94%
3N	99%
4C	94%
4E	96%
5P	95%
5S	97%
6CA	97%
6ND	98%



# Forest School

What a week of fantastic firelighting, potion and perfume making, bug hunting, den building and gardening. This week the children showed perseverance, good team work and resilience. Year 5, problem solved patiently together, taking down the tent and packing it away independently- Well done a great job!

Also this week, we have started a lunch time forest school club which runs over both Key Stage 1 and 2 lunchtimes. The children benefitted from spending time in the forest area making mud cakes, climbing trees and setting up our new fairy garden. We aim to offer this to the children every Tuesday.





# RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 5 May - John 21:1-19

"After the meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?'"

This scripture is one of triplets; it is Jesus' third appearance to his disciples and one of three questions to reinstate Simon Peter's faith. Though seen as a beautiful reunion, it is actually one of discipleship and challenge.

Jesus' teachings are not cosy. They are challenging. They push us to extremes. Filling their time with fishing, in their disbelief and despair the disciples catch nothing. It is only through witnessing a miracle that their faith and sight are restored and they recognise Jesus on the beach.

Leaping out of the boat to swim to shore, Simon Peter's three-part denial is then reversed through a three-part affirmation; declaring to the Lord, who calls him by name, "you know that I love you."

Even he, whose faith was sorely tested, can be reaffirmed through encounter and the breaking of bread and sharing of fish.

Peter's faith isn't only restored, but Christ challenges him to "feed" and "look after" his lambs and sheep and ultimately to "follow me"; preparing him for a less than simple path.

How ready are we to jump out of the boat?

How often are we seeking miracles to return our faith?

What three things can you do today to care for Christ's flock - who are our brothers and sisters throughout the world?

Father God, give me the strength and courage restored to Simon Peter after your resurrection. May I continue to share the Good News and look out for your flock around the world. Amen.



God searches for you, even if you don't search for Him. God loves you, even if you have forgotten Him. God looks for beauty in you, even if you think you have uselessly squandered all your talents.



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - The Third 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 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Jesus Meets his Disciples at the Lake (John 21:1-19)**

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We'll come with you." They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night. It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, "Have you caught anything, friends?" And when they answered, "No", he said, "Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something." So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land. As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead. After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, "Yes Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." Then he said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked him the third time 'Do you love me?' and said, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go." In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, "Follow me."



3

**Reflect**

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

*This epilogue to the Gospel of John shows an extraordinary link with Luke's version of the Call of the Disciples: the same unsuccessful fishing all night transformed into success at Jesus' command, and then the commission to proclaim the Gospel. As in so many encounters with the risen Christ, he is an awesome figure, the same person but mysteriously changed, so that the disciples have difficulty recognising him. In addition, here in John's Gospel, we have the touching scene of Peter's restoration: a triple declaration of love and loyalty is extorted from Peter to compensate for his triple denial, and a triple commission is given to him, concluding with the repeat of his call, 'Follow me' – as the prophecy of his martyrdom still echoes in his ears. While Matthew's Gospel concludes with a promise that the risen Christ will be always with his Church, this Gospel illustrates what this will look like in practice: Jesus feeds his followers at the picnic breakfast. Why the 153 fish? For the Venerable Bede it is too obvious: put together the numbers from 1 to 16, to this add 10 for the commandments and 7 for the days of creation, and you get 153. There may be more to it than that!*

**Is Peter's protestation of love after his denial an example to us (to turn back to the Lord and away from sin)? How can I become more aware of Christ's presence – particularly in the Eucharist, and so in each other?**

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.**





# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019



## First Reading: *The Apostles in the Dock*

### Acts 5:27-32. 40-41

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. "We gave you a formal warning," he said, "not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us." In reply Peter and the apostles said, "Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

*By the time this hearing before the Sanhedrin (the supreme Jewish Council in Jerusalem) occurs, the apostles have already been arrested twice for proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. The first time only Peter and John were arrested, interrogated and given a warning. Now it seems to be a whole group of the apostles. They were arrested, delivered from prison by an angel – another sign that God looks after his own people – and voluntarily went to face the Sanhedrin. The task of the apostle is first and foremost to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and his new life, a positive message of encouragement. Is our message of Christianity to those whom we meet always a message of encouragement? Does it always set out to inspire new life? All the way through the Acts of the Apostles we see the interplay of the harassment of Christ's messengers and God's protection of them. Peter is arrested and is about to be executed when he is delivered from prison by an angel. Later on, Paul is imprisoned and delivered from prison by an earthquake. It is no surprise that the same harassment, mockery and persecution continue throughout the history of the Church.*

*What sort of hardships do I endure for the sake of Christ?*

## Second Reading: *The Lamb in Glory*

### Revelation 5:11-14

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, "The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing." Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, "To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever." And the four animals said, "Amen"; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship.

“The risen Christ –  
fully equal to the Father.”

*This second reading (from Revelation) shows us a scene in the heavenly throne-room, the Lamb sacrificed enthroned. In fact this is the second half of the scene, the first half of which describes God enthroned in glory. Now we see the triumphant Lamb on the same throne, being accorded the same honours by the 24 elders and by all living creatures as were earlier accorded to the LORD God. Note the sevenfold acclamation! Then there is a fourfold acclamation from the four animals, four-square, who (as in Ezekiel's vision of the divine throne) represent the solidity of the universe. The surest indication, already in the early Church, that the risen Christ was seen as fully equal to the Father is the equality of worship accorded to them both by the whole of creation. It is precisely as the sacrificed Lamb of God that Jesus enters into the sanctuary, seated on the throne of God and presenting the very sacrifice which we present in the Eucharist. There is no time in God, and this sacrifice is 'once and for all'. The sacrifice on our altars is no new sacrifice but is the sacrifice of obedience which Christ presents in permanence to his Father.*

*What implications does this scene of the enthronement of the Lamb have for the full and final reality of our lives?*

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

w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)

Happy Birthday to... Seren Feast, George Green, Marleaha Hackett, Samantha Osei, Sienna Smith, Evie Wigger, Alayna Sellings, Mark Adjaye-Kwofie, Alexandra Nita, Faith Williams, Isabella Johnson, Perez Agyen-Frempong, Ethan Thong-Smith



### Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Toby Marsh-Gray, for always being so lovely and helpful to others

Albert Edwards, for a fantastic effort with his letter formation

Ladybirds: Amber Williams, for lovely reading

Oliwier Slawikowski, for brilliant independent writing

1D: Faith Williams, for her lovely sentence writing

1S: Logan Commbe, for making sure you concentrated on making your work neat

2C: Almelia Edwards, for trying very hard in all areas of her learning

2HD: Julia Magryta, for always being a fantastic listener and worker

3G: Emma Woodhouse, for showing sensibility and maturity during the Year 3 trip to the town hall

3N: Reece Atkinson, for writing an excellent news report

4C: Lemaya Adjaye-Kwofie, for amazing Geography work this week

4E: Akarla Pereira-Dodzo, for great effort in all her work

5P: Sydnie Johnson, for working hard in geography

5S: Marleaha Hackett, for always trying her best and making exceptional progress in all subjects

6CA: Trishelle Owusu, for always offering her time to help others

6N: Leo To, for consistent hard work across all subjects

Learning Mentor: Ka'reem Mafueni, for being a fantastic , enthusiastic participant in Forest School

## Diary Dates

### Menu Week 3

#### Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday -  
School closed

#### Tuesday 7th May

6N & 6CA 6 Class Mass 2pm  
Multisport Club KS1  
Year 6 SATs Boosters  
Year 1 Phonics Club  
Choir

#### Wednesday 8th May

Eucharist Service 5P 9.10  
Athletics Club KS1  
Cricket & Rounders Club KS2  
Karate

#### Thursday 9th May

Athletics KS2  
Year 1 Phonics Club  
Choir

#### Friday 10th May

Tennis Club KS2  
Karate

### House Points

**Congratulations to the  
winning house St George**

*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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)

*Seew Kelliher*

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher