



12th July 2019



Dear Parents,

It has been yet another very busy, though exciting week! The school seemed quieter than usual, with Year 6 off to Scotland and many trips taking place: Foundation stage to the sea-life centre, Year 1 to Paradise Wildlife Park, Years 4 and 5 at St Marks, the Peter Pan workshop in KS1 and Victorian day in Year 1...

...and next week promises to be even more exciting, as it is our annual International Week. We greatly value the contributions that all children make to our school communities from their original countries, and I am sure the children are looking forward to learning about different countries. We can't wait to see the amazing work they will produce during the week and on Passport Day, which will be on Wednesday, along with all the colourful outfits on Friday, as children will be encouraged to wear traditional costumes or colours from their countries.

Make sure you have put next Friday in your diary as our International Food festival, and join us as we celebrate cultural diversity and have the opportunity to taste delicacies from all over the world.

We are really looking forward to seeing you, don't miss it!

Year 4 and 5 STEM Lessons at St Marks—Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

Year 4 and 5 travelled to St Marks this week to experience the wonders of secondary school science. They took part in experiments to test the acidity and alkalinity of various substances and watched a fascinating display, which wowed the children "It's like a magic show" they exclaimed!



Peter Pan Workshops KS1

On Tuesday KS1 had a special Peter Pan workshop. They had an lovely time immersing themselves and their imagination in the world of Peter Pan and Neverland.



Year 6 Residential Trip to Scotland

We have enjoyed a marvellous week away in Scotland. Our flight from Stansted to Edinburgh was very well organised and an enjoyable part of the whole experience. The children have taken part in a variety of activities as well as visiting the local area - we went to an outdoor museum yesterday and then visited a reindeer sanctuary. We have been to the nearby waterfalls today and are now off to Sterling Castle. Thank you to all staff who have worked to make this trip such a success. See you next week!



Brilliant Club Graduation

We were proud to celebrate the success of 12 Year 5 children on Tuesday this week as they attended a special graduation ceremony at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS University) in London. Abbie, Arthur, Ben, Christabel, Ellis, Evie, Isabel, Lucja, Oliver, Szymon, Taylor-Grace and Tudor all received certificates to recognise their successful completion of The Scholars Programme. They studied a Philosophy course entitled "What is fairness?", visited two different universities, participated in weekly tutorial sessions with a PhD student and wrote a 1,000 word essay. Well done!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Miss Agdomar, who had her graduation ceremony today. We wish her many years of happiness and success in her teaching career.



Gospel Values Awards

Congratulations to the first children to receive the Gospel values certificate

Butterflies: Praise Owolabi	3N: Lily Vetori
Ladybirds: Leah Hyde	4C: Summer Moss
1D: Mara Ciotoi	4E: Summer Leagas
1S: Phoebe McNamara	5P: Szymon Budzynski-Wadja
2C: Harry Acheampong	5S: Luca Nicolaou
2HD: Beatrice Fagg	
3G: Francesca Griffiths	



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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

Summer Reading Challenge

Over the summer break please remember how important it is to read with your child and for them to continue their reading. We are supporting the Summer Reading Challenge run by the Essex Library Service and look forward to seeing what everyone has achieved, when we return to school.

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

SPACE CHASE

Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Have you seen this crew?



Join
FREE
at your
local
library!



Illustrations © Adam Stower 2019

From Saturday 20 July
to Monday 2 September 2019

(Please check local library opening times)



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

spacechase.org.uk



**SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE**

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 14 July - Luke 10:25-37

"Master what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

I love the story of the Good Samaritan, the message is clear and simple: regardless of what religion, ethnic background, or culture we're from, we should be willing to help people in need.

But reading it again, it got me thinking about the fact that I reach out to those neighbours who are "easy". Andy who solves all DIY problems, Brig who is always ready with a cup of tea and a listening ear, my parish coffee morning group. And then there's the annual street party, welcoming our new and long-established neighbours, all of us united by cake.

But this reading is calling me, calling us, to go beyond our "easy to reach" neighbours.

Recently I was honoured to meet Mahinur in Bangladesh, the wife and mother who featured in this year's CAFOD Lent appeal. She greeted me with a huge hug, pressed her cheek against mine and told me that "her home was my home".

Our local aid experts will be working with Mahinur and other members of her community, to deal with the effects of climate change, and find more sustainable ways to earn a living.

At CAFOD we believe that no one should be beyond reach of the aid they need in emergencies, or the support needed to flourish in life.

In this reading, we are called to show a love towards one another that is non-judgemental and compassionate. A love which is not restricted by "the rules".

We have to be ready to reach further out, to be there to show others, beyond our usual groups, the love and care they need.

Lord,

We pray that your loving Spirit fills us with kindness and compassion, driving out fear and suspicion, so that we may cross the road towards others, showing them the love and care they need to see them through.

Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

Through your attention to the little ones and to the poor, you can kindle stars in the night for those who suffer.





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 14th July 2019 - The Fifteenth 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 14th July 2019 (Luke 10:25-37): The Good Samaritan

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, "Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." "You have answered right," said Jesus. "Do this and life is yours." But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.' Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?" "The one, who took pity on him," he replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself."

3 Reflect

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

To many a Jew at the time of Jesus the hatred of the Samaritans was such that a Good Samaritan was a contradiction in terms. It is striking that Luke changes the dialogue about the two commandments. In Mark's and Matthew's accounts Jesus answers the question about the commandments, while in Luke Jesus challenges the questioner, who then himself gives the right answer. It is also striking that, in his reply at the very end, the lawyer, despite Jesus' praise of him, cannot bring himself to pronounce the hated name, 'Samaritan', and says 'the one who...'. The conscientious dilemma of the priest and the Levite reveals a dry humour within this story: if the huddled traveller turns out to be dead, they will incur corpse-defilement and be unable to perform their sacred duties! This legal difficulty makes the Samaritan's attentive generosity all the more poignant, for a Samaritan is free of any such hang-ups. Love shown to the unfortunate and the down-trodden is a major theme in Luke's Gospel. But note also the Samaritan's careful administration of his funds: he gives not a blank cheque but two days' wages, which he will supplement on his return if necessary!

What is the main point of Jesus' story? Is it to be generous or not to be judgmental?

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 14th July 2019



First Reading: *Moses' Final Counsel*

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Moses said to the people: "Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?' Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, 'Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?' No, the Word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance."

The Book of Deuteronomy consists of four great discourses on the Law. This lovely passage concludes the last discourse, after which the death of Moses is recounted. It encourages the people to observe the Law. The Law, it teaches, is not obscure, or difficult, or far away; the people do not need to travel far or search deeply. The author is saying that the Law is Israel's natural inheritance, and so it is natural for them to observe it; it is almost – as we would say – second nature. The Law was God's most precious gift to Israel, a revelation of the divine nature and the divine ways to the world, and so a source of light and life. It revealed how Israel had to behave in order to be God's faithful people. Therefore, observance of the Law was not to be thought of as a tiresome obligation but a response in love to this gift made in love. For Christians the Law is brought to perfection in the incarnate Word of God, who is the perfect revelation of the Father, and is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Israel saw the revelation of God's will, and so of his nature, in the Law; Christians similarly see the full revelation of the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

How can I come to know God's ways? Why not (as a starting point) read John's Gospel (where we discover Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life)?

Second Reading: *Christ the First-born*

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the firstborn of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

This is the first of the readings we will hear from Colossians over the coming week; it is a hymn to the pre-eminence of Christ. It falls into two stanzas: the first proclaims Christ's pre-eminence as firstborn in creation, the second his pre-eminence as first-born from the dead. As first-born in creation he is the image of the invisible God, in whom all is created, just as, in the Book of Wisdom, Wisdom is called the image of God, the reflection of the eternal light and the mirror of God's active power. In Wisdom, in Christ, God can be seen. In the second stanza, as first-born from the dead, Christ brings all things to perfection and completion. The hymn is a sort of parabola, starting with God in creation, descending to Christ as Lord of the Church, and returning with Christ to completion in God.

What does this passage teach us about Jesus Christ?

“Christ brings all things to perfection and completion.”

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Carter Laporte, Sophie Stopplecamp, Mara Ciotoi, Martha Edwards, Luisa Marsham, Layla Santos-Ebejer



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies:	Kayden Kureya, for great enthusiasm and hard work during Pirate week
Ladybirds:	Hector Onwurah, for excellent number bond work
1D:	Aurora Milcuite Blynovas, for fantastic acting on Victorian day
1S:	Mason Thompson, trying hard all week in all areas
2C:	Lilly Bergamini, for writing a wonderful riddle
2HD:	Elizabeth Kingston-Hyde, for really enjoying fairy stories
3G:	Emilia Marsham, for her improvement in maths, especially with her times tables
3N:	Emil Danel, for his great maths work this week
4C:	Joseph Robson, for amazing Kwik Cricket batting skills
4E:	Zofia Adamczak, for great effort and determination with handwriting
5P:	Braydon Hand, for fantastic effort and perseverance in all aspects of the curriculum
5S:	George Cundins, for his positive attitude, perseverance and determination

Diary Dates

Special International Menu

No clubs, please collect your child at normal time.

Monday 15th July

International Week

Tuesday 16th July

Year 6 Parents meetings

Wednesday 17th July

Passport Day

Exhibition Evening 5.00

Awards Evening 6.00

Thursday 18th July

Leavers Mass 9.30

Reception Graduation 12.00

Coffee Afternoon 2-3.15

Friday 19th July

Non-uniform Day—National Colours or Dress

4E Library Visit 10.00

International Food Festival

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

Seew Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher