



21st June 2019



Newsletter



Dear Parents

Thank you to all involved with our Family Festival yesterday; it was lovely to see so many families able to attend and I know from the many comments received that it was enjoyed by all. The final amount raised was £2000 which will go towards much needed computer equipment for our children.

This was a great opportunity for our whole school community to work together - as you know the success of such events really depends on the support of the whole school. Thank you to those who were able to help.

First Holy Communion Celebration

We celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi yesterday along with a celebration for our First Holy Communion children at Mass. Congratulations to all involved for once again bringing us together as a parish family in such a meaningful way.

Year 4 Tables Test

Our Year 4 children took part in a trial of the national tables test which will be rolled out to all schools next year. It is so important that children regularly practise these at home as it forms the basis of their number work and effective learning.

Help The Heroes

Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Laporte organised a coffee afternoon this week with all proceeds going to Help The Heroes. Thank you to all who attended. Nearly £200 was raised for this very worthy cause.

Reception and Key Stage One Mass

Just a reminder that this Mass will be celebrated at 2.00 next Thursday 27th June and all are most welcome.

Commonwealth Choir

A group of our choir children travelled to Westminster on Wednesday to take part in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of The Commonwealth.

As usual the children were so well behaved and represented our school perfectly.





Year 6 Retreat

Year 6 went on a retreat day to Chigwell Convent today.

It was a day of reflection and looking at inner thoughts and feelings using meditation and other tools.

This has been such an important day for our children; we all need to take time out to focus on our relationship with Christ. Thank you to all involved.



Gospel Values Awards

Congratulations to the first children to receive the Gospel values certificate

Butterflies: Catherine Kazakov

3N: Mitchell To

Ladybirds: Ella Stopplecamp

4C: Laura Norris

1D: Faith Williams

4E: Kobe Edochiem-Nnanyelugo

1S: Darrelle Koranteng-Appleton

5P: Ellis Kanio

2C: Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba

5S: Abbie Stopplecamp

2HD: Ella Haley

6CA: Evie Rocha

3G: Erin Downing

6N: Jimi Ginn



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2C**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award this week with **100%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **5P**, 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	95%
1D	93%
1S	93%
2C	100%
2HD	97%
3G	95%
3N	92%
4C	96%
4E	97%
5P	99%
5S	98%
6CA	98%
6ND	98%

Family Festival

Thank you to all involved in arranging the Family Festival. As mentioned, it was an enormous success and very enjoyable for all and the festival raised £2000 towards buying new ICT equipment.



Year 5 Girls Kwik Cricket Festival

Today some year 5 girls travelled to Hearlow Cricket Club to take part in the Kwik Cricket Festival.

They played 3 very close matches and had strong wins in 2 other games.

They displayed a lot of talent and had lots of fun in the sunshine.

They came a very respectable fourth overall.



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 23 June - Luke 9:11-17

"They all ate as much as they wanted and when the scraps remaining were collected, they filled twelve baskets."

This gospel reading is a great demonstration of Christ's compassion and miraculous power. The crowds who followed Jesus to listen to his teachings were hungry and the disciples did not know how they could be fed.

Through the grace of God, Jesus fed the crowd with next to nothing, just five loaves of bread and two fish. The disciples thought it would be impossible, but the people ate and were satisfied, with twelve basketfuls left over.

This reading invites us to consider how we can give from the very little that we have and make a miraculous impact. We can give a smile to someone who's feeling down or give a helping hand to someone feeling burdened by a difficult phase in life, we could even buy a hot drink for a homeless person. These may just be small acts, but they could in effect be restoring a sense of faith in humanity.

Generous God, inspire us with the courage to believe we can make a positive impact to those around us even when we don't have enough resources to do so. Work through us, we pray, and help us to think creatively about how we can help our community in abundance and scarcity. Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

Without communion and without compassion that is constantly nourished by prayer, theology not only loses its soul, but loses the intelligence and the ability to interpret reality in a Christian way.



Wednesday 19th June 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 23rd June 2019 - Corpus Christi - The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord

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 23rd June 2019 (Luke 9:11-17): Jesus Gives Food to the Crowds

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing. It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here." He replied, "Give them something to eat yourselves." But they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, "Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty." They did so and made them all sit down. Then He took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.



3 Reflect

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

*On the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ should we not have the gospel reading about the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper? No, the Church puts before us this reading of the wonderful gift of food from Jesus. It is a sort of open-air picnic Eucharist. It begins with Jesus talking to the crowd about the Kingdom of God; this is what happens in the earlier part of our Eucharist, as we listen to the Word in the readings and to the homily which interprets the Word for us. Then the Lord heals those who are in need of healing, and that means all of us, for we are always in need of healing in various ways. Only then does Jesus raise his eyes to heaven, bless the bread and distribute it, just as he gives himself to us in the Eucharist. A sign of the generosity and plenty of Jesus' gifts in the Eucharist is represented by the twelve baskets of left-overs, ready for consumption by the twelve tribes of the new Israel. In the same way, on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we share joyfully in the sustenance which Jesus gives to us and to the huge numbers of his followers across the world. **How can I participate more fully in Jesus' gift of the Eucharist? Perhaps I could make better preparation before Mass begins; take time for reflection afterwards; give fuller attention during the Mass.***

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 23rd June 2019



First Reading: *The Blessing of Melchizedek*

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing: "Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you." And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.

Melchizedek is a historically mysterious figure; designated a king of Salem, he suddenly appears from nowhere to greet Abraham and bless him. In gratitude Abraham gives Melchizedek a tenth of the spoil he has just won in battle. The only other mention of Melchizedek in the Old Testament is in Psalm 110, where he is the priest-king of Jerusalem. The early verses of this Psalm are frequently cited in the New Testament as a fore-shadowing of the exaltation of Christ to the right hand of the Father at the resurrection: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool". In the New Testament the whole Psalm is understood to point to Christ, and so in the Letter to the Hebrews the verse, "You are a priest according to the line of Melchizedek" is interpreted as a reference to Christ's priesthood. Christ is a priest not in the line of Aaron, but in the line of Melchizedek. The Letter further argues that, since Melchizedek blesses Abraham, Melchizedek's priesthood is superior to that of Abraham and Aaron. So, by this slightly involved explanation, we are celebrating in this first reading the priesthood of Christ, a priesthood superior to that of the Old Law.

What does it mean when we say that all Christians share in the priesthood of Christ?

Second Reading: *The Lord's Supper*

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me." In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me." Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

“The Eucharist is a celebration of the Body of Christ, in which we are all united in love.”

From several points of view this is one of the most significant passages of the New Testament. To begin with, the terms 'received' and 'passed on' are technical terms in the rabbinic process of oral transmission of tradition; they show that what Paul is about to say is part of the tradition conserved in the Christian community. Secondly, it shows us that the repetition of this rite of the Eucharist was seen to bring, to those who took part, a participation in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus – whether they were worthy or unworthy. Moreover, Paul's purpose is to rebuke the Corinthians for taking part in the Eucharistic supper without due seriousness. Thirdly, it underlines some of the most precious aspects of the Eucharistic meal: it is the sealing of the new covenant in the cup of Christ's blood, that covenant which brings to each individual the union with the Father wrought by Christ's death. Fourthly, Paul's chief rebuke to the Corinthians is that they are disunited and selfish at their Eucharist, treating it just like an ordinary dinner, neglecting one another's needs; but in this text he reminds us that the Eucharist is a celebration of the Body of Christ, in which we are all united in love, and in which we all depend on one another.

Do we always remember this when we come together to celebrate the Sunday Mass? How does the Eucharist nourish your own life and faith?

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Joshua Cobie, Abigail Sanderson,
Isabella Sanderson, Will Banister-How, Thomas Brest-Ndeyi



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies: Stevie Ginn, for a fantastic attitude to learning this week

Ladybirds: Ilinca Branistoreanu, for an amazing lighthouse

1D: Harvey Driscoll, for writing a great newspaper report for cine-literacy

1S: Darrelle Korateng-Appleton, for being a superb example to the rest of the class

2C: Isla Tieu, for trying very hard in literacy

2HD: Maja Owczarz, for working hard on her handwriting

3G: Ronel Sofuwa, for working hard, with fantastic results in his writing

3N: Alana Cox, for displaying an excellent attitude to learning

4C: The whole class for completing their times tables assessment so well

4E: Summer Leagas, for great work in our Tudor topic

5P: Lucas Pintilei, for being a kind friend to others in the class

5S: Ferne Kotz, for always trying her best in all subjects and her great work in our Ancient Greece topic

6CA: Joshua Stevenson, for his excellent behaviour and positive attitude this week

6ND: Joesh Henry, for excellent effort and enthusiasm with the Year 6 play

Diary Dates

Menu Week 3

Monday 24th June

Mad Hair and Sock Day £1

4E Swimming

Dance 3.15-4.15

KS1 Cricket & Rounders 3.15-4.15

Tuesday 25th June

Year 5 library visit

Multisport Club KS1 3.15-4.15

Choir

Wednesday 26th June

Eucharist Service 6CA 9.10

Year 6 Family Lunch 12.30

Athletics Club KS1 3.15-4.15

Cricket & Rounders Club KS2 3.15-4.15

Karate 3.15- 4.15

Thursday 27th June

Year 3 Library visits

Infant Mass 2.00

Choir

Athletics KS2 3.15-4.15

Friday 28th June

Year 4 Kentwell

Year 5 Greek Day

Tennis Club KS2 3.15 -4.15

Karate 3.15 -4.15

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house 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