

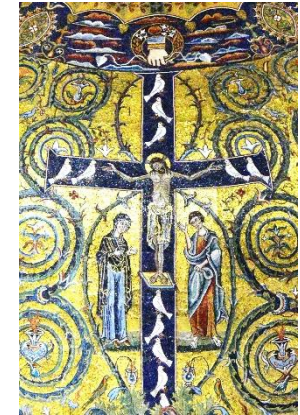
St. Joseph's *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

May-June 2024 (Year B)

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St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were originally developed to support my parish of St. Joseph in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, but they are now used by parishes and schools not just in the UK, but some are sent to contacts abroad as well. As always, feedback and suggestions are most welcome.



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Sunday Mass is the cornerstone of our week; These resources are designed to be used in a family setting or in Children's Liturgy of the Word at Mass, or in the classroom. Please make them your own and feel free to pass them on for free.

This beautiful mosaic in the basilica of San Clemente in Rome shows the Holy Spirit at work in the Church: the Father is crowning the Son on the cross and already the Apostles are filled with the Spirit (symbolized by the doves on the Cross.) In May and June we celebrate a series of wonderful solemnities which reflect the work of the Holy Spirit in His Church.

A Series of Solemnities

Although this edition sees us return to “ordinary time”, these next six weeks are far from “ordinary”. After the great celebration of Pentecost (which marks the end of the Easter Season) we have Trinity Sunday when we rejoice that God has revealed Himself to us as Trinity. Then comes the solemnity of Corpus Christi, which in England and Wales is on a Sunday, followed by the 10th, 11th and 12th Sundays of the year and finally at the end of the month, the solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul which has been translated from 29th June. There are more activities on these saints in the *Saints and Celebrations* for June which will be with you shortly. This is the time of year when many parishes are celebrating First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If you are, may your celebrations be truly full of the Holy Spirit and God's grace.

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith, and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

Professing the faith (speaking about it and learning the faith)

Celebrating our faith in the liturgy and the sacraments

Jesus above St. Peter's Rome, pointing to heaven. © C A Harnett 2022.



Living the faith in Christ (making choices by the grace of Jesus Christ)

A prayer-filled life where the Our Father takes centre stage

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for Trinity Sunday Year B

26th May 2024

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.

When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them.

He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.

And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord
R/: **Praise to you Lord
Jesus Christ**

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle; Make the Sign of the Cross; Someone read the Gospel slowly.

Q: Where did the disciples meet Jesus? (A: in Galilee.)

Q: What did Jesus tell His disciples to do? (A: To go and tell "all nations" (the whole world) about Him, and to baptise.)

Q: What words are the disciples to use for baptising? (A: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)

Q: Who is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? (A: God is Father Son and Holy Spirit.)

Q: When we are/were baptised the priest poured water over us (or we may have been immersed in the water) addressing us by our name, he said "N. I baptise you in the NAME of the Father and of the Son." Is the word "Name" singular or plural? (A: Singular.)

This is because we believe in ONE God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At Baptism we are joined with a kind of spiritual glue to the One God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This glue is so strong that we can never ever, ever, come apart.

Q: Jesus says in the last sentence that He is always with us, to the end of time. Why do you think He says that? (A: Because we are joined to Him for ever and if we are joined to Him, then He is with us too.)

Q: Jesus is with us now and He always is leading us to His Father through the Holy Spirit. All day and every day for ever, as long as we listen to Him.

Lets' listen to Him now. Invite everyone to shut their eyes and "look" at Jesus in their imagination. (You may like to have a picture to help in this). Say that Jesus is looking at them and smiling at them. He loves them so much with all His heart which is His Spirit. Imagine He is pouring His love into your heart. Feel the warmth of His love, like sunshine on a warm day. In the silence of your heart, tell Jesus that you love Him too and that you want His Holy Spirit to fill you up with His love.

***** after an appropriate pause, you can say. "When you are ready, open your eyes and come back to the room." Finish with the Glory Be....*

An image of the Holy Trinity

The lovely thing about this picture is that it's true to the words of Jesus, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). Classic images of "an old man" as the Father, can confuse children, and do not help them to see that "God" means Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "God" is Trinity and neither the Trinity, not the Father, is an old man sitting on a cloud. This kind of image can be harmful to young minds once they mature and realise that clouds are vapour and their image of "God" as an old man evaporates with belief in Father Christmas. Although this is a woodcut, children do enjoy colouring it in as it gives them an opportunity to meditate on the three Divine Persons represented here. (There is an A4 Sized version on the next page for the children to have).

Here is a question and answer reflection on the Holy Trinity as seen here.

Q: Where is Jesus? (A: On the Cross.)

Q: Who does the dove above Jesus's head represent? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Q: Where is the Father? (A: He is behind the Cross.)

Q: Why can't we see the Father's face? (A: Because Jesus said that when we see Him, we see the Father.)

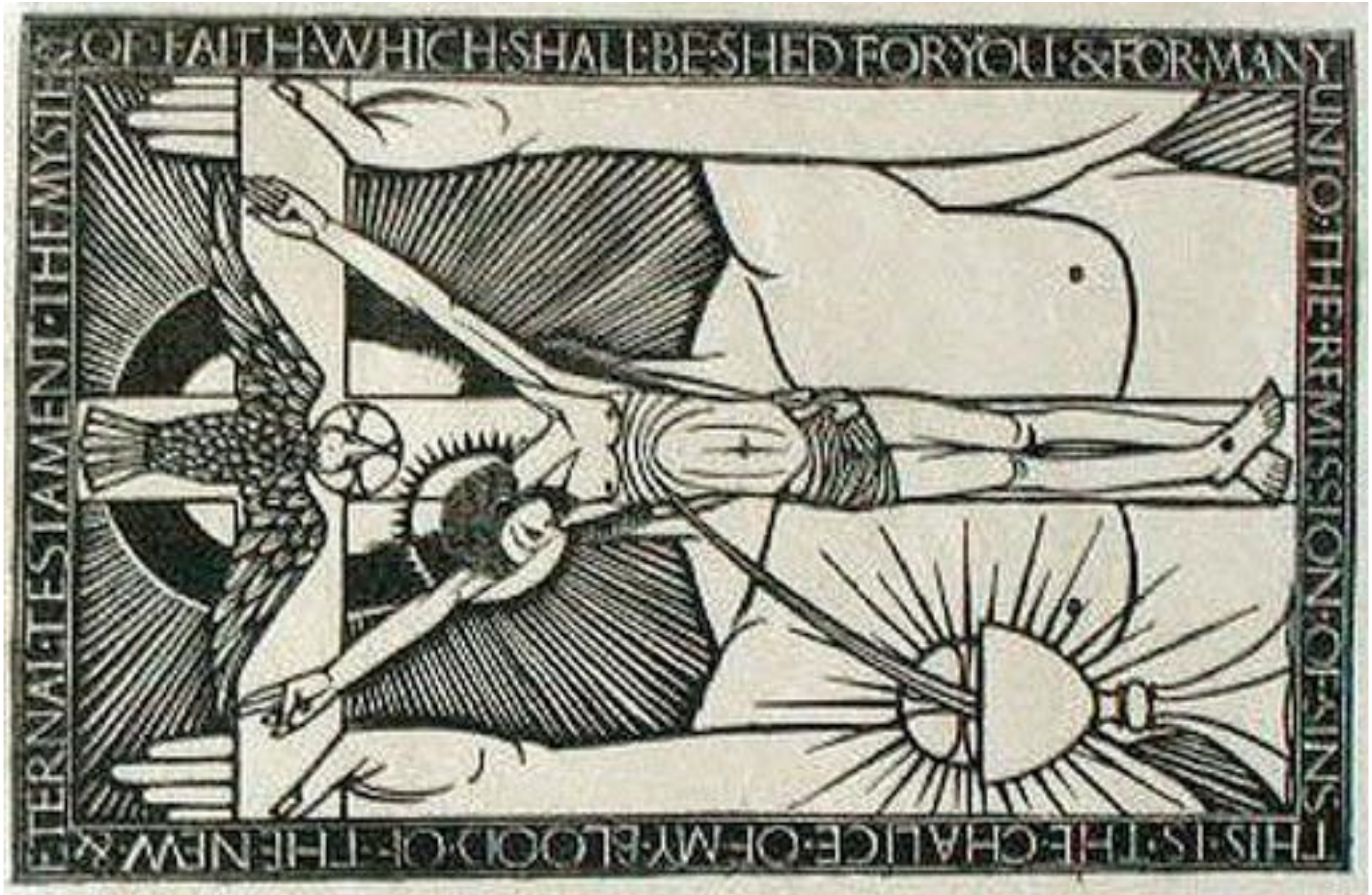
Q: What is the Father doing? (A: He is holding up the Cross.)

Q: Why is He doing this? (A: This picture shows that the Holy Trinity works as one. When Jesus died on the Cross, He gave His Spirit to His Father (Lk. 23:46)), but it was the support of His Father that enabled Him to do this.)

With children who have made or who are preparing for their First Holy Communion you might like to add a reference to the chalice in the picture by saying that when we receive Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ who unites us to His Father through the Holy Spirit. So, in effect, we receive the Holy Trinity! We cannot separate Jesus from His Father or the Spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.





Gospel for Corpus Christi

2nd June 2024

Mark 14:12-16,22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.' The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating, he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing, he broke it and gave it to them. 'Take it,' he said, 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks, he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.' After psalms had been sung, they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: ***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



- ✚ Light a candle
- ✚ Make the Sign of the Cross,
- ✚ Read the Gospel slowly
- ✚

Q: What did Jesus do as they were eating? (A: He took some bread, blessed it and broke it.)

Q: What did Jesus say when He took the bread? (A: This is my body.)

Q: What did Jesus say about the with the cup of wine? (A: This is my body, the blood of the covenant.....*for more information on the covenant see the notes below on the first reading.*)

Q: When and where have you heard these words before? (A: At Mass.)

Q: What happens to the bread and wine when the priest says these words at Mass? (A: They become Jesus' Body and Blood.)

Q: When the bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood, He is truly and completely present – He is with us in church on the altar. What posture do we have in the church? (A: We are kneeling.)

Q: Why are we kneeling at that moment? (A: Because Jesus is God, and we are worshiping Him.)

Q: What do we hear just after the priest says these words and lifts up the host and the chalice (cup)? (A: A bell ringing.)

Q: What can we do when we hear the bell ring? (A: Look up/look at the Host and Chalice/bow in worship/say a little prayer such as "Jesus I love you".)

On the next page are two activities that can be done to finish this session: Older children can read the Amima Christi which is a very ancient prayer. May be write it out in modern English to pray after receiving Jesus in Holy Communion at Mass. Younger children can colour in the picture of the host and chalice, and write/dictate a prayer to say at Mass.

Amina Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me

Body of Christ, save me

Blood of Christ, inebriate me

Water from the side of Christ, wash
me

Passion of Christ, strengthen me

O good Jesus, hear me

Within Thy wounds hide me

Suffer me not to be separated from
Thee

From the malignant enemy defend me

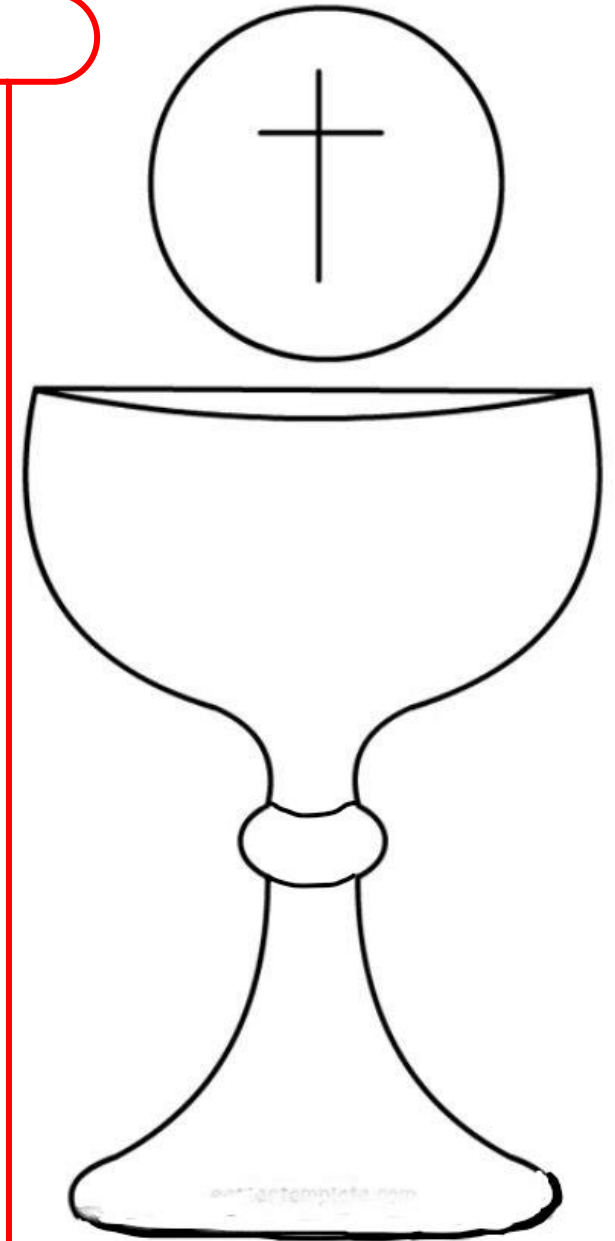
In the hour of my death call me

And bid me come unto Thee

That with Thy Saints I may praise
Thee forever and ever.

Amen.

My Prayer to Jesus who is with us in Holy Communion



An explanation of the readings for Corpus Christi

First Reading Exodus 24:3-8

This is when Moses built a temple in the desert and taught the people how to offer sacrifices to God. The blood symbolised God's protection and having offered the animal to God, the blood was sprinkled on the people as a sign of God's protection. Today it's Jesus' blood which protects us as He is the perfect sacrifice which we celebrate every time we come to Mass.

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord. In answer, all the people said with one voice, 'We will obey all the commands that the Lord has decreed.'

Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer sacrifices to the Lord as communion sacrifices.

Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar.

And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, 'We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.'

Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people.

This' he said, 'is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.'

Responsorial Psalm

The "cup of salvation" is the cup that was drunk at Passover when the Jews celebrated their escape from slavery. Today the priest drinks from the chalice on our behalf (we can't drink from it at the moment because of Covid regulations) and it's part of our recognition that by receiving Jesus' Body and Blood at Holy Communion we are being saved from slavery to sin. Holy Communion gives us the grace to be strong and resist temptation, because it draws us closer to Jesus.

Verse: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

R/: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Verse: How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

R/: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Verse: O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

R/: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Verse: A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people.

R/: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Second reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

The High Priest was the most important priest in the Temple and carried out the most important sacrifices. Every year the high priest would offer a very important sacrifice to God in the holiest part of the Temple which was of course built by the Jews. Jesus has offered the sacrifice of Himself on the cross and has entered Heaven, the holiest of all places which people have not built (God created heaven).

Jesus did not take animal blood with Him, when He entered heaven (the holiest sanctuary) but His own blood which was shed on the Cross.

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than the one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

What is a sacrifice?

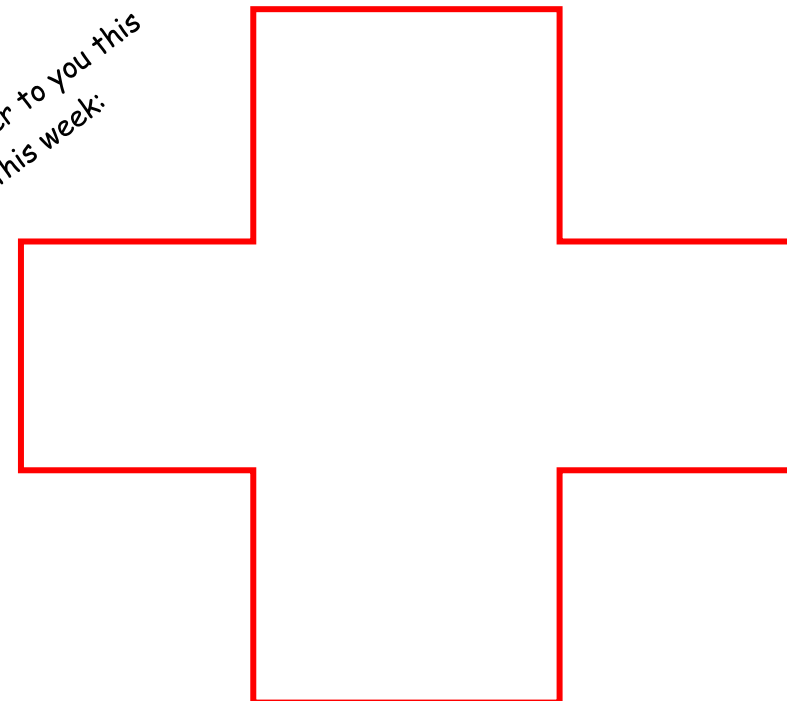
Today we normally think of a sacrifice as giving up something - in Lent we may sacrifice eating chocolates or sweets, for example. In the past, sacrifices were always offering to God so that the person doing the offering would become holy.

Jesus offered Himself to His Father so that everyone joined to Him in Baptism (His Body, the Church) would become holy.

However today we can still share in Jesus' offering of Himself to His Father every time we do something kind for someone else, especially if it is "giving up" our time.

Think about and write in the cross below how you can do something helpful for someone else this week.

Jesus I offer to you this sacrifice this week:



Gospel for 10th Sunday of Ordinary time

9th June 2024

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either – it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house. 'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him.

A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Discussion on the Gospel

- † Light a candle, Make the Sign of the Cross,
- † Read the Gospel slowly

Today's Gospel has two story lines running through it and for the sake of the children we will focus on the mention of Jesus' family, especially the last line.

Q: What was Jesus? (A: At home.)

Q: Who was looking for Jesus? (A: His relatives.)

Q: The Gospel refers to Jesus "mother and brothers" (Sometimes "sisters" are also mentioned.) These are not Mary's children as Mary had only one child, who is that? (A: Jesus.)

Q: In Jesus' culture, there was no word for cousins so "bris and sisters" means people who were a part of His wider family, cousins and other relatives. What did Jesus' relatives want? (A: They wanted to speak to Jesus.)

Q: What did Jesus say when he was told that they were outside? (A: Here are my mother and brothers [and sisters]. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my mother, brother and sister".)

Q: who was Jesus pointing to when He said, "Here are my mother and brothers"? (A: The crowd around Him.)

Q: What did Jesus say that the person who does the will of God is? (A: His mother, brothers and sisters.)

Q: Who above all did what the Father asked? (A: Jesus and Mary.)

Q: So, if we do what Jesus who is God asks us to do, what does that make us? (A: Jesus family; (brothers and sisters.)

Q: Who can help us to do what Jesus asks us to do? (A: Open, but it would be good to refer to the Holy Spirit, and Mary and the saints who pray for us.)

Jesus and his family

Here is a picture of Jesus and Mary, His mother. Can you draw yourself and your own family as they too are part of Jesus' family - we are all His brothers and sisters when we do what He asks us to do.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

16th June 2024

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Q: Jesus gives us two pictures of what the God's Kingdom is like. What are they? (A: Seed growing by itself and a tiny mustard seed growing into the biggest of trees.)

Q: What happens to seeds when they are planted? (A: They grow [hopefully!].)

Q: What do seeds need to grow big and strong? (A: Soil, water, sun, food..)

Q: What do we need to grow big and strong? (A: Food, etc.)

Q: What is our "food" to grow strong in our faith in Jesus? (A: Open ended – e.g. reading the Bible, going to Mass/communion/confession, learning to obey Jesus [through obeying parents and guardians] and prayer.)

Q: Show an acorn (or a picture of one) and then show a great big oak tree (or a picture). Explain that the great big tree grew from this tiny acorn. In Jesus' parable, what comes to shelter in the branches of the mustard tree? (A: All the birds.)

Q: The big tree represents the Church united (joined with) Jesus; who do the birds represent? (A: Us.)

Q: The birds shelter in the tree, what does "shelter" mean? (A: Protection.)

Q: If the tree is Jesus and His Church, the birds seeking shelter are us, what does this tell us about Jesus and His Church? (A: That Jesus gives us shelter/protection in His Church.)

Q: What little tiny prayer can we say if we feel we need Jesus' protection? (A: The Sign of the Cross.)

Q: Let's just finish by slowly making the Sign of the Cross together, to remind ourselves of Jesus' love and protection.



Colour in the tree with Jesus in it, and the tiny acorn at the foot of the tree. How does Jesus help us to grow in our faith from a tiny seed (acorn) to a huge, big tree.

**Jesus, help me to grow in faith
and protect me in your Church**



Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



Gospel for 12th Sunday of Ordinary
Time

23rd June 2024

Mark 4:35-41

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus
Christ*

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Q: What time of day is it? (A: Evening.)

Q: What does Jesus suggest that they all do? (A: Get into a boat and cross the lake.)

Q: What happens when they are in the boat? (A: As storm/gale blew up.)

Q: What was Jesus doing? (A: Sleeping.)

Q: How did the disciples react to the storm? (A: They were afraid that the boat was going to sink.)

Q: How do we know that Jesus wasn't afraid of the storm? (A: Because He was asleep.)

Q: How did Jesus respond to the disciples' fear? (A: He told the wind to stop, and it did.)

Q: What can we learn about Jesus from this? (A: That Jesus will help us when we are afraid/That even if He is "asleep" He hears our prayers.)

Q: What did Jesus say to the disciples once the storm had stopped? (A: He told them off for being afraid and for not having much faith.)

Q: Jesus often told His disciples off for not having enough faith. How can we grow in faith in Him? (A: Various – reading the Bible/ Mass and the sacraments/praying regularly.)

Q: What is the last thing that the disciples say in this story? (A: That even the wind and the sea obey Jesus.)

Q: What does this show us about Jesus? (A: That He is all powerful/that He is God/that He is effectively in charge of creation/ that God protects us.)

Q: What prayer do we regularly pray has a line asking the Father for protection? (A: The "Our Father" – "Deliver us from evil".)

Let us finish by praying the Our Father together as a thank you to Jesus for His protection and care for us, especially when the storms of life hit us.



Jesus and friend:

This is a copy of the icon of " Jesus and friend" on the first page of these sheets. Look at how Jesus has his arm around His friend, you can see His fingers of his friend' s shoulder.

Fill in the blank with a picture of yourself, knowing that Jesus has His arm around you too, protecting you and keeping you safe, especially when you ask Him for His help.

(Notice the toes of Jesus' friend poking out below - can you make your feet line up with the feet in the picture?)

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for The Solemnity of St Peter and Paul

30th June 2024

Matthew 16:13-19

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon, son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

- ✚ Light a candle
- ✚ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✚ Someone read the Gospel slowly

The Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul has been translated from 29th June to today this year.

Q: What did Jesus ask the disciples? (A: Who He is.)

Q: What did they answer at first? (A: St. John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the prophets.)

Q: What was St. Peter's answer? (A: that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God .)

Q: What was Jesus' answer to St. Peter? (A: Happy man, it was not flesh and blood but God the Father in heaven who helped Peter to understand.)

Q: How did the Jesus describe St. Peter? (A: As a rock.)

Q: What is a rock like? (A: Strong, hard, firm, solid.)

Q: So, Jesus is saying that St. Peter needs to be strong and solid because is going to lead the Church. However, today's feast is not just about St. Peter. Who is the other saint we are celebrating today? (A: St Paul.)

Q: What did St Paul do? (A: He travelled around teaching people about Jesus and wrote letters about Jesus.)

Q: We celebrate both St. Peter and St Paul together because they were both important for the spread of the faith in the Roman world. They both died because they refused to deny Jesus Christ. Do you know how they died? (A: St. Peter was crucified upside down and St Paul had his head chopped off.)

Q: In the Icon (on the next page) St. Peter and St Paul are seen holding up a building. What do you think the building represents? (A: The Church.)

Q: Let us finish by praying for the Pope and all our bishops who today have the job of leading the Church. Lord Jesus, we ask you to guide the Pope and our bishops in all their decisions so that they make wise and just decisions as they lead your Church on earth. Lord hear us. R:/Lord graciously hear us. Does anyone want to add any prayers?



Colour in this icon of St. Peter and St Paul using the same colours as in the icon as much as you can. St. Peter is wearing gold to represent being chosen by Jesus to lead the Church answer St Paul is wearing read to show that he died for His faith.



Image from: <https://www.holyart.co.uk/religious-items/sacred-icons/greek-icons/saint-peter-and-saint-paul>