

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

October 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.



October is the month of the Holy Rosary, and this is a prayer that you don't regularly pray, maybe this is the month to give it a go. If your parish prays the Rosary before Mass this month, maybe you can do this with the children at a slower pace and just do one decade .

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.

October is a time of growing closer to Jesus and reflecting on His teaching. Each of the four gospels this month focus on a different aspect of our life of faith; we reflect on Jesus' love for children and His wanting them to be close to Him. We reflect on how we need to get our priorities right in order to allow Jesus into our lives; we reflect on what being great really means, and finally, we reflect on the gift of sight. In all these gospels Jesus is interacting with people around Him. Sometimes He is explaining things to His disciples and at other times He is engaging with those in the wider community. The question is, how can we help the children at Mass to engage with Jesus? In the end, maybe it's the parents we need to help; helping them to help their children to notice what is happening at Mass?

I would welcome thoughts on this. Have a blessed October.

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. © CA 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

**First reading and Gospel for Sunday 27th
Sunday in Ordinary Time 6th October:**

First reading: "Genesis 2:18-24"

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' ... So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man.

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

The word of the Lord. R/: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, ... "from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'

Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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

Introduction: It's worth looking at both the first reading and the Gospel. I've edited both readings here. This teaching is really difficult for those families which have spilt up. Don't condemn those who have divorced and re-married, after all, the Lord did not condemn the woman caught in the act of adultery (Jn. 8:3-11). Help the children to see that marriage is God's ideal and that His grace helps us all in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in. It is important that the children know this.

Q: In the first reading, why did God create the woman for the man? (A: to be a partner/companionship/... to have children.....)

Q: What does "become one body" mean? (A. to be united, to work together, to be a team, a partnership.)

Q: What did Jesus say that God's plan was from the beginning? (A. That men and women are to become "one body" – to be a team/partnership)

Q: Who unites the man and the woman in marriage? (A: God.)

Q: What did disciples do when the children are brought to Jesus? (A: They tried to send them away.)

Q: What did Jesus do? (A: He puts his arms around the children and welcomes them).

Q: Jesus loves our families, whatever shape and size they are. How can we be more aware of Him in our homes? (A: Again, various ; family prayer, grace before meals, create a prayer corner.....)

Finish by sitting in silence with your eyes closed, and imagine that Jesus is with you. See Him in your imagination, and see Him reaching out to you. See Him mouth your name and tell you that He loves you. What do you say back to Him?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit....

On the next page is an icon of "Jesus and friend." The "friend" has been blanked out for the children to draw themselves in that place.



Lord Jesus Christ, I know
that you are always with
me, even if I can't see
you.

I know that you will never
abandon me.

Teach me to love you more
and more each day, and by
the grace of the Holy
Spirit, help me to know
that whatever happens to
me, you are right there by
my side.

Amen



Gospel for Sunday 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 13th October

Mark 10:17-27

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

Discussion on the Gospel

Q: What kind of man ran up to Jesus? (A: A young man who was rich.)

Q: What did he ask Jesus? (A: What he had to do to inherit Eternal Life.)

Q: What is Eternal Life? (A: Living with God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit in heaven for ever and ever.)

Q: Which commandments does Jesus' list? (A: Do not steal, kill, commit adultery, honour father and mother, defraud, lie [bear false witness])

Q: What is the man's response to Jesus at this point? (A: That he's done all these things.)

Q: What did Jesus then ask him to do? (A: To sell all that he had and to follow Jesus.)

Q: How did the man respond to this? (A: He went away sad.)

Q: Why was the man so sad? (A: Because he was very rich and could not give up all that he had.)

Q: Which saints do you know of responded like this to Jesus' command? (A: St. Peter and the Apostles, St Paul, St. Anthony St. Francis of Assisi, St. Maximilian Kolbe [who gave up his life] St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Catherine of Siena, in fact, most of them in one way or another....)

Q: Let's think about this... if we want to live with Jesus in heaven, Jesus is asking us to get our priorities right. It may not be the right thing for us to give away or sell EVERYTHING, but we can begin to think about the difference between what we NEED and what we WANT.)

Q: What are the most important things in life that we need? (A: Homes, food, clothes, family, education, times of relaxation, playing, especially outdoors....)

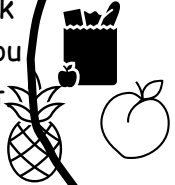
Q: Think about what you have at home that you have, but don't need or use any more. What can we do with those? (A: Open, e.g. give away to other people who don't have as much, to charity shops etc.)

Finish with this prayer: Jesus, I love you above all things, give me the grace to ask for only what I need and not just what I want. Amen.

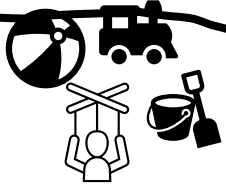
Which of these actions will lead you to Jesus?



You only ask for what you need to eat



You gave away toys to a charity shop



You kept asking for new computer games



You gave away outgrown clothes to a charity shop



You kept eating too many sweet things



Start



A

B

C

here

D

E

Gospel for Sunday 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 20th October 2024

Mark 10:42-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

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

The aim of the discussion is to think about how we can serve other people.

Q: What did James and John want? (A: To sit next to Jesus in heaven.)

Q: Jesus' answer is a bit confusing but basically, He is saying that if they want to sit with Jesus, they need to suffer like Him. How did Jesus suffer? (A: He was crucified and died on the Cross.)

Q: Do you know how James and John suffered? (A: James was martyred in Jerusalem by the Romans and John stood beside Jesus when He was killed on the Cross, which must have been horrendous seeing your best friend go through so much.)

Q: Why do you think that the others were indignant, that is, cross with James and John? (A: Possibly because they also wanted to sit next to Jesus...)

Q: What does Jesus mean when He says that if you want to be great, you need to be the servant? (A: Great people are not those who demand everyone else does things for them but those who do things for other people.)

Q: If a great person is someone who serves (looks after) other people, who do you know who is great? (A: Various....)

Q: Which saints do you know gave their lives to serve other people? (A: St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Frances of Assisi, St. Margaret of Scotland... [Most saints])

Q: It is not always easy to help other people, but the Holy Spirit is there to help us by His grace! What can we say to the Holy Spirit when we need to help someone and we don't know how to? (A: Open, e.g. Holy Spirit help me! – maybe practice with the children saying this.)

Q: How can we serve other people at home/at school/in Church? (A: Various....)

Finish with this prayer by St. Ignatius of Loyola:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.

How can I serve others this week?

Fill in the boxes below with either a picture or an activity that you could do each day to serve people around you. There are some ideas in the first box, but you can make up your own. Then tick in the box when you have done it.

Ideas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay the table • Pick up a coat on the floor • Do the washing up • Make all the beds • Tidy your room • Sweep outside • Help a neighbour in their garden • Tidy up another room at home • Clean the bathroom basin • Tidy the classroom 			



Children's liturgy of the word for this week

**Gospel for Sunday 30th
Sunday in Ordinary Time
24th October**

Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So, they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said, 'get up; he is calling you.' So, throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbuni,' the blind man said to him 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned, and he followed him along the road.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

This is a lovely story of healing which we can read on different levels. On the simple level it's about Jesus enabling a blind man to regain his sight, but we can also reflect on the fact that Jesus helps us all to "see" things differently. Depending upon the age of your children you might want to explore the deeper meaning of "seeing" with them, as in understanding better. Don't we say "I see" when we mean "I understand"?

Q: Who came up to Jesus? (A: Bartimaeus, a blind man.)

Q: What did he want? (A: Jesus to have pity on him/to be able to see again.)

Q: What was Jesus' response to Bartimaeus' request? (A: He just told him that his faith had saved him.)

Q: What/who did Bartimaeus have faith in? (A: That Jesus could heal him.)

Q: Faith is something that we are given when we are baptised, but it needs to be fed and grow. How do you look after plants? (Open.)

Q: What happens to a plant that is not watered? (A: It dies!)

Q: The watering of the plant feeds it and so the plant can live and grow. Our faith needs to be "watered" or fed, how do you think that that can happen? (A: Various, e.g. we can pray every day, e.g. grace before meals/ bedtime prayers/ pray the rosary, read the Bible, go to Mass regularly, talk about Jesus with other people, go to adoration.)

Q: Who else in the Gospels had faith in Jesus that he could heal? (A: The woman who was bleeding for 12 years/ the father of the little girl whom Jesus restored o life, the centurion whose servant was ill, the father of the boy who had epilepsy, the Phoenician woman, the lepers.... And lots more!)

One of those who had faith said to Jesus, "I believe, help my unbelief" (Mk. 9:24). This is something that we can all say together as we all have faith but all of us can grow in faith more and more, and Jesus can help us. Let's say together:

***Jesus, I have faith in you. Help me to have more and more faith in you each day.
Amen.***

Various activities which help to reflect on blindness

Blindfold Kim's game:

Place a number of safe objects on a tray and invite everyone to look very hard at them. Remove the tray and whilst it is out of sight remove an object. Then blindfold everyone and invite them in turns to feel what is missing. Depending on the age of the children more than one item may be removed. For larger groups, several trays may be set up.

What is the object?

Get a cardboard box with a lid. Cut a hole in the lid that is just big enough for a child's hand to go through. Put an object in the box and invite participants to feel what is there.

Blindfold taste/smell test:

Before planning this game be aware of any allergies.

Invite participants to taste or smell various objects to see if they can work out what they are without seeing them.

Blindfold walking: (best done outside where there is more space)

Plan a route - on grass you can peg down tape or string, on a hard surface a chalk route can be drawn.


In pairs, one person blindfolded and the other giving instructions to navigate the course e.g. "forward, stop, turn right, forwards... stop... etc

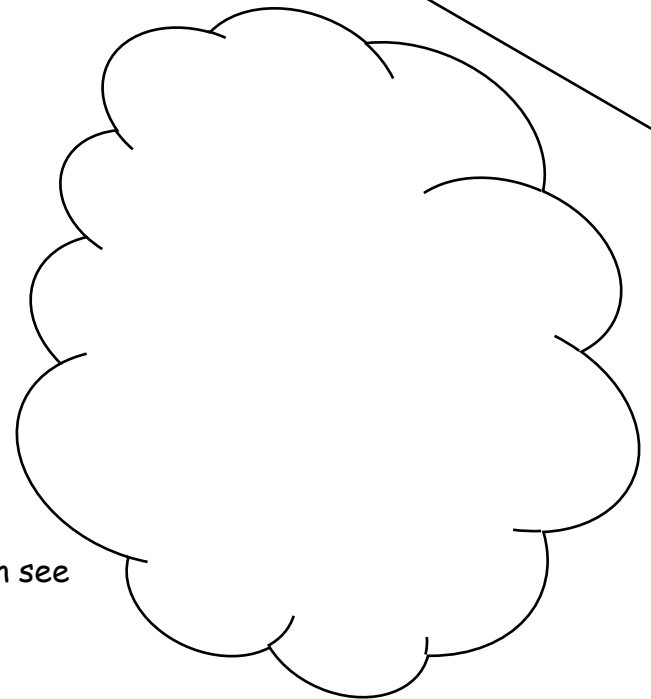
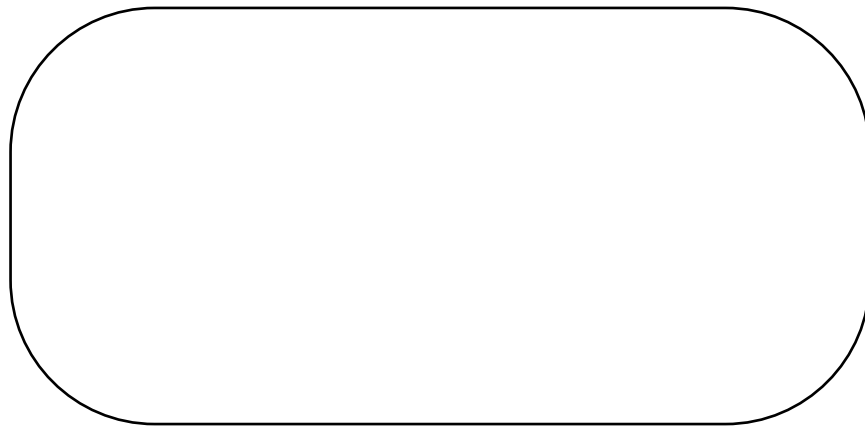
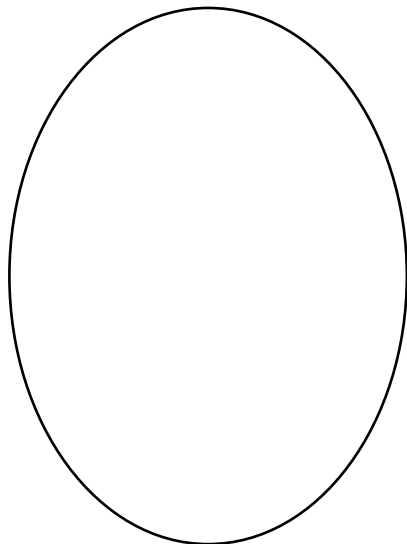
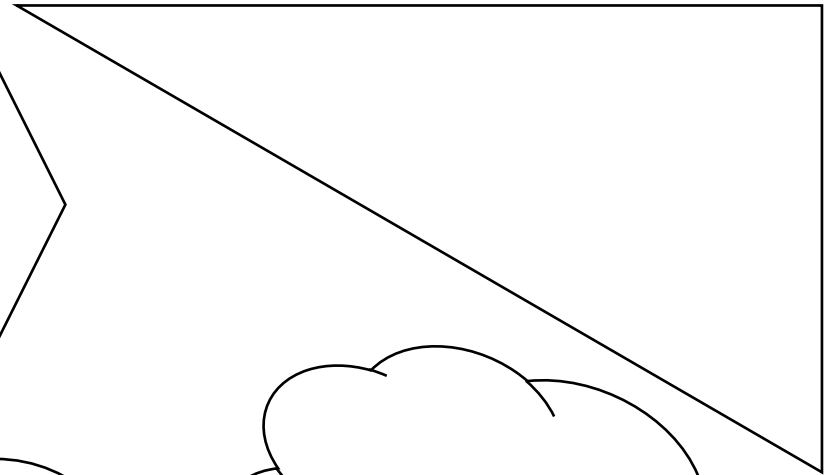
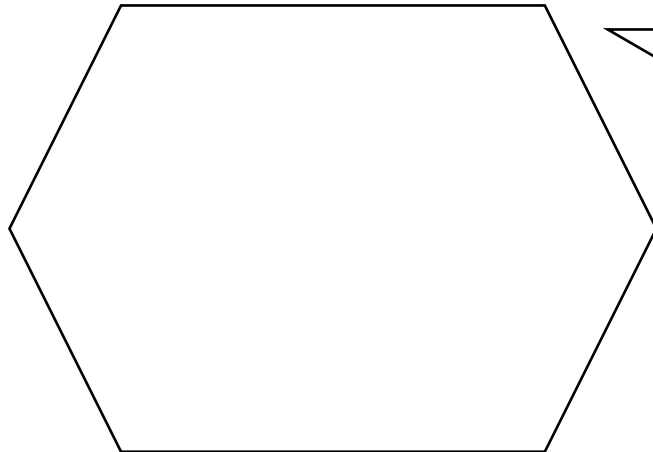
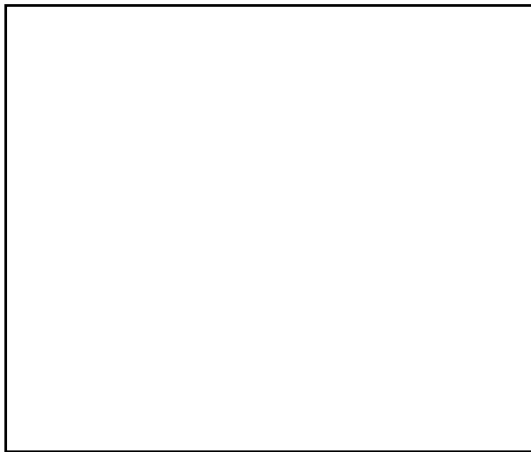
Listening exercises:

Play a series of familiar sounds and invite participants to guess what the sound is.

To Sum Up: What was it like to walk/taste/feel etc without sight?

What can we do to be more aware of those who can't see?

Thank you Lord Jesus for my eyes 



Draw or write in each shape something that you can see