

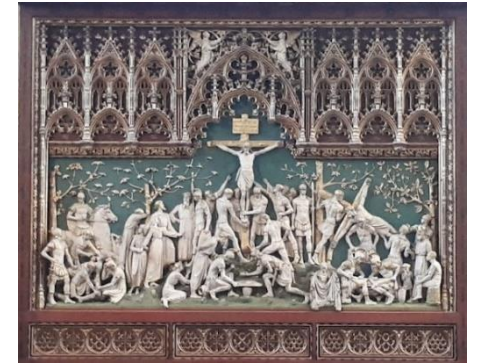
# St. Joseph's *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

## September 2024 (Year B)

[stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com](mailto:stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com) <https://www.theannunciation.org.uk/resources/>



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.



***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.***

In the middle of September, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross. This feast celebrates the victory over death that Christ has won for us and although it may seem strange to rejoice in an instrument of torture, the cross gives us courage to know that God will always be with us in every trial that we face.

**September, back to school, and new routines; but Christ is the same today, yesterday and ever shall be.**

September is always a kind of new year – it's a new academic year and many new programmes begin in the parish and in our schools. We talk about new years' resolutions in January, but maybe we can have new academic year resolutions too. Such as to get good prayer routines going, or to pop into adoration, especially if the Church is near a regular route we take. It's great to introduce young children to this practice; you don't need to stay long, may be just 10 minutes. Many of the Children's Liturgy of the Word sessions have alternative follow up activities as originally these were for families during lockdown, but the Children's Liturgy of the Word group tends to be younger, so there are alternative suggestions for you below.

Aleteia, the online Catholic (free) magazine offers some more suggestions for September here: [https://aleteia.org/2021/09/01/5-ways-to-honor-the-saints-and-devotions-of-september-in-your-home/?utm\\_campaign=NL\\_en&utm\\_content=NL\\_en&utm\\_medium=mail&utm\\_source=daily\\_newsletter](https://aleteia.org/2021/09/01/5-ways-to-honor-the-saints-and-devotions-of-september-in-your-home/?utm_campaign=NL_en&utm_content=NL_en&utm_medium=mail&utm_source=daily_newsletter)

Have a blessed September and as ever do share your thoughts and prayers with me.

***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

**Gospel for 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

**Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23**

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,  
while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,  
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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 and Read the Gospel slowly

*Jesus' list of sins is hard-hitting and may not be appropriate to read in its entirety to very young children. See the explanation below and may be omit terms which are not appropriate for your age group. Note however that the list in its entirety is appropriate for teens and it can lead to a discussion on why Jesus teaches on the need for purity. (See Catechism of the Catholic Church 821, 2517-2533.)*

**Q: What did the Pharisees complain about?** (A: That Jesus' disciples did not ritually wash.)

**Q: What was Jesus' response?** (A: He said that nothing that goes into someone [that we eat] will make us unclean but it's what we do [that comes out of us] that makes us unclean.)

**Q: What does "unclean" in this text mean?** (A: It means being "dirty" because of our sins.)

**Q: What are the things that Jesus says make us unclean?** (A: Evil intentions bad ideas]; fornication [sex before marriage]; theft [stealing] murder [killing people] adultery [breaking marriage vows] avarice [greed] malice [unkindness/hatred/mean-ness] deceit [lies] indecency [not dressing properly] envy [being jealous of others] slander [telling lies about others] pride [boasting] folly [doing stupid things that can be dangerous or selfish])

**Q: When we do things that make us "unclean" what part of us is made unclean?** (A: Our souls.)

**Q: How can our souls be made clean again?** (A: By saying sorry to God and best of all, by going to confession.)

**Finish with a moment of recollection and think about the things that we have done that hurt other people and have made our souls unclean. Say together: **O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again.****

# The seven deadly sins and their opposites

Below are the traditional seven deadly sins, an explanation and an action that is the opposite. Draw a line from the sin (in the middle) to the explanation on the left and the positive action on the right.

I want something that someone else has, even if it's more than my fair share

I get so cross that I lose control of myself

I think that I am the best

I want or desire someone or something for my own pleasure

I am lazy and can't be bothered to work or help

I eat too much and more than my share

I am so jealous of that others have that it makes me hate them

Pride

Covetousness

Lust

Anger

Gluttony

Envy

Sloth

I can give some of my possessions away, or to a charity shop

I can say "well done" to someone else for their hard work, even if you think that my effort is better

I can fast from something nice or give up a treat for a few days/a week

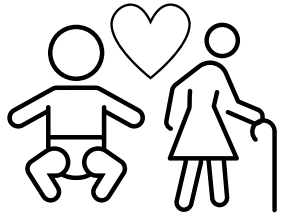
I can imagine Jesus giving a big hug to the person I am angry with

I can count all the things I have and say thank you to God for each of them, e.g. Thank you God for... Thank you God for ...

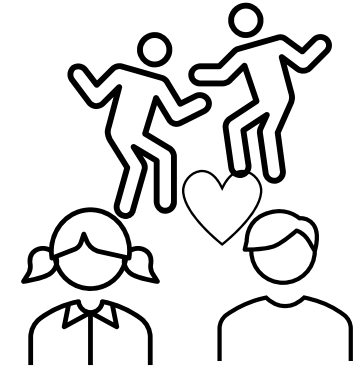
I can do an extra job at home to help a member of the family

I can complement someone on the one thing that they have that I wish that I had

Jesus's grace helps keep our hearts pure. Decorate this heart to show how beautiful your heart is and colour in the things you would like Jesus' help with to keep your heart pure.



Respecting everyone from the tiniest baby to the oldest person



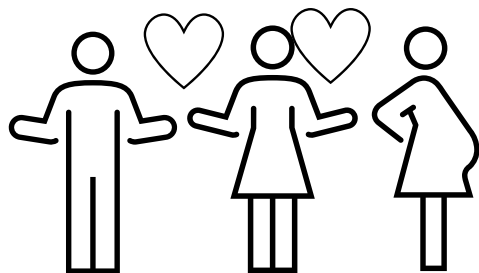
Saying sorry and playing well with other people.



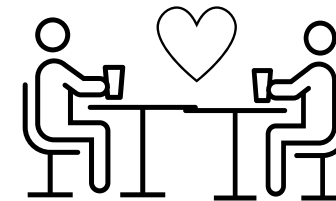
Talking to Jesus every day in prayer



Paying attention in Mass especially at the consecration



Cheerfully helping parents and other grownups



Behaving well at the table and not being greedy

## Children's liturgy of the word for this week



### First reading and Gospel for 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; 8<sup>th</sup> September

#### First reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.

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

#### Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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

*Introduction: The first reading is worth reading as it shows what God would do when He came. The Jews were expecting a Messiah, a great leader, who would do wonderful things. It is no wonder that people rushed to Jesus and asked for healing! However, they did not pay much attention to the words of Isaiah, "your God is coming" and it took them longer to realise that Jesus is actually the God they were waiting for.*

**Q: In the first reading, what does the prophet say?** (A: Courage, do not be afraid... your God is coming....)

**Q: What will happen to the blind, the deaf and dumb, and the lame?** (A. The blind will see; deaf will hear; dumb will speak; and the lame jump for joy.)

**Q: If Jesus healed all these people, what does that tell us about Him?** (A. That He is God.)

**Q: In the Gospel, who did Jesus heal?** (A: A deaf man who could not speak.)

**Q: What did Jesus do?** (A: He healed him by putting his fingers in his ear and spittle on his tongue.)

**Q: Once the deaf man was healed, he could hear Jesus speaking to him.**

**When does Jesus speak to us?** (A: Various, e.g. Mass, prayers, reading the Bible, sometimes in "good ideas" we have when we are praying).

**Q: Think about some of the things from the Bible that Jesus said. How many can you remember?** (A: Again, various – may be write any suggestions down.)

**Finish by reminding everyone that Jesus is God so when Jesus is speaking to us, God is speaking to us. Then read or repeat some of the suggestions, or the sentences on the next page and after each one, may be say "Thank you Jesus" or another appropriate prayer.**

*As last week, there are two pages of activities. The first is a take-home sheet and the second is an activity to do in the session.*

There are seven saying of Jesus here for you to cut out and put up (may be stick on the fridge) each day this week to learn by heart.

You shall worship  
the Lord your God  
and only Him shall  
you serve (Lk. 4:8)

Follow me  
(Mk. 1:17)

Your faith has saved  
you, go in peace (Lk.  
7:50)

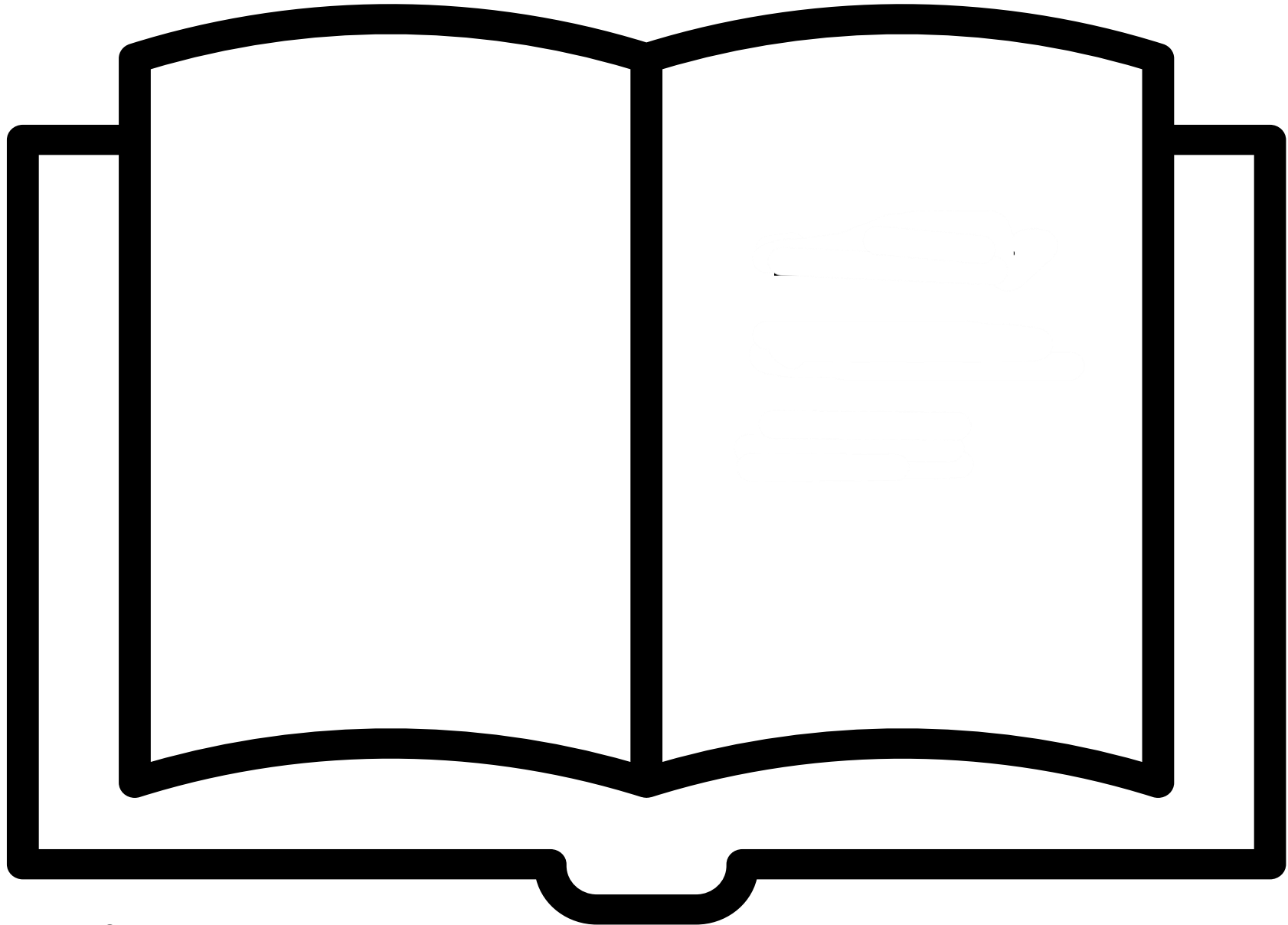
Come to me ... and  
you will find rest  
for your souls  
(Mt. 11:28-29)

I am the Bread  
of Life (Jn.  
6:35)

Take, eat, this is  
my Body... this is my  
Blood (Mt. 26:26-  
27)

My kingdom is not  
of this world  
(Jn.18:36)

Choose one of the above sayings of Jesus to write in this Bible - or draw Jesus healing the deaf man.



**Gospel for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Mark 8:27-35**

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

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
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*In the first part of today's Gospel, St. Peter's declaration of faith leads us to reflection on who we say that Jesus is. In the second part, we see that we do not think as God does when St. Peter argues against Christ's prediction of His Passion. Parents and teachers can relate to this when decisions are made for children which they don't understand or see the point of but are in their best interests. You could use this Gospel to help them grasp this important issue.*

**Q: What does Jesus ask His disciples?** (A: Who do people say that He is.)

**Q: What answer is given to Jesus?** (A: That Jesus is John the Baptist, Elijah or another prophet come to life again....)

**Q: When Jesus asks the disciples who THEY say that Jesus is, what answer does St. Peter give?** (A: That Jesus is the Christ.)

**Q: What does St. Peter mean by this:** (A: "The Christ" is the promised Messiah who is the Son of God).

*Explain that St. Peter acknowledges that Jesus is God the Son, that Jesus is not just a good and holy man but that He is God here, on earth with them. This is an amazing step!*

**Q: WE need to think about who Jesus is. He is God and man, something which our human brains struggle to understand. To help us, He has a number of titles, or ways we can address Him. What are they?** (A: Lord, Son of God, God the Son, Christ, the Word of God, Saviour, the King of Kings, Son of Man, the Good Shepherd, Bread of life...)

Pray this Litany to Jesus: responding with "***we love you, be with us today***" each time

<b>Lord Jesus Christ, we love you, be with us...</b>	<b>Jesus Christ, King of Kings, ...</b>
<b>Jesus Christ, Son of God, we love you ...</b>	<b>Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, ...</b>
<b>Jesus Christ, God the Son, ...</b>	<b>Jesus Christ, Bread of Life, ...</b>
<b>Jesus Christ, Word of God, ...</b>	<b>Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, ...</b>
<b>Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, ...</b>	<b>Jesus Christ, (add any other title) ...</b>
<b>Jesus Christ, son of Mary, ...</b>	<b>Glory be to the Father....</b>



How many of these titles of Jesus can you unscramble in these boxes?

ORLD

TCSRHI

NOS FO GDO

NSO FO HET FHETRA

TEH OGOD DRHESPEH

NKIG FO SNIKG

RISAVOU FO TEH DWOLR

NOS FO YARM

EADRB FO EFLI

Can you decorate and cut out these bands with different titles of Jesus. (answers from the scrambled letters above). Maybe make a paper chain with them or wrist bands to wear going back into church.

There are some blanks at the bottom to write your own.

THE LORD

JESUS CHRIST

SON OF THE FATHER

SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

KING OF KINGS

BREAD OF LIFE

SON OF GOD

SON OF MARY

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

**Gospel for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September**

**Mark 9:30-37**

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*Today we will focus on the second part of the Gospel as it is directly relevant to children.*

**Q: What were Jesus' disciples arguing about?** (A: Who was the greatest of them.)

**Q: What did Jesus do when they refused to answer His question?** (A: He sat down and called the twelve (His Apostles) to Him.)

**Q: What must someone do if He wants to be "first" (the most important)?** (A: They have to choose the last place.)

**Q: What does Jesus mean by this?** (A: He means that Jesus does not want us to be pushy or to say "I am the best" but to say to other people, "you go first".)

**Q: How and or when can we do this in our lives?** (A: Various answers possible... e.g. Not to rush to the front of the line at school, open doors/hold doors open for other people, not to be greedy and grab all the best food at a party.....)

**Q: In the Gospel story, who did Jesus put His arms around?** (A: A small child.)

**Q: Why did Jesus do this?** (A: To show that children are important and that all children are welcome in His kingdom/in Church/to show how much He loves everyone, including the smallest and the least important people in society.)

**Q: This is very comforting, to know that Jesus loves every single person, even the smallest person. Who is the youngest person that you know?** (A: Various, if you know of someone who is pregnant, you could remind the children about the baby in that person's "tummy".)

**Q: Jesus loves all these people and of course He loves you too. Let's think about how much He loves us. Close your eyes and imagine that you are looking at Jesus. See Him looking at you and smiling at you. Imagine that you are the child in the story, and He is putting His arm around you. Feel His love as He does that. Keep your eyes closed and in the silence of your heart, tell Jesus how much you love Him.... When you are ready, open your eyes and come back into the room.**

Draw a picture of yourself and all those you love around Jesus. Write their names underneath each of the pictures.



Jesus, I pray for all my friends and family. Bless them today. Especially I pray for...

**Gospel for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48**

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

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
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*Again, we have a collection of themes here as the Gospel is a gathering of Jesus' sayings. The questions will focus obstacles to growing in faith.*

**Q: Jesus gives warnings in the Gospel about how we can be an obstacle to others.**

**What is an obstacle?** (A: Something in the way, e.g., a road or pavement closure, a fallen tree over a path...)

**Q: If an obstacle is something that blocks the way, how can we be an obstacle to other people?** (A: We can say or do something that does not help others to know and love Jesus.)

**Q: What sort of things can we say or do that could be obstacles to people knowing or loving Jesus?** (A: [Responses will be in childish language, but these are the essence of what could be suggested]. Not being loving, inviting them to socialise instead of going to Mass, distracting people during Mass, saying that praying is not important, denying faith in Jesus.... )

**Q: What could we say or do that could help other people to grow in faith in Jesus Christ?** (A: Various – invite them to come to Mass/other Church events, not being shy of saying grace before meals when we have guests or are eating out, saying that we will pray for other people... telling them that we can't do something on that day because we have Mass, talks about Jesus ....)

**Q: How can we make sure that obstacles put in our path don't distract us?** (A: Keep a regular prayer life, read the Bible regularly, go to Mass each week....)





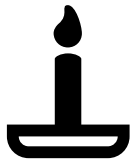

**Q: Who (which Divine Person of the Holy Trinity) particularly gives us the strength to avoid obstacles and keep close to Jesus?** (A: The Holy Spirit.)

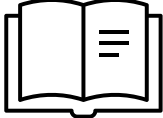
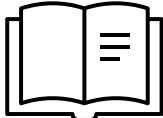
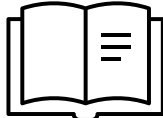
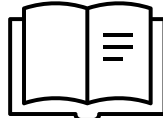
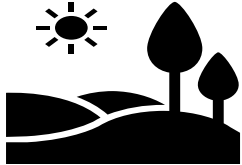
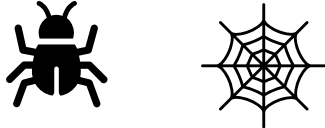






**Say together: Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

**Here is a game you can play: Cut out all these pictures (it would be better to print on card if possible).**













Version 1. (The simplest) Spread the cards out face down in the centre of the ring and each child takes a turn to turn one over. They read (or an adult reads for them) what is on the card and then decide if the action is helping or hindering our life of faith. May be pin or stick them to a notice board for display.





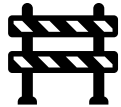
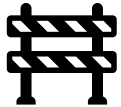
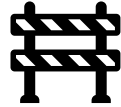





Version 2. The aim is to be the first to collect 5 different "onward" (helpful) cards and discard all the "obstacle" (hindering) cards. Shuffle the cards and deal each player 5 cards, placing the rest in a pile in the middle, facing down. Starting with the youngest, each player picks up a card and either keeps it or rejects it, placing it upside down in the middle. If a card is kept, another needs to be placed face down on the reject pile, keeping 5 cards in the hand. Once all the cards are used, shuffle the pack again and continue as before.












<p><b>You say good morning to Jesus</b></p> 	<p><b>You say thank you to Jesus</b></p> 	<p><b>You say goodnight to Jesus at bedtime</b></p> 	<p><b>You remember that Jesus loves you</b></p> 
<p><b>A friend is lonely, so you play with them</b></p> 	<p><b>You teach a new skill to a brother or sister</b></p> 	<p><b>You light a candle and say a prayer for someone who is sick</b></p> 	<p><b>You light a candle and pray for someone who has died</b></p> 

<p>You read a Bible story</p> 	<p>You read a Bible story to someone else</p> 	<p>You learn a new prayer from a prayer book</p> 	<p>You try to follow the prayers and readings at Mass</p> 
<p>You thank God for the beautiful countryside</p> 	<p>You look out for many different kinds of creatures and thank God for them</p> 	<p>You thank God for the sunshine and the rain</p> 	<p>You are asked to help look after a younger child and you say yes at once.</p> 
<p>You give some flowers to someone who is lonely</p> 	<p>You bring some flowers to Church to put by the statue of Mary</p> 	<p>You give your Mum some flowers</p> 	<p>You see a field of wheat and it reminds you of Jesus' teachings</p> 



<p>You see a field of wheat and it reminds you of Holy Communion</p> 	<p>You hand make a card for someone</p> 	<p>You draw a picture for someone because they need cheering up</p> 	<p>You realise that you did something wrong and said sorry</p> 
<p>You realised that you had hurt Jesus so go to Confession</p> 	<p>A family member is unhappy and you help and comfort them</p> 	<p>You say grace before meals</p> 	<p>You said grace after meals</p> 
<p>You put some food in the foodbank</p> 	<p>You washed your hands to prevent spreading disease</p> 	<p>You washed your hands before a meal without being told to</p> 	<p>You decorated an egg as a gift for an older person</p> 

<p>You went to play sports instead of going to Mass</p> 	<p>You invited someone to play so they could not go to Mass</p> 	<p>You sat in the chair and didn't help</p> 	<p>You didn't offer a seat to an older person</p> 
<p>You don't answer questions if anyone asks you about your faith</p> 	<p>You pretend that you are not a Christian</p> 	<p>You say that it does not matter if we go to Church</p> 	<p>You get up too late to go to Mass on Sunday</p> 
<p>You arrange to meet up with a friend when you should have been at Church</p> 	<p>You always expect people to buy you treats</p> 	<p>You don't bother to fast for an hour before Holy Communion</p> 	<p>You say something unkind about someone else</p> 

<p>You repeat something unkind about someone else</p> 	<p>you are grumpy and cross for no real reason</p> 	<p>At Christmas you only think about what you want</p> 	<p>At Christmas you don't help to get the house ready</p> 
<p>You play your music too loud</p> 	<p>You don't bother to join in with the hymns at Mass</p> 	<p>You don't help at home when asked</p> 	<p>You ignore Jesus</p> 
<p>You don't get out of bed when you are asked to.</p> 	<p>You say that you will help at home but then don't.</p> 	<p>You don't say your prayers</p> 	<p>You don't go to bed when you are told to.</p> 