

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

## Easter tide (Year A)



[stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com](mailto:stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com)

St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were 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.***

### An extraordinary seven weeks

The Easter Season is longer than Lent! Our joy in the Resurrection and the new life Christ brings us is longer than the time we spent preparing for it! The journey of Eastertide is one of joy which culminates in the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost. This is the season of the sacraments when many in our parishes are being prepared for their First Holy Communion and for Confirmation. Don't forget that we receive the Holy Spirit in all the sacraments; the Holy Spirit first comes to us in Baptism, and His grace is strengthened in the reception of all the other sacraments. In Confirmation we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as He strengthens us for mission. For most of us, our mission is in the home, parish and school but the Holy Spirit helps us in the everyday situations of our lives at home and in the community to witness to Christ's work of salvation in words and deeds. I wish you a joyous Eastertide!



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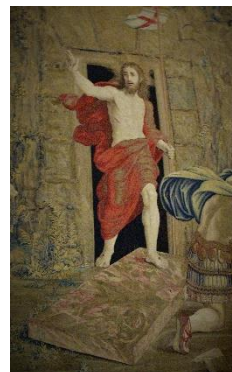
This is the “Holy Spirit” window in St Peter's Basilica, Rome. Unlike most churches, because of the lie of the land, the building is orientated to the West and not the East, and so this window catches the wonderful light of the setting sun, filling the building with its soft glow. This reminds us of how the Holy Spirit fills us with His power and grace, enabling us to see and understand Christ's wonderful work in us.

***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

The Resurrection, tapestry, Vatican museums © Carol Ann 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 The Third Sunday of Easter Year A

### Luke 24:13-35

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.'

And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going further, but they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight.

They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the Eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. The Gospel of the Lord, R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

## Discussion on the Gospel

**Q: What were the disciples doing?** (A: Walking along the road.)

**Q: Who joined them on their walk?** (A: Jesus.)

**Q: Did they recognise Him?** (A: No.)

**Q: What Jesus talk about as they were walking?** (A: How the Old Testament prophets talked about Him.)

**Q: What did the disciples do when they arrived where they were staying?** (A: They invited Jesus in to stay.)

**Q: What happened when they began to eat?** (A: Jesus said the Blessing [blessed the bread – a bit like our grace before meals]).

**Q: What did the disciples suddenly realise when Jesus said the blessing?** (A: That it was Jesus with them!)

**Q: At Mass, the priest elevated (lifts up) the bread and wine and says some very special words, what are they?** (A: This is my Body... this is my Blood.)

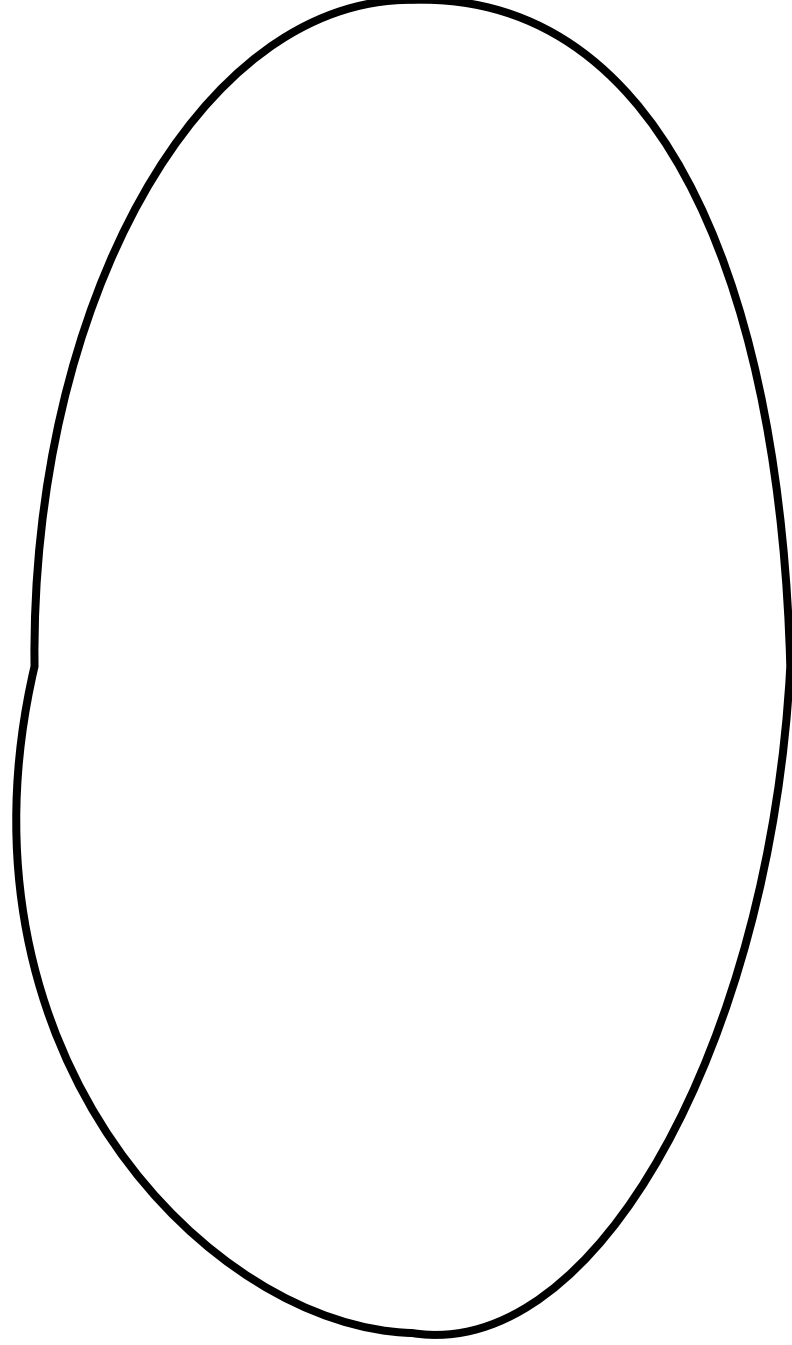
**Q: What happens to the bread and wine when he says this?** (A: They become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ here in our church on the altar.)

**Q: Although we see what looks like bread and wine on the altar, in fact it is Jesus Himself! This is why we are kneeling because Jesus is here. We look up when we hear the bells and can say a little prayer. What might we say?** (A: Open, but suggestions are "Jesus you are my Lord and my God" or "I love you Jesus.")

**Q: As Jesus did, we can also say grace before and after meals. Why do we do that?** (A: To ask Him to bless the food and to thank Him for it.)

**Draw a picture of your family having a meal together in the middle section,  
and colour in the grace before and after meals.**

Bless us O Lord, and these, your  
gifts, which we are about to  
receive from your bounty,  
through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



We give you thanks Almighty  
God for all your benefits, Who  
live and reign world without  
end, Amen

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



### Gospel for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

#### John 10:1-10

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens.

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' ...

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

**I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'**

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically
  - (A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. N... *and the children respond with **Glory to you O Lord***)
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*I have slightly shortened this Gospel to focus on this part and the final line (in bold) which is very important for this world. In 1<sup>st</sup> century Palestine, shepherds called their sheep and the sheep followed them, recognising the voice of their own shepherd. We are Jesus' sheep – do we recognise His voice?*

**Q: What is a sheepfold?** (A: A pen or an enclosed area where sheep are kept.)

**Q: Who might try to get in over the fence and not through the gate?** (A: A thief.)

**Q: How does the Shepherd get in?** (A: He goes in through the gate.)

**Q: What does the shepherd do when he reaches the sheep?** (A: He calls them and leads them out.)

**Q: What do the sheep do when they hear their own shepherd calling them?** (A: They follow him.)

**Q: In this parable, who is Jesus talking about?** (A: Himself.)

**Q: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who calls us. When does He call us?** (A: Various – At Mass, when we pray, when we read the Bible, when we ask Him to help us.....)

**Q: Finally, Jesus says that He has come so that we might have life and live it to the full. Jesus wants us to be happy. This is important – knowing and loving Jesus is wonderful and gives us great joy right in the middle of our hearts! Let us spend a few moments thinking about when we are REALLY happy deep down inside us. When are we really happy inside us?** (A: Open, e.g., when we are being kind, helping, using our talents ...[leader could give the example that they are really happy when they receive Jesus in Holy Communion].)

**Let's finish with a few moment of listening Jesus calling us. Invite everyone to sit still with their eyes closed and imagine they are looking at Jesus and that He is looking at them. In their imagination, invite them "hear" Jesus softly calling their name and to "hear" Him saying the He loves them. End by inviting them to tell Jesus that they love Him too and then pray together,**



Fear not,  
LITTLE FLOCK,  
it is your  
FATHER'S  
good pleasure  
to give you  
THE KINGDOM.  
LUKE 12:32

## Jesus the Good Shepherd

- ✝ Jesus calls us all by name. Write your name and the names of people you love that Jesus is calling in the banner below.
- ✝ Colour in the picture

# Children's liturgy of the word for this week



## Gospel for 5th Sunday of Easter

### John 14:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,  
'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

**In my Father's house are many rooms.**

If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

**And if I go and prepare a place for you,**

I will come again and will take you to myself,

...

Thomas said to him,  
'**Lord, we do not know where you are going.** How can we know the way?'

Jesus said to him,  
'I am the **way**, and the **truth**, and the **life**.

No one **comes to the Father** except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord:

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

## Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*I have shortened this beautiful Gospel passage to focus on Jesus' saying that He is the way, the truth and the life. All tough concepts for little ones, but the discussion focusses on maps as showing us the way. If you have an old and clearly out of date map of the area to show the children, it may help them to see. Especially an old paper map vs a modern mapping system like satnav!*

**Q: Where did Jesus say He was going?** (A: to [His Father's house] to prepare a place for His disciples.)

**Q: Jesus then says that the disciples know here He is going, but what does St. Thomas say?** (A: We don't know here you are going!)

**Q: Jesus then answers by saying that He is three things, what are they?** (A: The Way, the Truth and the Life.)

**Q: Let's think about these things. If we don't know how to get to a place, what can we use to help us?** (A: Use a map/satnav/google maps.)

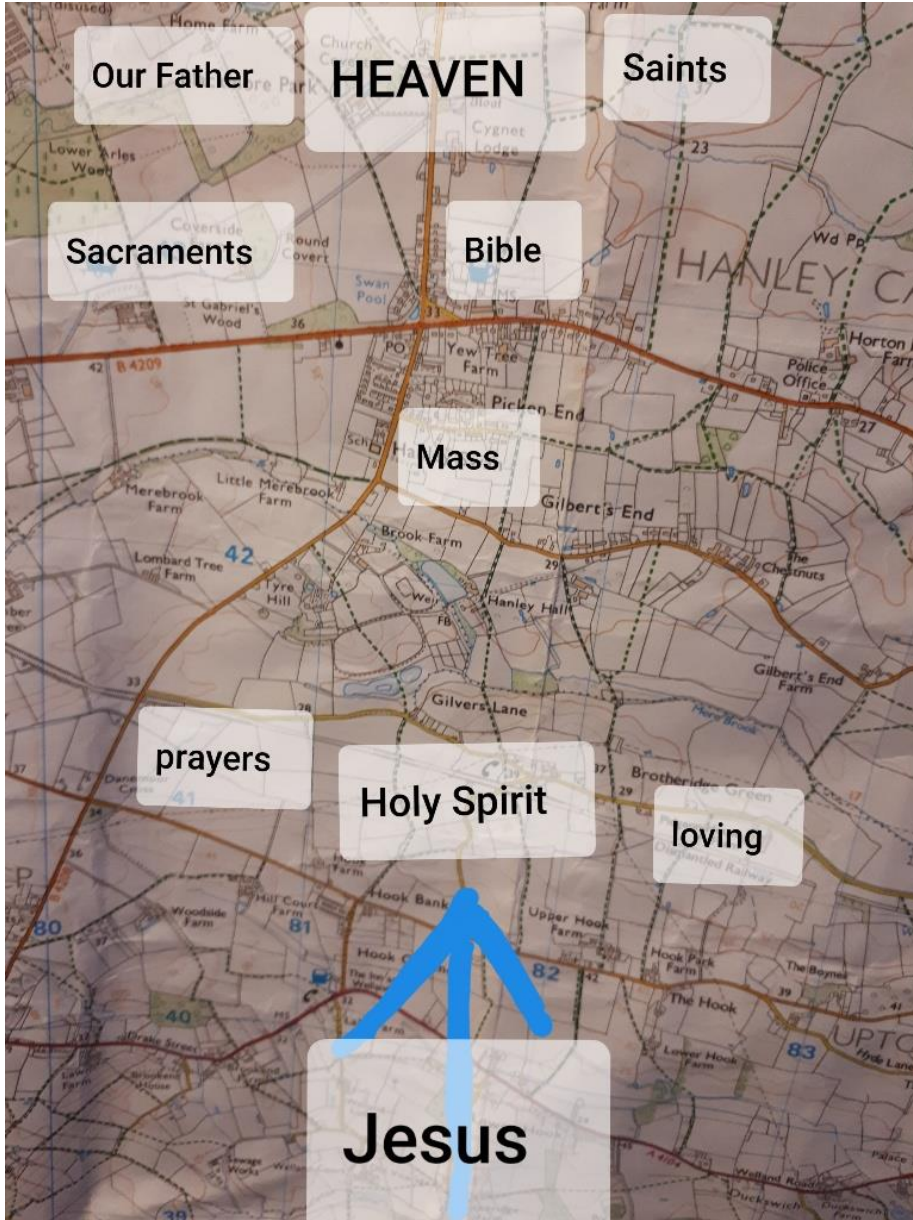
**Q: So Jesus is a kind of map to get to heaven. Like a map. He shows us where to go. What is the next thing that Jesus say that He is?** (A: The Truth.)

**Q: If we use a map that is wrong, it's not showing us the truth. If Satnav says to turn right when we have to turn left, we are going to get lost, aren't we? So Jesus is telling us that He is a true map to heaven. What is the last thing that Jesus said that He is?** (A: The Life.)

**Q: If we have an old map that is wrong because things have changed, there are new roads etc, then it's as if it is dead. It is no use anymore. So Jesus is always alive, He is always a useful map that never goes out of date. When we listen to Him, we know that He is telling us the truth and how to get to His Father in heaven. What are the things that Jesus says?** (A: Open.)

### Finish with the Glory Be...

*On the next 2 pages are some maps: p.1 has a small version labelled up as an example with labels to cut out and stick in place. P.2 has a map which can be copied and labels stuck on. I've put heaven at the top with the arrow (normally pointing North on maps) pointing to heaven, showing that Jesus is the Way. The arrow represents Jesus. Older children may like to write their own labels.*



Our Father

Holy Spirit

HEAVEN

Jesus Christ

Saints

Holy Communion

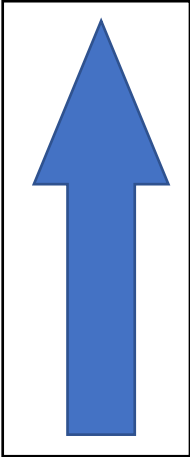
Sacraments

Bible

Mass

Prayers

Loving



Put Heaven, the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ on this Map and then place the various stops along the way that lead to Heaven.



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



### Gospel for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

John 14:15-21

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,  
'If you love me, you will keep my  
commandments.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give  
you another Helper,  
to be with you for ever,  
even the Spirit of truth, whom the world  
cannot receive,

because it neither sees him nor knows him.  
You know him, for he dwells with you and  
will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come  
to you.

Yet a little while and the world will see me  
no more, but you will see me.

Because I live, you also will live.

In that day you will know that I am in my  
Father,

and you in me, and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps  
them, he it is who loves me.

And he who loves me will be loved by my  
Father,

and I will love him and manifest myself to  
him.'

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion on the Gospel

- † Light a candle
- † Introduce the Gospel liturgically
- † Someone read the Gospel slowly

*This is such a rich Gospel reading with so much we can draw from it. Jesus speaks about His union with His Father, about the sending of the Holy Spirit (the Helper) about the fact that He is not going to abandon us, about keeping His commandments and about His union with the Father. (Note the clear differentiation between Him and the Father. "God" = "Father, Son and Holy Spirit".) The Creed is said on Sundays and solemnities because it neatly sums up these realities, but the children miss it. So, it's important to look at it from time to time in these sessions.*

**Q: Jesus says that He will ask His Father to send someone. Who?** (A: The Helper, the Holy Spirit. *Note that the Holy Spirit is a Divine **Person**, so we use the pronoun "He".*)

**Q: How long will the Holy Spirit be with us?** (A: Forever.)

**Q: Jesus says that He is not going to leave us as orphans. What is an orphan?**  
(A: Someone whose Mummy and Daddy have died.)

**Q: What does Jesus mean when He says that He is not going to leave us as orphans?** (A: That He is always going to be with us, even if we can't see Him.)

**Q: On Thursday the Church is going to celebrate the Ascension. What is the Ascension?** (A: When Jesus went into heaven to be with His Father.)

**Q: So, this is why Jesus was born. He was born as a tiny baby (as we all are) to grow up, die on a cross, rise again and then ascend into heaven. Then He and the Father send the Holy Spirit so that we too can love Jesus and can all go to heaven when we die. On Sundays the others in church sum this up in a prayer called "The Creed." We don't often pray the Creed here but let's pray it slowly together. This is the shorter version called the "Apostles Creed" and it's good to learn it by heart.**

*Finish by praying the Apostles Creed together slowly and invite the children to draw little pictures to go with the different statements. (It might be worth saying it ;line by line with the children repeating it.)*

**Pray the Apostles Creed together and draw pictures in the boxes that go with the lines.**

*Very little children will need help with suggestions of what to put in the different boxes.*

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy  
Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from  
the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of  
God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father ... creator of  
heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son Our  
Lord... born of the Virgin Mary

He suffered.. was crucified...

He ascended into heaven ....

I believe in the Holy Spirit ...

I believe in the communion of saints ....

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



### Gospel for Ascension Day Year

A,

Matthew 28:16-20

At that time:

The eleven disciples went to Galilee,  
to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted.

And Jesus came and said to them,  
'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

The Gospel of the Lord  
*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*Matthew does not actually give us the Ascension in so many words (the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives us the account of Jesus' Ascension). However here, we read Jesus' all-important commission to His Apostles. This is THE mission of the Church. Yes, the Church has a responsibility to the poor etc, but if no one proclaims the Gospel, teaches what Jesus Christ Himself taught then there would be no Church and no way of knowing about our destiny in heaven with the Father in Christ, by the grace the Holy Spirit.*

**Q: Where did the eleven disciples/Apostles go to?** (A: A mountain in Galilee.)

**Q: What did the disciples do when they saw Jesus?** (A: Fell down before Him which means that they worshipped Him.)

**Q: Why do we worship Jesus?** (A: Because He is God.)

**Q: Jesus said that all authority in heaven has been given to Him. What does authority mean?** (A: He is "in charge" so can tell people what to do.)

**Q: What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?** (A: Go and tell the whole world about Him and baptise in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)

**Q: Why did Jesus tell them to tell the whole world about Him?** (A: If they did not tell people then no one would know about Jesus.)

**Q: Who told you about Jesus?** (A: Open – parents/teachers/grandparents/catechist/priests.)

**Q: Who told them about Jesus?** (A: Same answer as above.)

**Q: We can go back to the beginning of the Church and realise that from the Apostles onwards, people have joyfully told other people about Jesus. Who can you tell about Jesus?** (A: Open.)

**Q: Some of the Apostles wrote letters about Jesus. On the next page, write a joyful letter to someone about Jesus. Don't forget its Good News! There are some words you can use to help you.** (Younger children can be invited to colour the picture of Jesus' Ascension on the next page. If you print back-to-back, then there's a choice.)

**A Good News letter about Jesus Christ who came to lead us to His Father in heaven  
with the Holy Spirit**

**taught**

**Jerusalem**

**Cross**

**Bethlehem**

**Father**

**Holy Spirit**

**Apostles**

**Heaven**

**wonderful**

**for ever**

**Disciples**

**Rose again**

**baptise**

**come again**

**Died**

**Good news**

**Church**

**Amazing**

**Ascended**

**Dear** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told His Apostles to go around the whole world telling everyone about Jesus. Who are you going o tell today?**

## Novena to the Holy Spirit

After Jesus ascended into heaven, we learn from the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples all gathered in Jerusalem and prayed together for the Holy Spirit to come. It was not just the band of 11 (remember, Judas was no longer with them) but others as well, including Our Blessed Mother, Mary. "Novena" comes from the word "nine" and this is the original novena; nine days of prayer between the Ascension and Pentecost. It is a good opportunity to pray this novena together and the children can colour in the numbers each day. The words are all from the Acts of the Apostles and the final prayer is a prayer to the Holy Spirit. It is a good idea to split into two with one half saying the first part of the prayer to the Holy Spirit and the other half saying the second part.

1

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

2

"This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way as you saw Him go" (Acts 1:11).

3

"They returned to Jerusalem ... and went into the upper room (and) devoted themselves to prayer together with Mary" (Acts 1:12-14).

4

"Lord, you know the hearts of men, show us who is to take the place of Judas among us" (c.f. Acts 1:24).

**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.**

**O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.**

5

"They cast lots for them and the lot fell on Matthias and he was enrolled with the eleven Apostles" (Acts 1:26).

6

"When the day of Pentecost came they were all gathered in one place and suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind" (Acts 2:1).

8

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages" (Acts 2:3)

9

"And Peter stood up to speak... and those who received his word were baptised... about three thousand souls" (Ac.2:14,41).



7

"And there appeared tongues as of fire which rested on each one of them" (Acts 2:3).

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



### Gospel for Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A

#### John 17:1-11

At that time:

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said...

'Father... this is eternal life, (to) know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

And now, Father, ...

'I have manifested (shown) your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.

...

Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you;

And they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them.

...

For they are yours.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine,

...

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion on the Gospel

- † Light a candle
- † Introduce the Gospel liturgically
- † Someone read the Gospel slowly

*This is part of Jesus' long prayer to His Father in heaven where He prays for His disciples, and for the Church as a whole. He prays for unity in the Church (a prayer which we still need to pray). I have cut this Gospel for the sake of little children and have focussed on the fact that Jesus is addressing His Father as we do in the Lord's Prayer.*

**Q: This is a part of a long prayer that Jesus is making. Who is He praying to?**

(A: His Heavenly Father.)

**Q: Jesus talks about Eternal Life – what does He say that it is?** (A: knowing the Father and Himself.)

**Q: Jesus says that He has finished the work which the Father gave Him to do.**

**What was that work?** (A: Various...to be born, teach people about the Father, to heal, to die on the cross and rise again, to give us Holy Communion and the sacraments ...so that we can be close to Him for ever..)

**Q: Why does Jesus pray for us?** (A: Because we belong to the Father.)

**Q: Jesus taught us a prayer that we can say to Our Father in heaven every day.**

**What is that prayer called?** (A: The Our Father /Lord's Prayer.)

**Q: Lets say this prayer slowly together.** (Pray the Our Father)

**The "Our Father" is the prayer that Jesus taught us so that we can pray to the Father. We can pray it because we are the Father's children through our Baptism.**

*On the next page, older children can write the "Our Father" around the outside of the picture of Jesus praying to His Father, and the Apostles copying Him. If you have time, explain the different aspects of the picture as shown in the labels.*

*Younger children can fill in the words of the Our Father on the following page. (If the pages are printed back-to-back there's a choice.)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Jesus prays to **His** Father, who is also **Our** Father. Notice His hands pointing to His Father.

Our Father who is in heaven. Heaven is indicated by the blue crescent

The Apostles led by St. Peter = the Church led by the pope, pray to the Father through Jesus. Look at St. Peter's hand. Whose hand shape is He copying? Why?



The waters of the Holy Spirit tumbling down the mountain.

The Apostles and us, the Church stand **IN** the waters of the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

Jesus stands **ON** the water - the Holy Spirit supports Him in everything He does.

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us; and lead us not into  
temptation,  
but deliver  
us from evil.



# Children's liturgy of the word for this week



## First Reading for Pentecost Day Year A

### Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place.

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?

Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.'

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## Discussion on the First Reading

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Introduce the reading as "A reading from the Acts of the Apostles"

*We are using the first reading today as this is the main account of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Gospel focusses on Jesus' giving the Holy Spirit to His Apostles only.*

**Q: What did everyone gathered in the room hear?** (A: Sound of wind.)

**Q: What seemed to appear on the heads of all the Apostles?** (A: Flames/tongues of fire.)

**Q: What were the sound of wind and flames signs of?** (A: The Holy Spirit.)

**Q: What was the effect of the Holy Spirit on the disciples?** (A: They began to speak different languages.)

**Q: Why did the disciples need to speak different languages?"?** (A: Because they were going to go all over the world teaching about Jesus.)

**Q: What were the disciples talking about in these different languages?** (A: The marvels of God.)

**Q: What does it mean when it says, "the mighty works of God"?** (A: The wonderful things He has done.)

**Q: What are the wonderful things that God has done"?"** (A: Open... e.g., creation, created you and me, the Father sent Jesus who died on the Cross and rose again, so that we can go to heaven and be with Jesus and His Father.... Miracles, He helps us in our day to day lives....)

*It would be a great idea to write these suggestions down and put them up on a board or the fridge if you are at home. Finish by praying this extract from today's responsorial Psalm.*

**Bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Lord God, how great you are,**

**How many are your works, O Lord!**

**The earth is full of your riches.**

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth**

Jesús está vivo

Bonum est Deus

Jezus stierf en  
stond weer op

Jesús est mort et  
est ressuscité

Jezus jest  
Panem

Yesu ngwa  
moyo

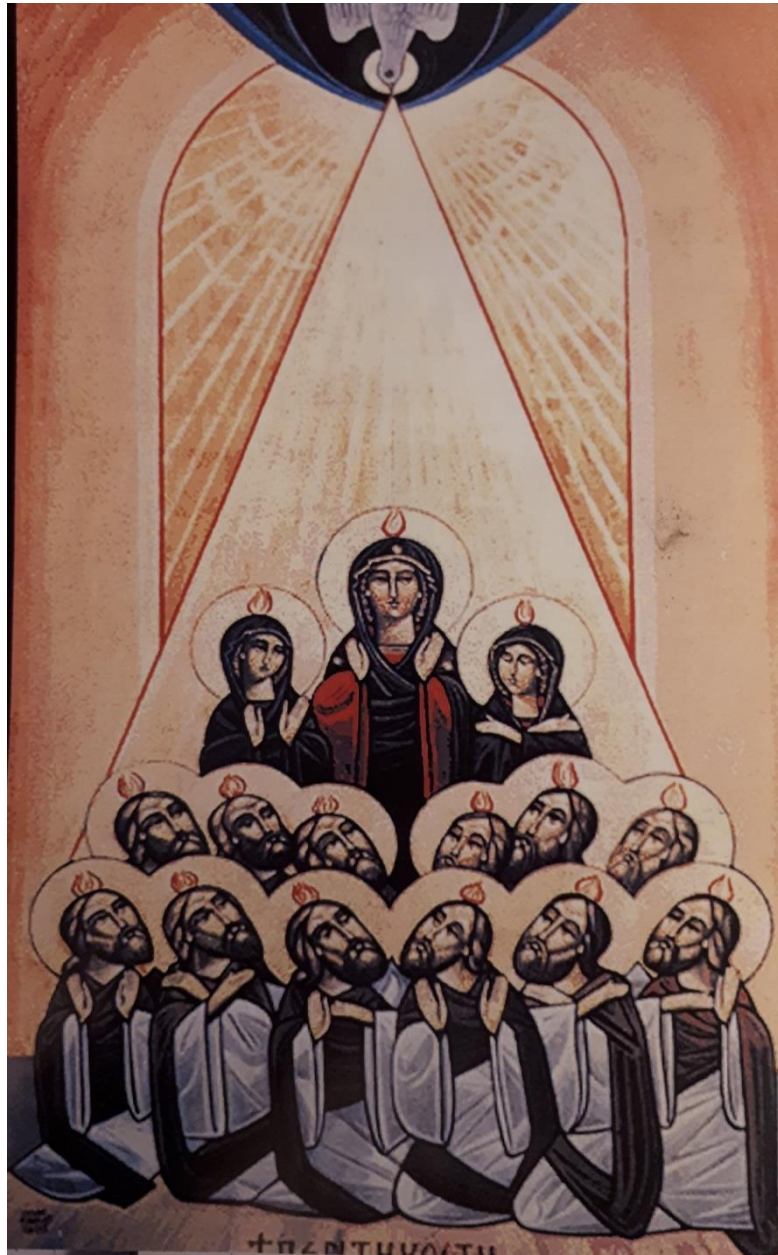
Gesu è il figlio  
di dio

ang Banal na  
Espiritu ay  
dumating

Jumala loi  
maaliman

Cut out these speech bubbles with the Good News of salvation in different languages and stick on the picture on the next page. Then see if you can find out what each of the different bubbles say. You may want to cut out the picture and stick on a larger page to give space for all the speech bubbles. If you know other languages, please add them to the collection.

**Coptic icon of Pentecost Used in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church**



Mary is in the centre as she was the first to be filled with the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation. She is also called the mother of the Church as she was present both at the birth of Jesus (of course!) and at the birth of the Church. The Apostles are all looking up and are open to the coming of the Holy Spirit. The wonderful light and rays, represents the power of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Look at the different hand positions, some are just "open", some are "listening," and others have their hands crossed reflectively. Mary looks straight at us, indicating that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will hear the message of her Son, through the Apostles.