

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

Year A Week 22 to Christ the King

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.

Closing and rounding off the Church's year.

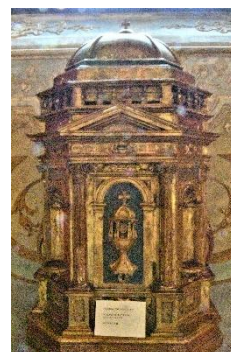
Leading up to the solemnity of Christ the Universal King, the readings at Mass point more and more to the end times. Not an easy concept for any of us, let alone the children. However, this is a wonderful opportunity to help them to reflect on Eternal Life. So many people think that our faith is all about “being good” and “being happy and content” with our lot. I was asked recently in the context of a discussion on the martyrs, why people were ready to die for their faith and when I said that our faith is more about eternity (which is longer than our allotted time on earth) they looked rather stunned. Even practicing Catholics can shelve the idea of Eternal Life! So, talking about heaven with children in a normal way can help them to begin to grasp that our faith is not about rigorous rules or about making God and other people happy; it's about living in a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ who leads us to His Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

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

C17 Tabernacle, Basilica of St. Ambrose © Carol Ann Harnett



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

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



The early Church was always very aware of the shortness of life and in these catacombs, where Christians were buried, they would often gather to celebrate Holy Mass. Novis the month of remembrance and preparation for the end of the Church's year when we turn our mind so Eternal Life.

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Gospel for 22nd Sunday Year A

Matthew 16:21-27

At that time: Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'

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 introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Yet again we are being reminded that we have to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. It's not an easy concept for us as adults and even harder for little children to understand. Some of these questions repeat what was asked in July, but two months is a long time in a small child's memory! This time we end with the prayer to the Holy Spirit which is worth encouraging older children to learn.

Q: St. Peter had just answered Jesus' question as to who He is and Jesus had said well done to him. But now Jesus is telling His disciples that He's on His way to Jerusalem to die on the cross. What did St. Peter say to Jesus? (A: Lord, this must not happen to you.)

Q: St. Peter thinks that because Jesus is the Messiah who is going to save His people then He needs to go to Jerusalem and reign as a king there. But Jesus tells St. Peter off because this is not what is going to happen. What will happen to Jesus in Jerusalem? (A: He will die on the cross.)

Q: Jesus says that we have to take up our cross and follow Him. What does that mean? (A: We have to accept difficult things in life.)

Q: What might our "crosses" be/what is difficult to do? (A: Open.)

Q: When we have to do difficult things, the Holy Spirit helps us to be strong as He fills us with His grace. After Jesus died on the Cross and rose again, He met the disciples several times and said that he's send them His Holy Spirit to help them to tell everyone about Him. When did the Apostles receive the Holy Spirit? (A: Pentecost.)

Q: We first receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptised and so we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us when we have to do difficult things. Let's finish with this famous prayer to the Holy Spirit. (On the next page.)



A Prayer to learn and say when we
have to do difficult things.



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 will renew the face
of the earth.



**Gospel for 23rd Sunday
Year A**

Matthew 18:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

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

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

DISCUSSION ON THE GOSPEL



✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically

✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

There are a series of instructions here, all important. The first is about sorting out arguments between ourselves as amicably as much as possible. The loosing and binding is about the authority of the Church to forgive sins, the teaching on agreement in prayer, encourages us to pray together for things and finally that when we meet together in Christ, He is with us. This is what we will focus on.

Q: Jesus ends His teaching by saying that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there with them. What does "gather" mean? (A: Collected together.)

Q: That means that because we are collected together, Jesus is here with us right now! When we were baptised, who were we joined to? (A: Jesus.)

Q: This is why Jesus hears us when we pray, because He is right here with us all the time. When we come to Mass, Jesus is with us in 4 very special ways. What are they? (A: In everyone gathered (collected) together; in Holy Communion; in the readings which are Jesus speaking to us, especially the Gospel; and in the person of the priest. The priest is Jesus for us at Mass.)

Q: What do we do when we come into the church? (A: Make the Sign of the Cross with holy water and genuflect [go down on one knee] in front of the tabernacle.)

Q: What is the tabernacle? (A: The box behind the altar [if it's in a different place in your church, then say where it is] where the Blessed Sacrament is.)

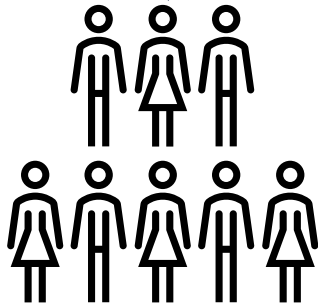
Q: What is the Blessed Sacrament? (A: The bread which has become Jesus during Mass.)

Q: When people come back from receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, Jesus is in them – they are like tabernacles for a few minutes. We need to let them have a few moments to pray in silence and enjoy being even closer to Jesus than usual. If we have not made our First Holy Communion, what can we do at communion time? (A: We can kneel quietly and look at the tabernacle and tell Jesus that we love Him and ask Him to be close to us as.)

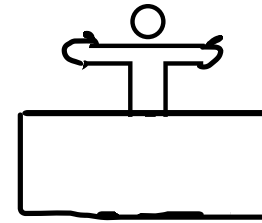
Q: Let's finish by asking Jesus to be really close to us. Shut your eyes and imagine that you are looking at Jesus... see Him smile at you... hear Him call your name... hear Him tell you that He loves you... feel His love running through you... tell Him that you love Him too... feel His peace in your heart.... And when you are ready, come back to the room.

Jesus is with us in these four ways at Mass:

Either colour in these pictures or draw Jesus behind each of these scenes to remind you that Jesus is here with us at Mass in these different ways.



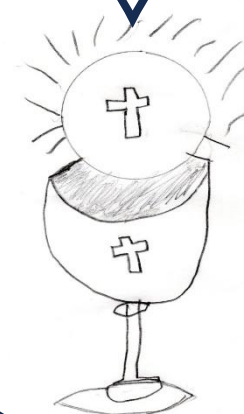
In the people gathered



In the priest



In the readings from the Bible



In Holy Communion

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 18:21-35

At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.'

'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'

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

Discussion on the Gospel

Again, we have a well-known parable today. Forgiveness is a key Christian attitude, yet it is not easy. Only with God's grace can we truly forgive one another. But Jesus is stressing that forgiveness is important and that we need to keep on forgiving people again and again. It may be more helpful to the children to use "pounds" in the retelling of the Gospel.

Q: What did St. Peter ask Jesus? (A: How many times he must forgive someone.)

Q: What was Jesus's response? (A: 70 X 7.)

Q: How much did the first servant owe? (A: 10,000 talents [pounds].)

Q: What was the king's reaction to the servant's plea for mercy? (A: He cancelled the debt [maybe explain what this means to the children].)

Q: What happened next? (A: The servant met another servant who owed Him money, but he refused to cancel his fellow servant's debt.)

Q: Because the first servant's huge debt was cancelled, what should he have done for the second servant? (A: He should have cancelled that debt too.)

Q: When we pray the *Our Father*, we ask God to forgive us our trespasses [sins]... how and when? (A: **As** [i.e. in the same way that] we forgive those who trespass [sin] against us.)

Q: So, we are asking God to forgive us in the same way that we forgive others who hurt us. Let's think of a way we can forgive people. Who has had an argument with a brother or sister or a friend? We can be really cross with them, but let's do this... Close your eyes and think about a time when you had an argument or fought with someone... Now in your heart, ask Jesus to help you to forgive... now in your mind, see that person who upset you... now see Jesus giving them a big hug. He loves them too don't forget. Now feel Jesus saying "I love you" to you.

Here is the Our Father to colour in and put up. Note the line about asking God to forgive us in the same way that we forgive other people.

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, Amen.

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 20:1-16

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

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

Discussion on the Gospel

Children have a strong sense of justice and would quickly see that the landowner seems to be treating his workers unfairly. It may be worth acting this out – e.g. agreeing to give 1 reward (a small token or mini certificate) to everyone who helps with an activity. Keep asking more children to join in and then say, "who helped with the activity?" – those who did, put their hands up and you give each of them their token. This will show that the landowner is not being mean, but being generous to those who could only help for a short time.

Q: What did landowner agree to pay anyone who worked for him?

(A: 1 denarius a day. You could add that this was a generous amount as the normal rate was ½ denarius a day.)

Q: What did those who were able to start in the morning earn? (A: 1 denarius.)

Q: How much did the landowner pay those who had had no work and only started in the evening? (A: 1 denarius)

Q: Jesus is telling this parable to show that God is generous and that everyone who says yes to His invitation is welcome in heaven. We are lucky because we know about Jesus now, but not everyone does. Who do you know who does not know Jesus, or who ignores Him calling? (A: Open.)

Q: In the Bible Jesus invites people to follow Him a number of times. Can anyone remember any of these times? (A: Open, e.g. to the disciples.)

Q: Because we are baptised into Jesus, we need to invite people to follow Jesus, just as the Apostles did after Jesus ascended into heaven. What can we say to our friends about Jesus? (A: Open.)

We could make invitation cards to give to people to let them know that Jesus is calling them. On the next few pages are two different activities. For younger children basic quotes to stick onto cards to decorate/colour in to give away. For older children there are a selection of quotes they can choose to copy/cut out and stick onto cards. May be when the children go back into the church, they could give these cards to other members of the congregation.

Jesus said, "Be my
disciple". (Lk. 14:33)

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Jesus said, "Follow me, and I
will make you become fishers
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And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt. 4:19)

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. and Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mt. 4:18-20)

Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mt. 4:20)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Mt. 6:33)

And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead." (Mt. 8:22)

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. (Mt. 9:9)

And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Mt. 10:38)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mt. 16:24)

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give

to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Mt. 19:21)

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." (Jn. 1:43)

And as Jesus passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and Jesus said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. (Mk. 2:14)

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (Mt. 19:21-22)

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Mt. 25:34)

And calling the crowd to Him with his disciples, Jesus said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (Mk. 8:34)

And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Mk. 10:21)

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them,

"Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mk. 1:16-18)

After this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." (Lk. 5:27)

After this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. (Lk. 5:27-28)

And Jesus said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Lk. 9:23)

To another Jesus said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." (Lk. 9:59)

Jesus said, "Be my disciple". (Lk. 14:33)

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Lk. 18:22)

And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that Jesus was doing on the sick. (Jn. 6:2)

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn. 8:12)

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (Jn. 8:31-32)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, ... he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ... and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. (Jn. 10:1-42)

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (Jn. 10:27)

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him. (Jn. 12:26)

And after saying this Jesus said to him, "Follow me." (Jn. 21:19)

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." (Jn. 13:36)

Jesus said, "And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (Jn. 14:1-31)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (Jn. 14:6)

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (Jn. 15:12)

**Gospel for 26th Sunday
Year A**

Matthew 21:28-32

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." And he answered, "I will not", but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.'

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 introduce the Gospel liturgically

✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

As a parent this scenario is vividly real. How many times do we ask children to do something, they say they will but won't. But it is the same for us – how often do we promise God that we will do such and such, e.g. pray more, be more generous/forgiving, and then forget. Jesus here is showing that it's not what we say but what we do that is important. In the first reading from Ezekiel, the teaching is very clear – we can make changes to our lives!

Q: Jesus is talking to the religious leaders, those who were supposed to be setting an example to others. He told a parable about a man with two sons. What did the man ask the sons to do? (A: Work in the vineyard (where vines for wine grow.)

Q: What did the first son say when he was asked? (A: "I will not go".)

Q: Can you think of a time when your parents or teachers asked you to do something, and you said no at first – or moaned about it? (A: Open.)

Q: What did the second son say to his father when he was asked to go and help? (A: "Certainly sir" [which means yes].)

Q: Which of the sons actually went to help in the vineyard in the end? (A: The first one.)

Q: Jesus is saying that it's not what we say we will do, but what we actually do that is important. What are the things that Jesus asks us to do these days. (Open, but if the children only offer things such as "be kind, Be helpful" etc, direct them to the life of prayer – may be suggest that He also asks them to pray more, to pay attention in Mass etc.)

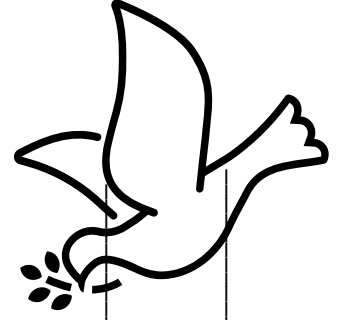
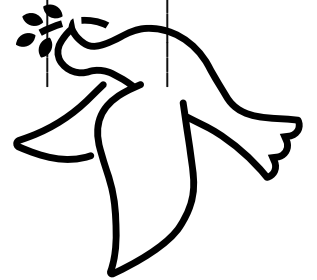
Q: This parable shows us that we can change our minds, so even if we at first decide to do something that is bad or naughty, we can make a change. What bad or naughty things can we ask Jesus to help us stop doing? (Open.)

Q: Who helps us to make these changes? (The Holy Spirit.)

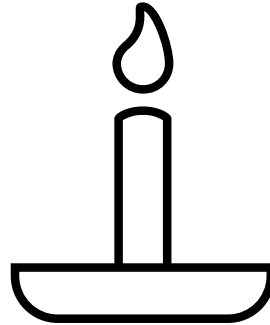
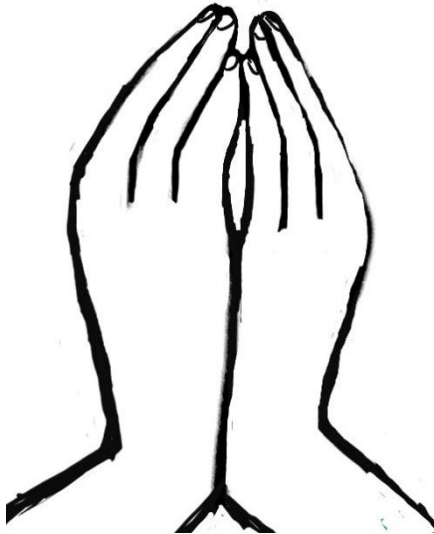
There are two activities on the next pages – older children may like to write a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking Him to help them to do what Jesus asks and younger children can colour in themselves doing what Jesus asks.

**A prayer to the Holy Spirit
asking for help to do what
Jesus asks us to do.**



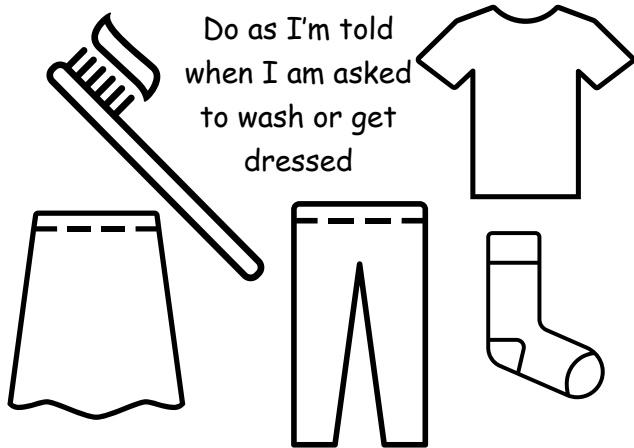


Holy Spirit, please help me to do these things Jesus is asking me to do:



Light a candle and
say a prayer for
someone who is ill

Sit and listen to Jesus
talking to me at Mass

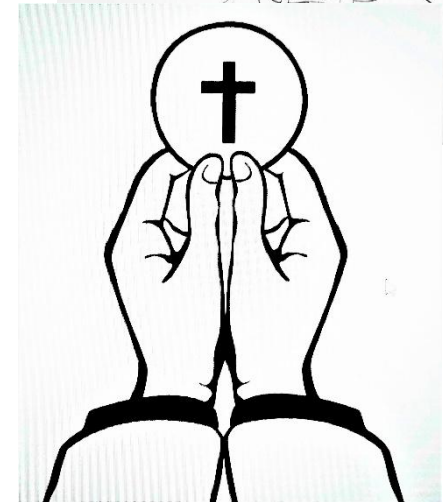


Do as I'm told
when I am asked
to wash or get
dressed

Help at home



Pay attention during the
consecration (the most
important part) at Mass



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 27th Sunday Year A

Matthew 21:33-43

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Discussion on the Gospel

The image of the vineyard was a famous one for Jesus' contemporaries as they considered that Israel was God's vineyard. Isaiah (see 1st reading) had used the same image to show that the People of God were not being faithful or fruitful. Are we any different?

Q: Jesus is talking about a vineyard. What is a vineyard? (A: A place where grapes grow for making wine.)

Q: What happened in the story that Jesus was telling? (A: Invite a summary of the key facts of the story.)

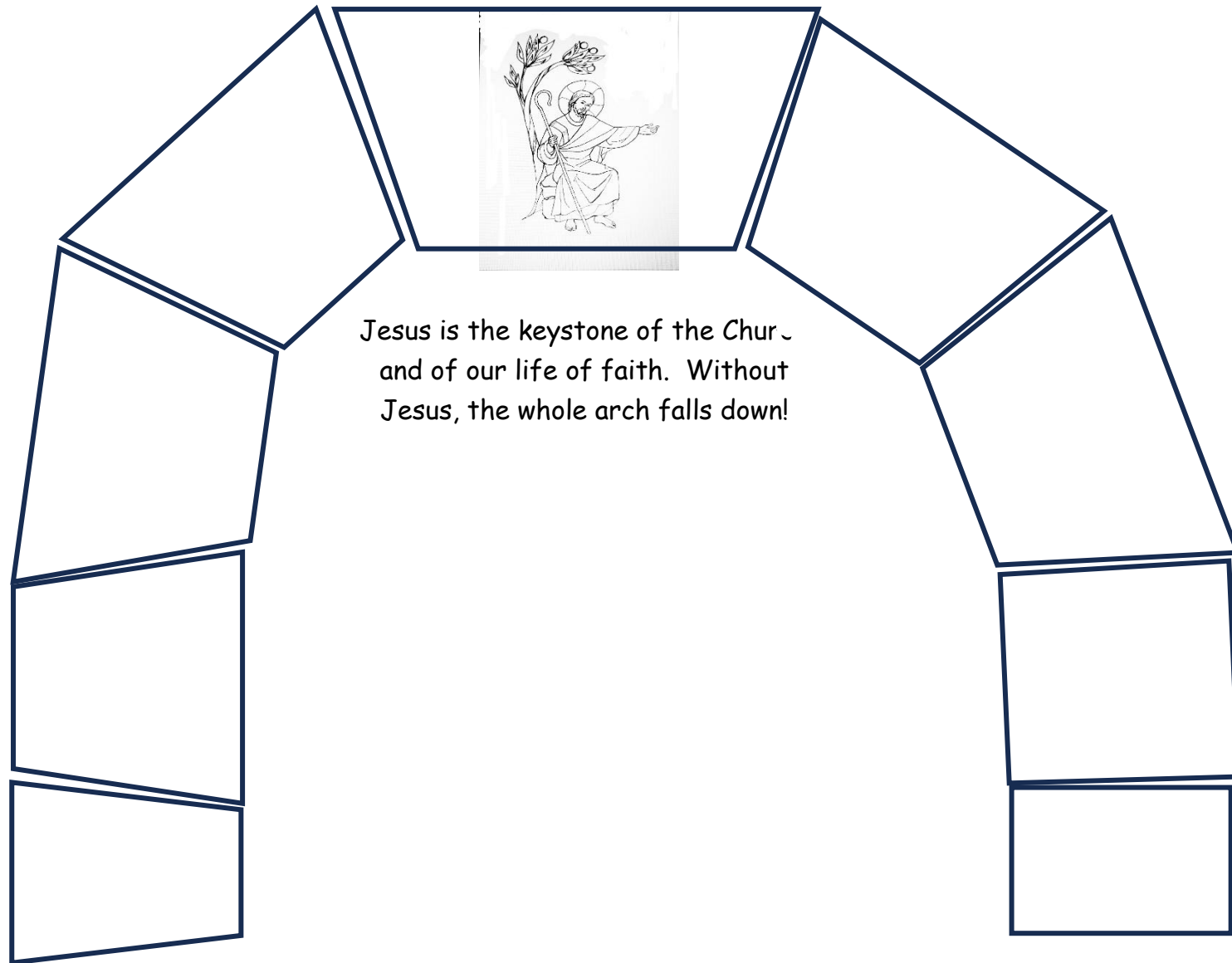
Q: Then Jesus starts to talk about buildings. In his days when buildings were made of stone, builders had to choose the right sized stone to fit as they built the walls. The "keystone" is the stone at the top of an arch. (If you have access to children's building bricks and can build a small arch then this might help). The "keystone" had to be a special shape so that it would support the arch without all the other stones falling down. Jesus is saying that although many people reject Him, in the end it is Jesus who is the keystone of our faith. Everything leans on Him. (Either show the physical arch or show the handout with the drawing of the arch with Jesus at the top.) What would happen if we took away the keystone, the stone at the top of the arch? (A: It would fall down.)

Q. We are a part of Jesus' arch because we belong to the Church. What would happen if we took Jesus away from the Church? (A: The Church would fall apart!)

Q. Let's look at the handout and think about what leans on Jesus in our life of faith. What can we draw or write in the stones that make the arch? (A: Open. You might need to make the first suggestion, e.g. being able to love my family, being obedient, the wonderful gift of the sacraments [Baptism, Holy Communion Confession, prayer, etc].)

Another way to do this would be to have these responses (and others) as word cards for the children to choose and copy onto their arches. Very young children could colour in the arch in different colours.

Draw or write how Jesus supports our faith in the different blocks



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 22:1-10

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' " But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

R/: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Discussion on the Gospel

In this well-known parable (the shorter version is reproduced here) Jesus is reminding us that He calls us to share in wonderful glory of heaven. Several times the Bible refers to heaven being like a wedding feast where we the Church, the bride of Christ, are finally joined to Christ for ever! However, not everyone invited turns up! Two activities are suggested: one, an invitation to come to Mass and the other is a picture of heaven. This could be done as a group collage.

Q: What did the king organise? (A: a celebration/party/feast for his son's wedding.)

Q: What happened when the servants went to invite people to the wedding? (A: They refused to come. They seemed to have better things to do.)

Q: Whom did the King invite instead of the expected guests? (A: All the poor people they could find, good and bad alike.)

Q: Who do you think the "King" represents? (A: God the Father/Jesus.)

Q: What is the party that God the Father is inviting us to? (A: The biggest party ever... heaven!)

Q: These days if we want to invite someone to a party or an event, we send invitations; as emails or text messages, or in the post. How does God the Father invite us to His heavenly party? (A: Various: the Bible, Mass, prayers, the sacraments, teaching like Children's Liturgy of the Word....)

Q: Did you know that whilst we are at Mass, the saints and the angels can see us and are singing praises to God? We join in with that great hymn of praise at every Mass. Sometimes we just say it, sometimes we sing it. Do you know what prayer it is? (A: The Holy Holy, Holy....)

Q: Who would you like to invite to come to church with you next week? (A: Open.)

Q: Jesus invites so many people to come to know Him. He wants to help us to invite people. What could we say to them to invite them to come with us to Mass? (A: Open.)

Let's just finish by praying for someone we know and love who does not come to Mass. Shut your eyes and see them in your mind's eye. Now see Jesus giving them a big hug. Sometimes when we want to pray for someone all we need to do is to do this!

Dear _____

Jesus Christ loves you so much. He was born to die on the cross, and rise again, to lead you and me to His Father's home in heaven. Every Sunday at Mass, we hear Jesus talking to us in the Bible Readings and some people receive Him in Holy Communion. He wants us to come to know Him more and more and be His friends.

I would like to invite you to come to Mass with me so that together we can get to know Jesus better and become closer to Him.

Love from _____



An impression of heaven.

We don't know what heaven looks like - many artists have tried to give us ideas and they all involve the Holy Trinity (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), Our Lady, and the angels and saints. Sometimes God the Father is shown as a human being but here more correctly we see His hand reaching down to the Son, Jesus Christ. Can you find the Holy Spirit below Jesus? Can you finish off this picture by adding as many angels and saints as you can around the edge.



Image: Apse behind the high Altar in St. John Lateran, Rome.

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 22:15-21

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

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

Discussion on the Gospel

Because we are baptised, we are joined to Jesus by the Holy Spirit who presents us to His Father. Our whole life therefore is about giving to God and so there is no reason to separate our life of faith from our life "in the world" whether that is home, school, or work. Each human being is created in the image of God (c.f. Gen. 26-27) and so Caesar, whose image was on the coin is created in the image of God. Giving to anyone with an open and loving heart is giving to God. The notes here would work well with a harvest Mass theme. The activity uses the offertory prayer for this Sunday. You may need to explain "grace" and "Mysteries" to young children.

Q: What did the Pharisees ask Jesus? (A: Should the Jesus pay taxes to Caesar)

Q: Caesar was the Roman emperor. The Romans had invaded Judea and the Jews did not like being ruled by pagan foreigners and hated even more, having to pay them taxes. What did Jesus ask the pharisees to do? (A: To show him a Roman coin.)

Q: Whose head was on the Roman coin? (A: Caesar's [the Roman emperor]'s.)

Q: What answer did Jesus give to the Pharisees? (A: Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.)

Q: This is a very clever answer because in reality, everything belongs to God and God only wants us to look after what we have on earth very carefully. For example, say your Mum or Dad or teacher gives you something of theirs to look after (may be add an example) how could you look after it carefully? (A: Open.)

Q: When they ask for it back what are you going to make sure? (A: That it's in the same or even better condition.)

Q: God gives us lots of things, what does He give us? (A: Open, e.g. All that we have, food, harvest, beautiful countryside, friends, parents, teachers, schools.)

Q: How can we take care of what God gives us? (A: Open e.g. Look after the countryside, treat other people as we would like them to treat us, not waste food etc....)

Q: When we take care of what God has given to us and share things with people without grumbling, then we are giving back to God what belongs to Him. Let's say "Thank you" to God for what we have been given. I'll start. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for....? Invite the children to add their own prayers of thanks. When you have finished draw all these prayers together by saying, "We make these prayers Father in the name of Jesus Christ your Son through the Holy Spirit. Amen." (It's good for the children to hear the trinitarian



Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray,

a sincere respect for your gifts,

that, through the purifying action of
your grace,

we may be cleansed by the very
mysteries we serve.

Through Christ our Lord.*

**This is the prayer over the gifts from today's Mass.*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 22:34-40

At that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.'

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

Discussion on the Gospel

The message that "God loves me" is one that the children are probably very familiar with, but what does that mean in practice. How can we love God whom we can't comprehend and how can we love those whom we don't like? The suggested activity could be a bit messy but it's worth doing (practice first) as it shows the children that we CAN ONLY love God and neighbour because God has loved us first.

Q: What did the Pharisees and Sadducees ask Jesus? (A: What is the greatest. commandment.)

Q: What was Jesus' answer? (A. We must love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind. And then we must love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves.)

Q: Who loves each one of us, no matter what we do? (A: God loves us with an unconditional love but the children may [quite correctly] answer that their parents, grandparents, friends, etc do as well.)

Q: God IS love, that is what He is "made" of. So, we can only love Him and other people because He loves us first. For example, what makes a car go? (A: Petrol, diesel or electricity.)

Q: We have to make sure that a car has the fuel needed so that it can go. It's the same with us, we need to be filled with love in order to love God and other people. How can we be filled with God's love? (A: Open, e.g. sacraments, prayers, reading the Bible, etc.)

Q: Lets see how this works in practice [move to the "activity" on the next page if you can]. If you can't do this in practice, try to describe it, e.g. "imagine a jug under a tap that keeps on running. First what happens to the jug? (A: It fills up with the water.)

Q: If the tap is not turned off, what happens when the jug is full? (A: The water overflows.)

Q: We are like that jug that is full of water. God fills us up with His love and then we can pour out His love to other people and when we love other people, we are loving God. What would happen if we put a lid on the jug and then put it under the tap? (A: The jug would not fill up with water.)

Q: If the jug is not full of water it cannot pour water out. So, when we don't allow God to fill us with His love, we can't love other people and we can't love God either. Let's let God fill us with His love right now: Shut your eyes and imagine that you are looking at Jesus and He is looking at you. See Him smile at you. He is calling your name. See his mouth saying your name. He says, "I love you". Feel that love of Jesus for you. It's like a warm feeling running through you. Tell Jesus that you love Him. Say anything else in your mind that you want to say to Him. When you are ready, open your eyes.

A demonstration of how we can love other people with the love that God gives us first.

You will need:

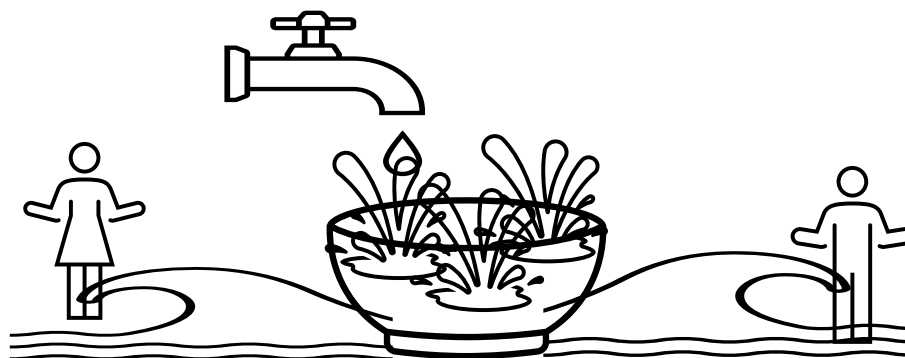
- Small jug, preferably one with a lid, or a saucer that covers the top of the jug.
- Large bowl, e.g. washing up bowl
- Either a sink complete with tap or watering can or larger jug filled with water.

The aim of this activity is to show that the Father's love for us does not stop and that He fills us with His love so that we can love Him back and other people.

- Place the small jug in washing up bowl and explain that the small jug represents each one of us.
- Turn on the tap or slowly pour the water from the watering can into the small jug, letting it fill with water, and then overflow into the washing up bowl.

Explain that the water from the watering can (or tap) represents the love of God which keeps on flowing. It fills us up and once we are full of His love, we can love other people (symbolised by the water in the washing up bowl). (If you are doing this in a sink you can carry the analogy on as the washing up bowl will fill and overflow to represent God's love being passed on in the world.)

- Now empty the small jug and cover it with the lid or saucer to see what happens if we cover the jug. The water (love) does not fill us (the jug) but God's love never stops. He continues to love but we can't love, without His love first.



When I let God, who is
Father, Son and Holy
Spirit, fill me up with His
love, then I can love Him
back and also love other
people!

How wonderful is that!





Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 31st Sunday Year A

Matthew 23:1-12

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do.

For they preach, but do not practise. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the market-places and being called rabbi by others.

But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

Often, we find "rabbi" translated as "teacher, but it more accurately translates as "my great one". This means that this passage concludes with a reminder that the Father is the Great One and all our religious practices are to be directed at drawing closer to Him, rather than because of looking holy or pious.

Q: Jesus is again talking to the religious leaders, those who were supposed to be setting an example to others. However, he said that what they teach is important, but their example is not good. What does Jesus say that the scribes and Pharisees do? (A: Tie up heavy burdens and place them on other people's shoulders.)

Q: What is a burden? (A: Something that is hard to carry.)

Q: As well as being something that is heavy to carry a burden, is also something that is hard to do. What are the hard things we have to do? (A: Open.)

Q: Who can help us to do these hard things? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Q: Jesus then tells people not to call anyone "Rabbi". Often "Rabbi" is translated as "teacher" but in fact it actually means "My great one". Who does Jesus say is the real Rabbi? (A: God the Father.)

Q: The Father is the real Great One because He doesn't just tell us what to do, but He sends someone to help us. Who does the Father send to us? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Q: Jesus says that He is the Main Teacher and that we must listen to Him. What are some of the things that Jesus asks us to do? (Open – not just "be kind" but lead children to consider all four dimensions of the faith; learning about our faith and telling other people about our faith, come to Mass/pay attention in Mass, praying, reading the Bible etc.)

Q: Let's think about these things that Jesus asks us to do. When do we see Him doing these things in the Gospels? (A: Open – see some examples on the next page.)

Jesus shows us how to live as well as tells us how to live. Let's finish by silently asking Jesus to help us to do as He says, by His grace. (Or finish by inviting children to say spontaneous prayers if they are used to this.)

Some of the things Jesus says to do, and examples of when He did these things:

Blessed are the meek (Mt. 5:5,) – *Jesus accepted did not fight back when He was arrested (Mt. 26:54).*

Blessed are the merciful (Mt. 5:7) – *Jesus forgave those who were sinners (Mk. 2:5).*

Do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself (Mt. 6:34) – *Jesus told Martha not to worry (Lk. 10:38-42) and He hinted that He did not worry about here He was to sleep at night (Mt. 8:20).*

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? (Mt. 7:3-5) – *Jesus ate with “sinners” and converted them by love rather than by criticism (e.g. Mt. 9:9-13).*

Love your neighbour as yourself (Mt. 22:37-39) – *Jesus showed great love to all He met, regardless of who they were and what they had done (e.g. Lk. 8:2).*

If someone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other to him also (Mt. 5:38) *Jesus did not retaliate when He was beaten before He was crucified.*

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you (Lk. 6:27) – *Jesus always loved everyone He met, including those who hated Him e.g. in His trial where He did not answer back.*

Do to others as you would have them do to you (Lk. 6:31) – *again we always see Jesus treating other people in the most respectful of ways.*

Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing (Lk. 23:34) – *Jesus said this on the Cross as He was dying. Jesus shows us that whatever the situation we must ask Him for the grace to forgive.*

Love one another as I have loved you (Jn. 13:35) – *Jesus showed love to everyone, regardless of who they were, e.g. those He healed and raised f, the dead.*

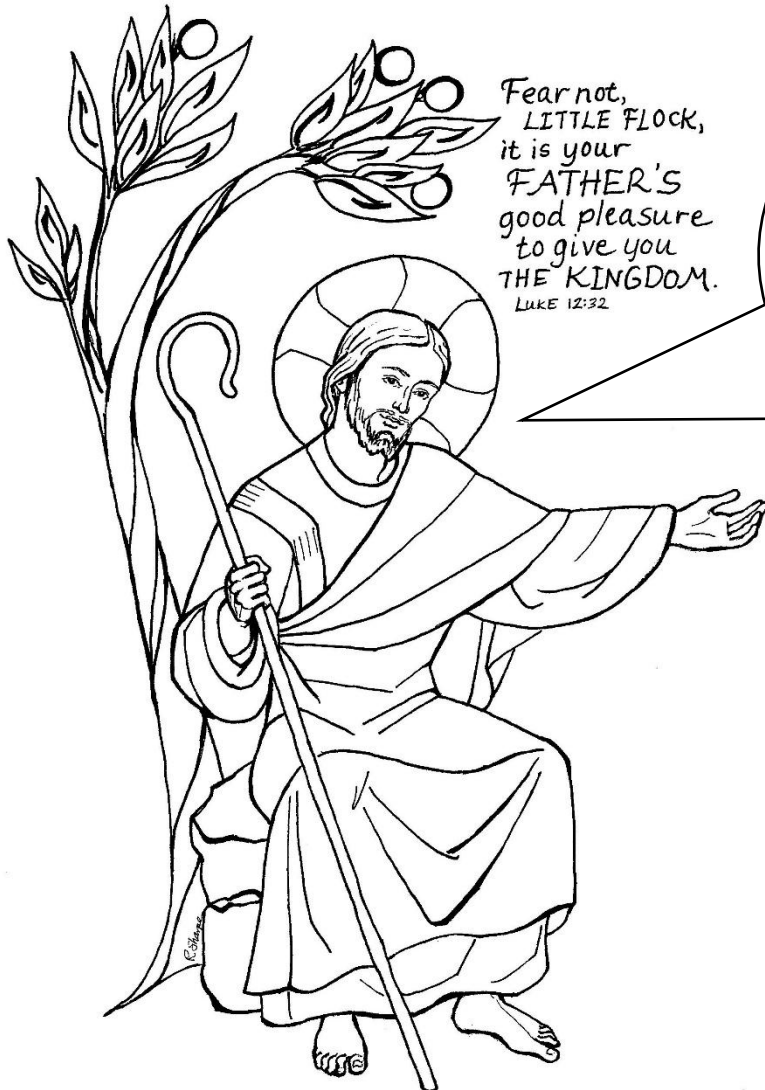
Do not be anxious about what you shall eat/your body/your clothes... (Lk. 12:22) – *Jesus was never anxious about where He was or whether or not there would be food. One day His disciples went to get food and He was too busy helping the Samaritan woman to understand the Father's love for her (Jn. 4:31).*

Ask and it will be given to you, knock and you will find – *Jesus is referring to being persistent in prayer as He was in many examples in the Gospels, (e.g. Lk. 11:1).*

Pick up his cross and follow me (Mt. 16:24-26) – *Jesus never said that following Him would be easy and it wasn't easy for Him either.*

Jesus wants us to listen to Him and copy Him. Draw a picture of yourself sitting down listening to Jesus, and in the speech bubble, write something that He might be saying. ...

(You may need to write in the bubble for the smallest children)



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 32nd Sunday Year A

Matthew 25:1-13

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves."

And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Discussion on the Gospel

This parable is about getting ready for Jesus' second coming, but as adults we can also consider how we can make the best use of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. If you have access to an oil lamp, this will show the children what was actually used in His parable and the need to fill it with oil.



Q: What did the sensible bridesmaids do? (A: Bring spare oil for their lamps.)

Q: What did the foolish ones not do? (A: Bring any spare oil.)

Q: What happened when the bridegroom arrived? (A: The bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready, but the foolish ones' lamps had gone out, so they asked the wise ones for some of their oil.)

Q: What were the sensible bridesmaids able to do? (A: Those with lamps lit were allowed in but those without oil were sent to go and get some.)

Q: The bridegroom stands for Jesus, and he is telling us to be prepared for His second coming. What does Jesus' "second coming" mean? (A: It means that at the end of time Jesus will come back to earth in glory.)

Q: Whenever oil is referred to in a parable, we can think of the sacraments.

What are sacraments? (A: They are moments when Jesus gives us His special grace and strength, and changes us to be more like Him.)

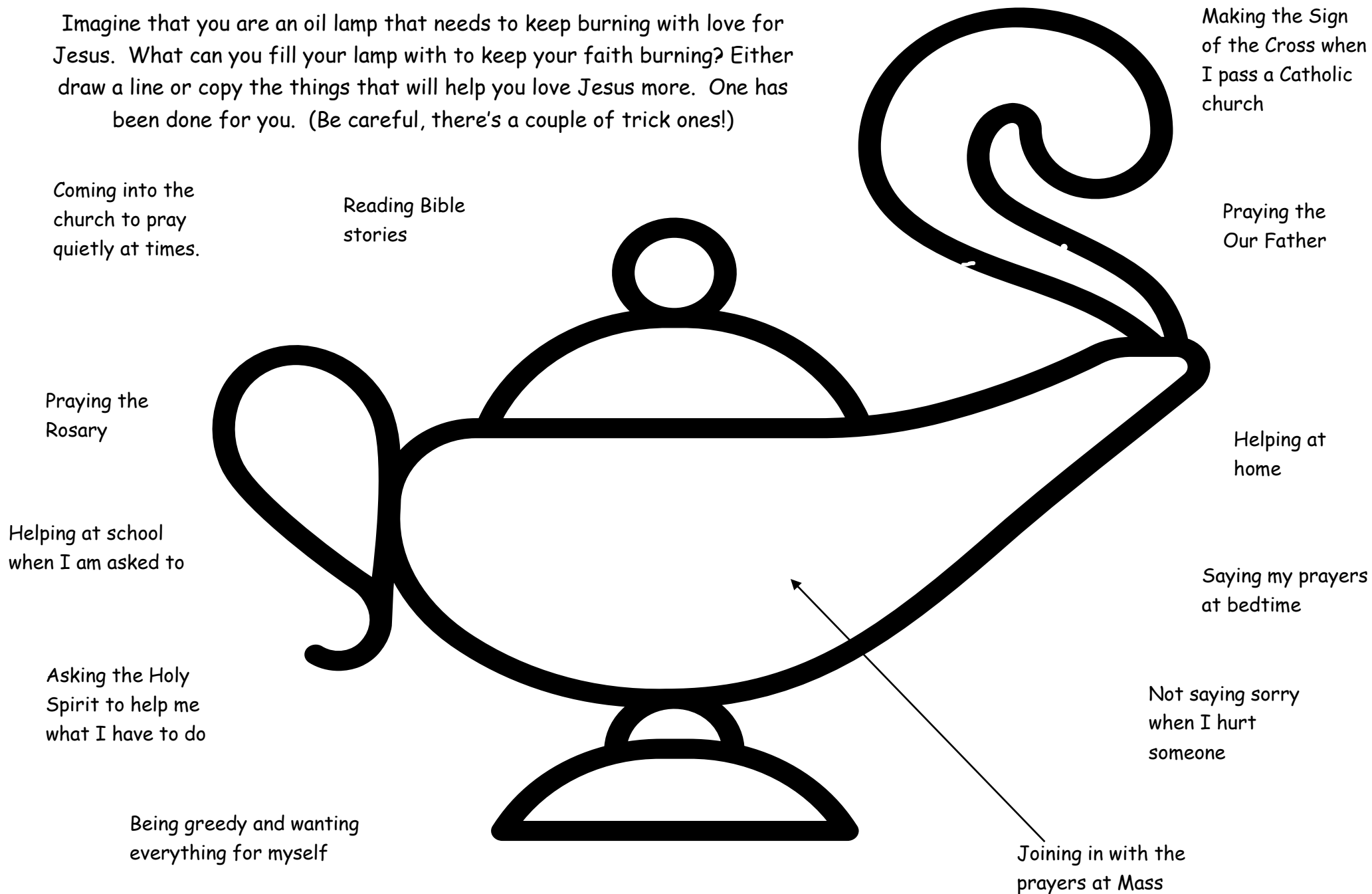
Q: Which sacraments use oil? (A: Baptism, Confirmation, Sacrament of the sick, Holy Orders)

Q: How do the sacraments help us to be ready for Jesus? (A: They give us grace which is the strength of the Holy Spirit so that we can live as Jesus knows is best for us.)

Q: It's advent in a few weeks' time – what can we do at home to get ready to celebrate for Jesus' coming at Christmas? (A: Open – but maybe have a few suggestions up your sleeves, e.g. making/putting up a crib scene at home.)

Let's finish by asking the Holy Spirit to help us always to be ready for Jesus!

Imagine that you are an oil lamp that needs to keep burning with love for Jesus. What can you fill your lamp with to keep your faith burning? Either draw a line or copy the things that will help you love Jesus more. One has been done for you. (Be careful, there's a couple of trick ones!)



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 25:14-15,19-21

Jesus said, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and gave them his property to look after. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now when the master came back, the man who had received the five talents said, "Master, you gave me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant." And he who had the two talents said, "Master, you gave me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant." He who had received the one talent said, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man ... so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy man! You ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ... And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The Gospel of the Lord:

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

One way to emphasise that our talents is to prepare some cards with talents written on them and then when the Church say that they have been given these talents, you can give them the card with that talent on it to remind them to practice that talent. (I've slightly edited this "long" version of the parable.)

Q: What is Jesus talking about? (A: The Kingdom of Heaven.)

Jesus talking about how God helps us to get to heaven. Jesus tells this story to show that when we use the gifts and talents that God gives us wisely then they will grow and get better.

Q: What did the man with the 5 talents do? (A: Traded them and made 5 more.)

Q: What about the man with 2 talents? (A: He did the same, making 2 more.)

Q: What about the man with 1 talent? (A: He buried it in the ground.)

Q: Why was the man cross with the man who buried his 1 talent? (A: Because he did not use it either for himself or for anyone else.)

Q: Today we think of "talents" as something that we are good at. God gives us each different talents. What talents have we each been given by God? (A: Open.)

Q: When we practice our talents we are like the men who doubled their talents as they made them work. How do we get better at using our talents? (A: We have to practice – may be give examples of people practicing their talents, e.g. sport, music, the arts, but also say that we have to practice at being kind and generous.)

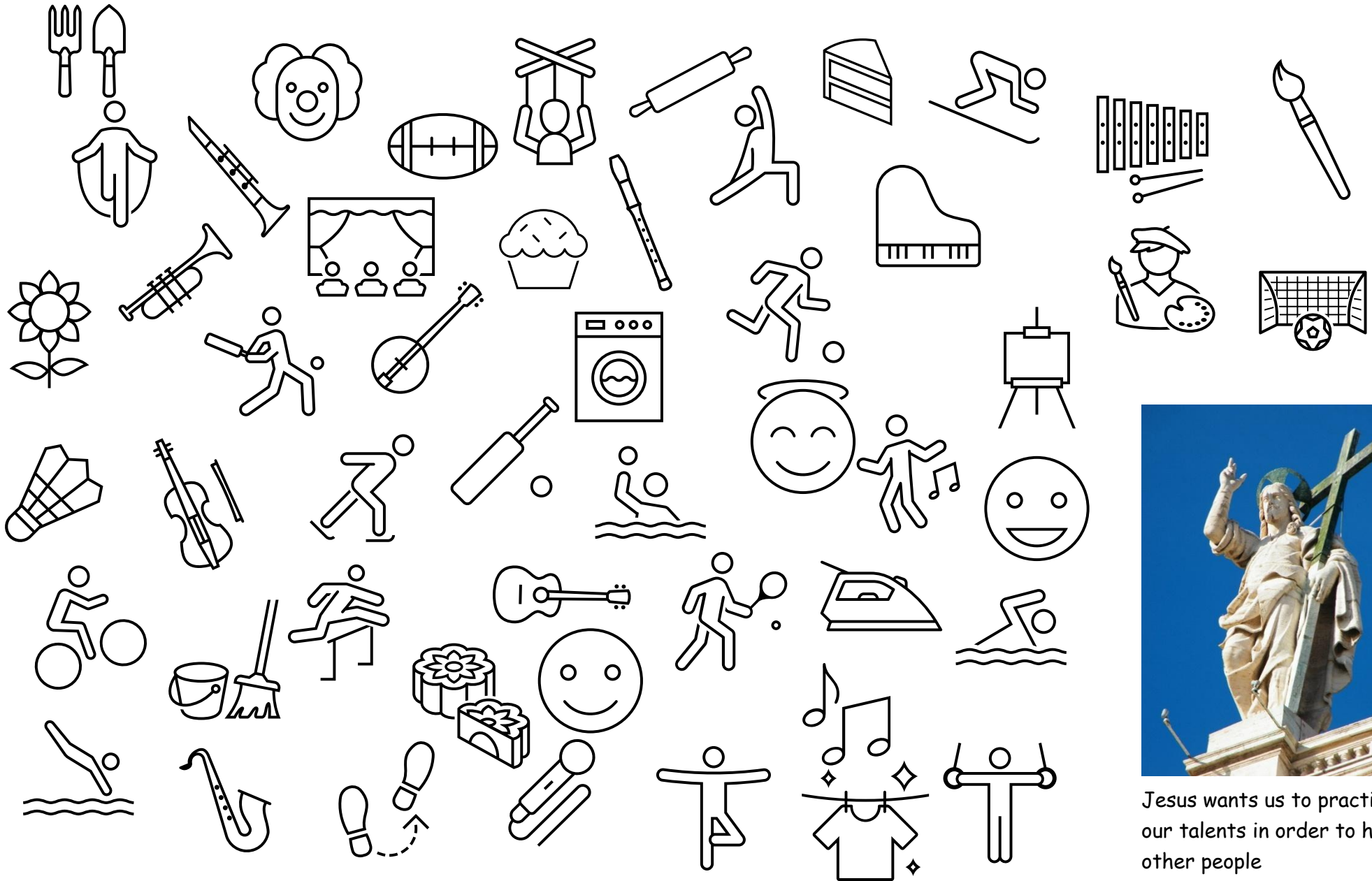
Q: How can we use our talents to help other people? (A: Open.)

Q: How does God help us to use our talents? (A: The grace of the Holy Spirit helps us.)

Q: What are we going to do today when we get home to practice the talents we have been given by God? (A: Open.)

Let's finish by asking the Holy Spirit to help us to always practice our talents so that they get better and better.

Colour in any talents that God has given you. Draw a circle around those that you will practice this week.



Jesus wants us to practice
our talents in order to help
other people

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for the Solemnity of Christ the King Year A

Matthew 25:31-46

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" Then he will answer them, saying, "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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



Discussion on the Gospel

This is the last Sunday of the Church's year, the Solemnity of Christ the King. Normally this date is celebrated as "Youth Sunday" so you may have various exciting youth orientated activities going on. The message of the Gospel though is important – it's not that we earn heaven by serving the poor, but our love of Jesus Christ leads us to serve the poor and the disadvantaged, because it's in them that we see the face of Christ.

Q: Who will be coming in glory? (A: The Son of Man, i.e. Jesus. Jesus used this title for Himself because it showed that He came for everybody – all mankind (humanity) and not just for the Jews.)

Q: How else does Jesus describe Himself? (A: As a King.)

Q: Jesus is the King of the Universe. That means that He is not king of any particular country, but the king of the world and the whole universe. He is telling this parable (story) to show us that He's not a king like King Charles or a president, but He's a king who loves and knows every single human being. Let's think about how He explains this.

Q: Who does Jesus say has been blessed by God the Father? (A: Those who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty fed the naked etc.)

Q: What is the link between doing these things and loving Jesus? (?) (A: Jesus says that whatever we do to other people we do to Him.)

Q: How can we show Jesus how much we love Him? (A: We can be kind to other people, especially the disadvantaged.)

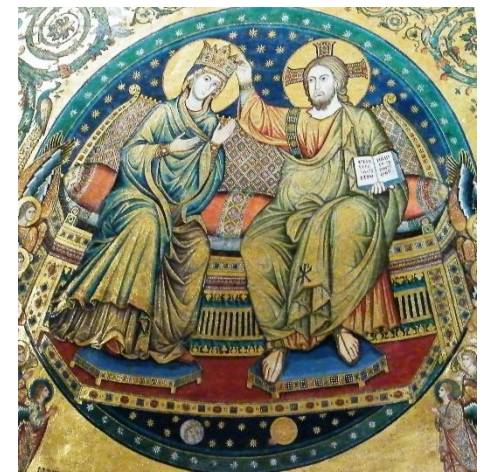
Q: Let's think about a time when you have helped or were kind to another person... what did you do to help them? (A: Open.)

Q: So when we are nice and kind and generous to other people, we are showing Jesus how much we love Him. What does Jesus say will happen if we are not loving to other people? (A: He will send us away.)

So, Jesus's kingdom is where people show love and respect for everyone and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, treat everyone else as if they were Jesus Himself.



Jesus's mother Mary showed her love for the Father when she agreed to become the mother of Jesus. She travelled with Jesus in his teaching ministry and served the Apostles when He ascended into heaven and in the early Church. Here she is in heaven and Jesus is crowning her with His crown. As you colour in this picture, maybe ask her to help you to love Jesus more and more and show that love by helping other people.



Mosaic apse in St. Mary Major, Rome
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In preparation for Advent....

It's great to engage the children with making a wheel of the liturgical year. Either use this template or look online for one. Do Make sure that any you choose is Christ-centred.

How to make this Liturgical Year wheel:

1. It would be a good idea to print the card for stability.
2. Cut out the circle and the arrow.
3. Punch a hole in the bottom of the arrow and in the centre of the wheel.
4. Place the arrow on the wheel so that it points to Advent.

