

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

## Year A Weeks 9-21

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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.***

### Back to “Ordinary Time”

In our life of faith, no time is “ordinary” and the first two Sundays “Ordinary Time” we begin by celebrating that God is a blessed Trinity of persons and then that Jesus Christ gave us Himself as food so that we might be ever closer to Him in this life. In our fallen human natures, we cannot “understand” the mystery of the Holy Trinity, but we can know that the Divine Persons never work alone. The Father creates through His Son, who is the Eternal Word, by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. So, the more we refer to all three Divine Persons in our talking about our faith, the more we can enter into this wonderful mystery for ourselves and help our children to grow up with an awareness that “God” = Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What we want to avoid is thinking that “God” = “the Father”. In St. Patrick's shamrock, each “leaf-let” is a Divine Person and the whole “leaf” represents “God”. And then the final activity of this part of the year returns to the mystery of the Holy Trinity as we answer the question as Who exactly is Jesus?

***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**



*© Carol Ann Harnett 2012.*

This tiny window is in the Sacred Heart chapel at Maryvale house in Birmingham. The chapel is so tiny that there are only about 8-10 chairs in it. It is hidden inside the house and can't be seen from the outside. The heart is a sign of love. Although we can't other people's hearts, we see the effects of their love. One effect of Jesus' love is His gift of Himself to us at each Mass in Holy Communion.

***O Sacred heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.***

# Children's liturgy of the word for this week



## Discussion on the Gospel

### Gospel for Trinity Sunday Year A

#### John 3:16-18

Jesus said,  
For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only begotten  
Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have  
eternal life.  
For God did not send his Son  
into the world to condemn the  
world,  
but in order that the world  
might be saved through him.  
Whoever believes in him is not  
condemned,  
but whoever does not believe is  
condemned already,  
because he has not believed in  
the name of the only begotten  
Son of God.

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

*I have used the phrase “God the Father” here and “the Father” later instead of “God” to help the children realise that “God” means Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Otherwise, it's easy to think that Jesus and the Spirit are not God. None of us can grasp the mystery of the Holy Trinity, so it is useful for us too to think about “the Father” when we hear/say “God”.*

**Q: What did God the Father do?** (A: Loved the world/send His only Son.)

**Q: Who is the only Son of the Father?** (A: Jesus Christ/Jesus.)

**Q: Why did the Father send His Son into the world?** (A: Not to condemn the world/so that we can have Eternal Life.)

**Q: What does “condemn” mean?** (A: To tell off.)

**Q: What is “Eternal Life”?** (A: Knowing and loving the Jesus who leads us to His Father by the Holy Spirit here on earth and for ever in heaven.)

**Q: The Father sent His Son who was given the name Jesus when He was born to save us. Do you know what “Jesus” means?** (A: God Saves.)

**Q: How did Jesus save the world?** (A: He died on the cross.)

**Q: When Jesus was baptised, the Father sent another helper to help His Son. Who was that?** (A: The Holy Spirit).

**Q: The Holy Spirit is really the love between the Father and the Son – a love so strong that it's God at work. When does the Holy Spirit come to us?** (A: Our Baptism and in all the sacraments.)

**Q: This shows that the Father loves us too. He sends us to Holy Spirit so that we can love Him and Jesus. What do we call the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?** (A: The Holy Trinity.)

**Q: When do we especially talk/pray to the Holy Trinity (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)?** (A: When we make the Sign of the Cross.)

**Let us now slowly make the Sign of the Cross and as we do, think that we are talking to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**



## The Holy Trinity in Art

This is the centrepiece of a wonderful mosaic in the basilica of San Clemente in Rome.

The gold background reflects the light and reminds us of heaven. Jesus is on the cross, which is black, reminding us that He came to save us from our sins.

Can you see the Father's hand coming down out of heaven holding a wreath? That indicates that the Father is showering his Son with His love and delight as the wreath is a wreath of victory.

What is sitting on the cross with Jesus? (doves).

Doves are a symbol of the Holy Spirit. How many doves are there? (12)

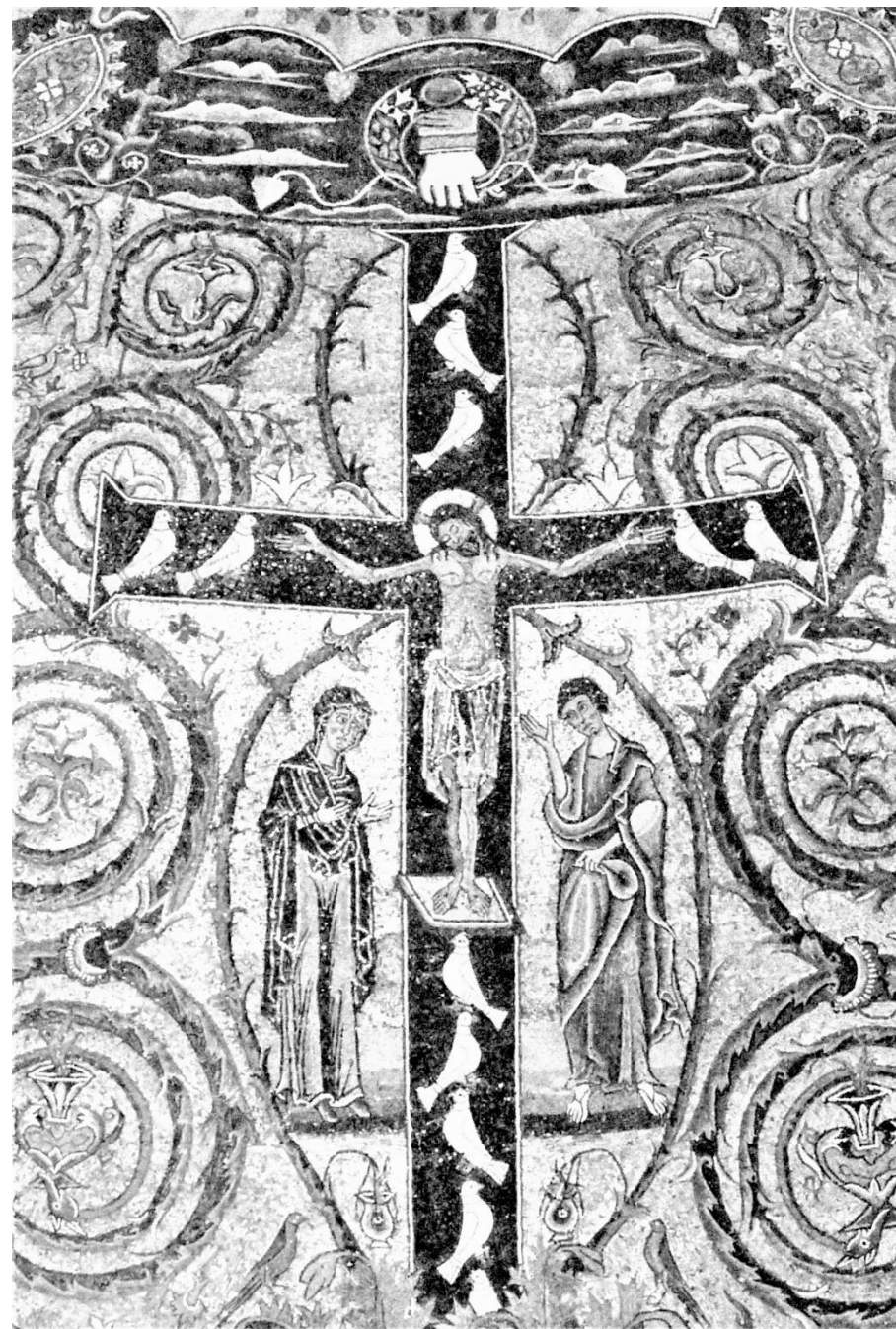
This represents the 12 Apostles who were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and went out to tell everyone about Jesus.

The Father sends His Holy Spirit to help us to tell other people about Jesus.

Jesus, God the Son, dies on the Cross so that we can enjoy Eternal Life.

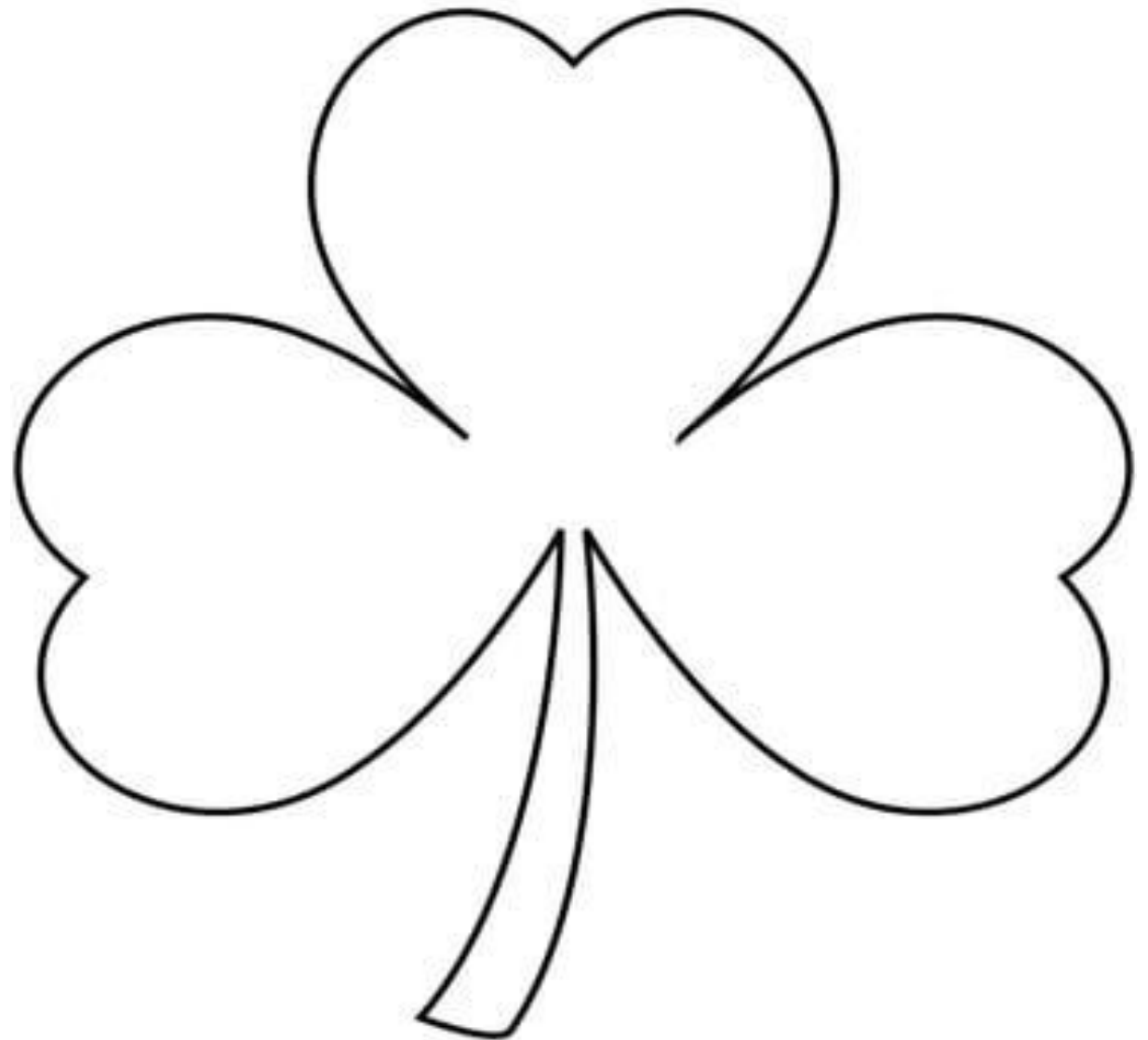
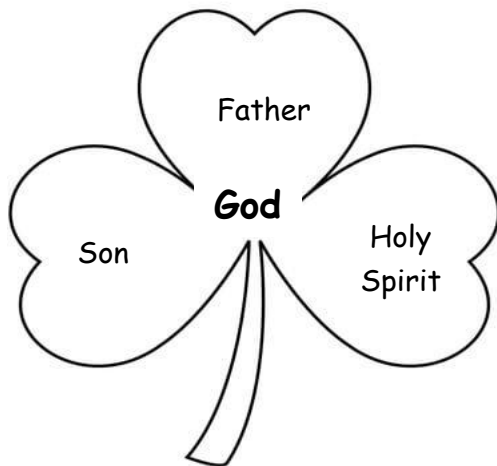
The Father is in heaven and the Holy Spirit helps us to love His Son Jesus Christ.

Colour in the greyscale picture to match the one in colour.



# St. Patrick and the shamrock:

Whilst St. Patrick is associated with the shamrock as an image of the Trinity, it is important to label it correctly. Remember that the whole leaf represents *God* and each of the segments represent a Divine Person. Here is a leaf to cut out, label and colour. May be as you say the *Glory-be*, children can point to the different segments.



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



### Gospel for Corpus Christi Year A

#### John 6:51-58

At that time: Jesus said to the Jews,

'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

...

So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

...

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died.

Whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Read the Gospel slowly

*I have cut a bit of this Gospel reading to avoid some of the repetitions. (I love the rhythm of John's Gospel in this chapter but most of it would go over the children's head, I expect!)*

**Q: What did Jesus say that He is?** (A: The living bread which came down from heaven.)

**Q: What does Jesus say will happen to those who eat the bread of life?** (A: They will live for ever.)

**Q: Where do we live for ever?** (A: In Heaven/Eternal Life.)

**Q: When do people receive Jesus the Bread of Life?** (A: When they receive Holy Communion.)

**Q: When do we eat ordinary bread?** (A: Breakfast/packed lunches/tea.....)

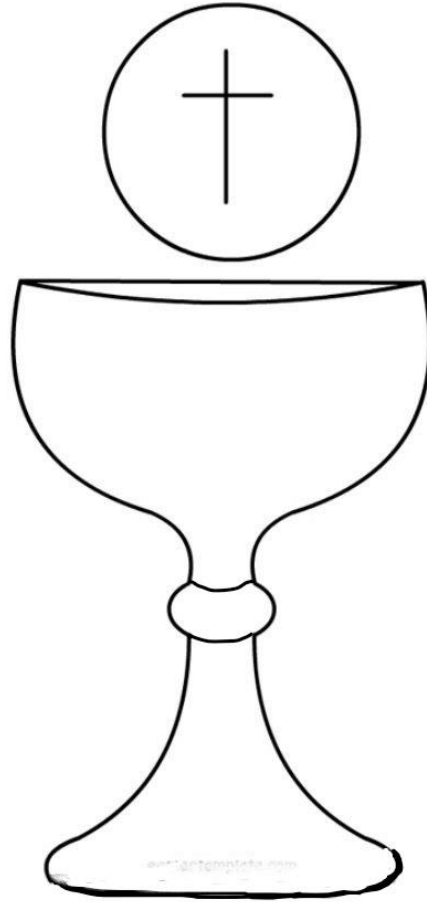
**Q: Jesus says that when we receive Holy Communion, it is not ordinary bread but Jesus Himself. What does the priest say just before each person receives Jesus in Holy Communion?** (A: Body of Christ.)

**Q: Jesus gives us His Body which means that He gives us Himself. When we receive Him in Holy Communion He comes to live in us and we in Him. That is amazing... Jesus actually comes to live in us! What do we do if people are coming to visit us at home?** (A: Open: tidy up/clean...)

**Q: Mass is a very special time of the week as we all meet Jesus even if we have not made our First Holy Communion yet. We listen to Jesus in the readings and talk to Him in the prayers. What can we do to be ready to be close to Jesus at Mass?** (A: Various; e.g. arrive on time, wear special/smart clothes, behave during Mass, watch the priest, kneel during the consecration, look up when the bell rings....)

**There is a very old prayer that we can say to Jesus in Holy Communion. It is on the next page for you to colour in and learn by heart. Let's say it now to finish. (It is usually repeated 3 times)**

© Sacrament most Holy, © Sacrament Divine,



All praise and all thanksgiving, Be every moment Thine!

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



### Gospel for 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

#### Matthew 7:21-27

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?"

And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.'

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*A very famous parable which helps us to reflect on where we place all our hopes. It might help the children if you could demonstrate this with a sand box – put a model house or box on a pile of sand and pour water over it to see it collapse and then put it on a hard stone slab (rock) and do the same and see it stay steady. If you can't do this, then maybe refer to sand castles at the beach being washed away by the tide. Also a picture of the Pope would be helpful.*

**Q: Jesus describes two sorts of builders, who are they?** (A: One who built on sand and the other who built on rock.)

**Q: What happened to the house built on sand?** (A: It washed away when the winds blew and the tide rose.)

**Q: What happened to the house built on rock?** (A: It stayed firm)

**Q: Why did the house built on rock stay firm?** (A: Open, eg/ solid/can't move...)

**Q: When Jesus was telling His disciples to be like the builder who built his house on rock, he means that we must rely on someone who will never change and always be solid and strong. Who is always solid and strong in our lives?** (A: The best response is "Jesus" but the children may come up with key family members and other "leaders" first. Accept these and then ask the question below if they do.)

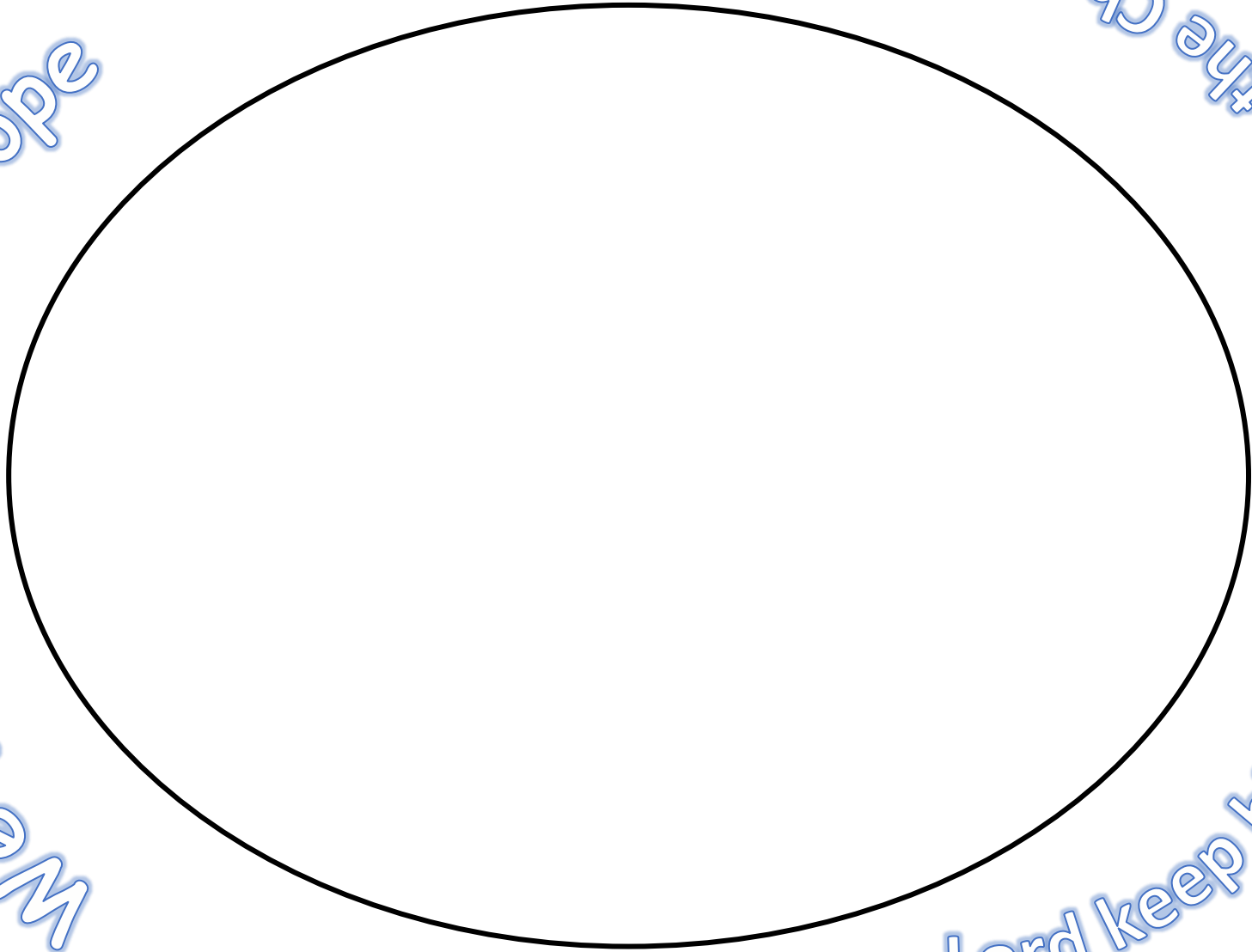
**Q: Who will never ever change, even if the whole world should disappear?** (A: Jesus)

**Q: So Jesus is telling us to build all our hopes on Him – He never changes and nothing can move Him. He gave one of His Apostles the name which means "rock." Who is that?** (A: Simon Peter ("Peter" means "rock.")

**Q: St. Peter was the leader of the Church, the "rock" who helped everyone together and who prayed for the new young Church. Who is the leader of the Church today?** (A: The Pope [You can ask for his name if it is not offered].)

**Q: Pope N. is the leader of the Church today and He is the rock who holds us all firm and leads us to Jesus the true rock. Let's all say some prayers for Pope N.** (Either invite prayers, or pray a prayer for Him, or maybe a "hail Mary" for him. Below, if you can have a picture of the Pope in the middle – maybe children could copy one... and they can fill in the words around.)

We pray for our Pope



Lord keep him firm and strong for the Church

# Children's liturgy of the word for this week



## Gospel for 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

### Matthew 9:9-13

At that time:

As Jesus passed on from Capernaum, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he rose and followed him.

And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.

And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, (doctor) but those who are sick.

Go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice."

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'

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

## Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*The calling of Matthew (sometimes called Levi in other translations of the Bible) is another of those key Gospel moments which is often quoted. Jesus is showing that the Church is full of sinners and unless we recognise this in ourselves, we won't be able to respond to Jesus ' call to us.*

**Q: Whom did Jesus see at the tax-booth?** (A: Matthew, a tax-collector.)

**Q: What did Jesus say to Matthew?** (A: Come, follow me.)

**Q: What did Matthew do?** (A: He got up and followed Jesus.)

**Q: Matthew was a tax-collector – what is a tax-collector?** (A: Someone who collects money from people on behalf of the government.)

**Q: The Romans insisted that the Jews paid them taxes to run their country and the Jews hated this as the Romans did not worship God and bossed the Jews about. The Jews hated anyone who worked with the Romans and said that they were "sinners". What/who is a "sinner"?** (A: Someone who does not do what God asks us to do or who does not love other people as God asks us to.)

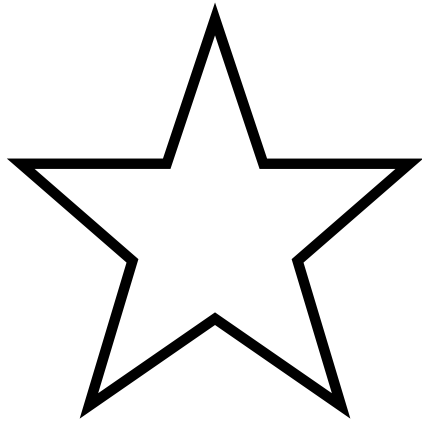
**Q: The Jews complained that Jesus spoke to Matthew and that went to his house to eat. What did Jesus say to them when they complained?** (A: It's the sick who need a doctor, not the well.)

**Q: So, if we do not realise that we are ill, we are not going to go to a doctor, are we? If we realise that we need Jesus to help us, then we can ask Him to help us. How can Jesus help us?** (A: Open, they may respond "be good" which is an easy "cop-out" so maybe press for more specifics, e.g., praying, coming to Mass, paying attention at Mass ...)

**Q: Matthew became one of Jesus' 12 disciples and later wrote one of the four Gospels (the Gospel we are reading on Sundays this year). Who are the other Gospels writers?** (A: Mark, Luke, John)

**Q: What are some of the things that the Gospels tell us about Jesus?** (A: Open, because almost everything we know about Jesus is in the Gospels!)

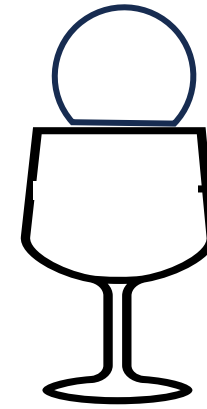
*Below are some lines from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, reflecting all four dimensions of the faith, for the children to fill in and decorate. Older children may wish to add their own sentences (or summaries) on the back of the sheet.*



We have seen

His star

Mt. 2:2



This is my

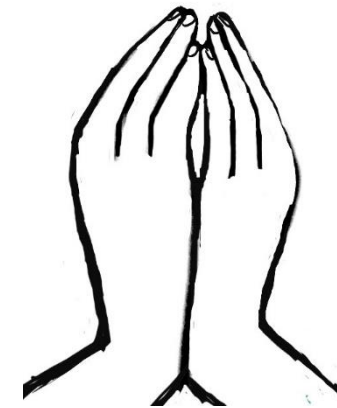
Body

Mt.26:26



Mt. 25:40

Whatever you do to  
others you do to me



Mt. 6:6

Pray in Secret

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



### Gospel for 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

#### Matthew 9:36-10:8

At that time: When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

You received without paying; give without pay.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*The aim of today's session is to focus on the names of the 12 Apostles. There is an alternative activity for children who can't read at the end of the section.*

**Q: Jesus called (summoned) his 12 Apostles. What are their names?** (A: See below.)

**Q: Why did Jesus call them?** (A: To go out and tell other people about Him/ to cure the sick.)

**Q: Let's see how much we know about each of these 12 Apostles. These are photos of great big statues of the 12 Apostles in Rome [St. John Lateran which is the pope's cathedral]. What do we know about each of them?** *Use the pictures on the next page. As you place each one, say the name and ask the children what, if anything they know about them. It may be better to enlarge the individual pictures if you can. (I don't seem to have one of St. Matthias, so I've used another picture.)*

**Peter (Simon):** He was renamed Peter by Jesus, was the spokesperson of the Apostles and the first Pope... the children may offer more information on him.)

**Andrew:** Was Peter's brother and introduced Simon Peter to Jesus. Andrew died on an x shaped cross. Was a fisherman.

**James & John:** Were brothers, fishermen, John stood by the Cross, only Apostle not martyred, wrote John's Gospel. James was known as James the greater.

**Philip:** Born at Bethsaida and was a disciple of John the Baptist first. Asked Jesus to show Him the Father (Jn. 14:8.)

**Bartholomew:** Also called Nathaniel in John's Gospel. Was introduced to Jesus by Philip.

**Thomas:** Who both denied Jesus' Resurrection and was the first to call Him "my Lord and my God". Traditionally he went to India to take the Good News of salvation.

**Matthew:** A tax collector and probably the originator of the Gospel of Matthew.

**James, son of Alphaeus:** Also called "James the Less". He wrote the letter of James in the Bible and was the Bishop of Jerusalem at the very beginning of the Church. He was beheaded by the Romans.

**Thaddeus:** Also called Jude. He is patron saint of lost and desperate causes.

**Simon the Zealot:** Was very devout and shares his feast day with St. Jude (Thaddeus).

**Judas Iscariot:** Betrayed Jesus. Was replaced by **St. Matthias** after the Resurrection (Acts 1:26)

*Finish by inviting each of the Apostles in turn to pray for us. E.g. St. Peter, pray for us....*



St. Andrew



St. John



St. Peter



St. James the Greater



**St. Bartholomew**



**St. Matthew**



**St. Philip**



**St. Thomas**



**St. James the Less  
(Son of Alphaeus)**



**St. Simon the Zealot**



**St. Jude/Thaddeus**





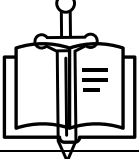
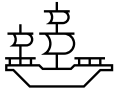
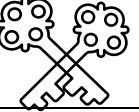

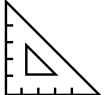
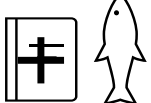


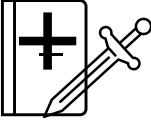
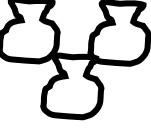

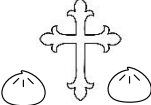
**St. Matthias**

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### Symbols of the Apostles

**Did you know that each of the Apostles have symbols? The symbols come from the lives of the Apostles. Some of these are just traditions and we don't know for certain the how each of them died. See if you can match the Apostle with the symbol. One is done for you.**

St Andrew, who was St. Peter's brother, died on a diagonal cross			St. Bartholomew (St. Nathaniel) is traditionally thought to have been cut to death with knives
St. James the Great (son of Jonah, John's brother) has the scallop shell as his symbol as he traditionally died in Compostella in Spain and the coast there was known for these shells.			St. James the Less may have been sawn in half (but he was probably stoned to death).
St. John (author of the Gospel and the Apostle who stood at the foot of the cross). There's a Tradition that he survived drinking from a poisoned chalice.			Judas Iscariot has a money bag as he looked after the shared money for the Apostles and sadly stole from it too (Jn. 12:6).
St. Jude travelled by ship on his missionary journeys with St. Simon (the Zealot).			St. Matthew was a tax collector before he met Jesus and is represented by three purses.
St. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas and is symbolised by an open bible and sword by which he was traditionally said to have been beheaded			St. Paul who was chosen by Jesus after His Ascension, is represented by a Bible and a sword. He is the author of a lot of the letters of the New Testament and his head was cut off with a sword
St. Peter is represented by crossed keys as Jesus gave him the "keys of the gates to heaven" (Mt. 16:18)			St. Philip is represented by loaves beside a cross as it was he who offered Jesus the small boy's loaves before the feeding of the 5,000
St. Simon (The zealot) was a fisherman and preached the Good News that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Old Testament			St Thomas traditionally went to India and built a Church there and the carpenter's set square is his sign

**Draw Jesus' 12 Apostles listening to Him.**



Artwork © Roseanne Sharpe 2022

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



### Gospel for 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Year A

Matthew 10:26-33

**At that time: Jesus instructed his Apostles: 'Have no fear of them,** for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.'

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*The questions will be based on the words in bold which are probably easier for children to understand. The activity turns to consider Mary who looks after us as well as God the Father. On the next page are two versions of activities – the Hail Mary for younger ones to colour in and a space for older children to write their own prayer on the other page.*

**Q: What does Jesus say here?** (A: Do not be afraid.)

**Q: What could Jesus have bought for a penny?** (A: Two sparrows.)

**Q: What Jesus is saying is that the Father knows every single tiny sparrow. If God the Father cares about tiny sparrows, how much more does He care about each one of us. What does Jesus say about the hair on our heads?** (A: That God the Father knows how many hairs we have on our heads!)

**Q: What does this show us about the Father?** (A: That He loves us and cares for us/that He knows more about us than we do ourselves.)

**Q: So why must we not be afraid?** (A: Because the Father loves us and will look after us.)

**Q: When might we be afraid?** (A: Open.)

**Q: We don't only have our Father in heaven looking after us, but we also have Mary, our heavenly mother looking after us. Look at this picture of Mary with Jesus (on the next page). What do you notice about her dress?** (A: It's huge/red/made of velvet.)

**Q: This enormous red dress symbolises Mary's grace. Mary loves us so much because we have been joined to Jesus in Baptism. What is Jesus doing in this picture?** (A: He's looking at a book that Mary is reading to Him.)

**Q: Let us shut our eyes and imagine we are sitting on Mary's lap. Feel the warmth of her heartbeat. Hear her soft voice gently talking to us. Hear her telling us that we don't need ever to be afraid, as she is looking after us. Now feel Jesus' love pouring into your hearts. Feel His peace. We don't ever need to feel afraid.**

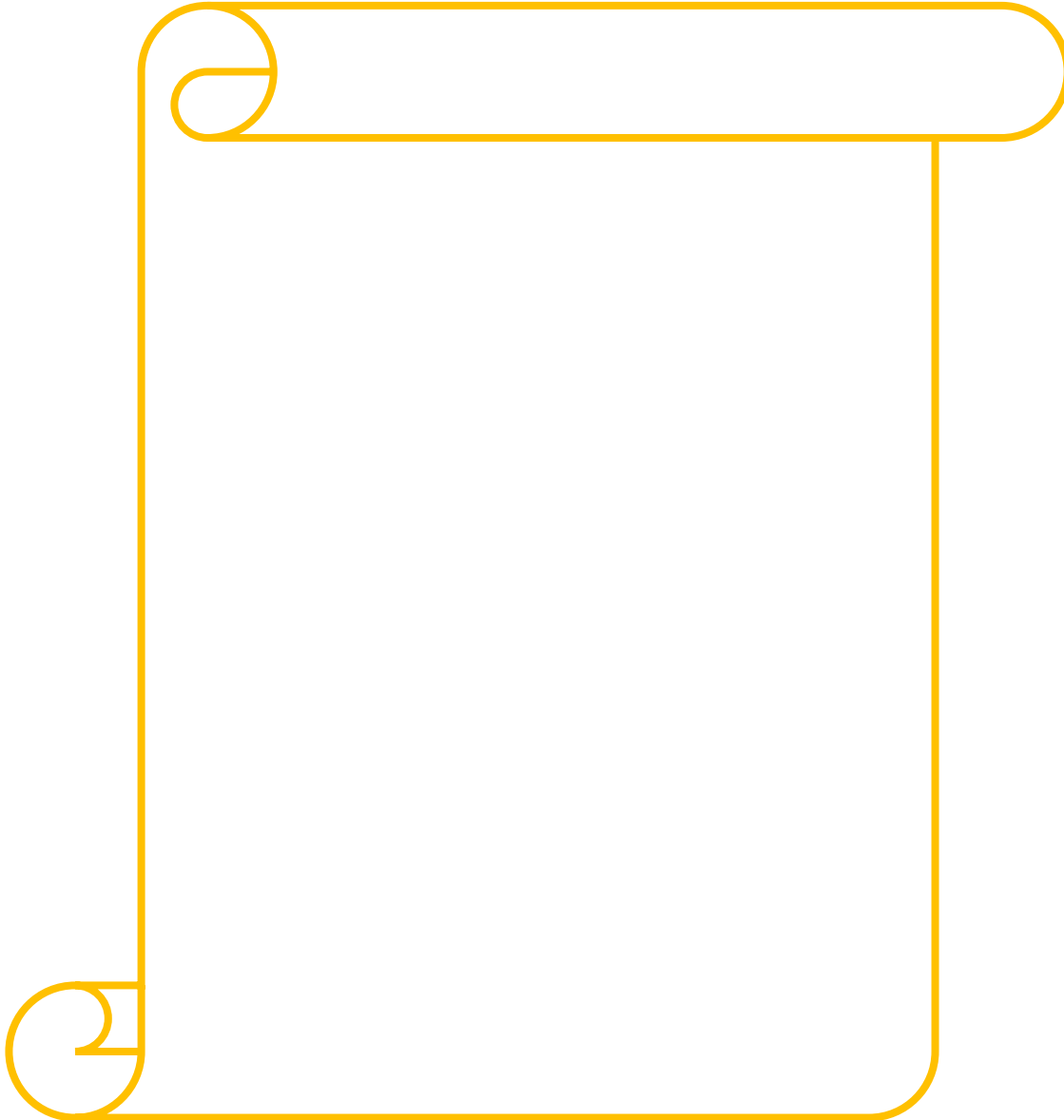
**Let us finish by saying the Hail Mary together. Hail Mary...**

We don't ever need to feel afraid, because we have God the Father who knows every hair on our heads looking after us, but also Mary, our heavenly mother praying for us. We can imagine that we are like Jesus, sitting on her lap listening to her gentle voice telling us that she is with us all the time.



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

**Write your own prayer to Mary asking her to be with you and to look after you when you are afraid.**

A large yellow outline of a scroll, intended for writing a prayer. The scroll is rectangular with rounded corners and a decorative flourish at the top left and bottom left.

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



### Gospel for 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A

#### Matthew 10:37-42

At that time: Jesus instructed his

Apostles:

'Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Whoever receives you, receives me, and whoever receives me, receives him who sent me.

The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet

will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person

will receive a righteous person's reward.

And whoever gives one of these little ones

even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple,

truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*On the surface, these sayings of Jesus can be challenging. He is saying that even our closest family ties come second to our relationship with Him. However, we need to realise that once our relationship with Jesus is on the right footing all other relationships deepen as they are then aided and inspired by the grace of the Holy Spirit.*

**Q: Jesus is telling people that we have to put Him first in our lives. When we do this, then He helps us by His grace, to do even the most difficult of things. What can you remember from this Gospel I have just read?** (A: Open.)

**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: How does God help us when we have to do difficult things?** (A: Various answers, but if the Holy Spirit is not mentioned, you can offer Him as a suggestion.)

**Q: At the end of today's Gospel, Jesus gives an example of how we can be kind to other people – what does He say?** (A: If we give people a cup of water.)

**Q: Jesus adds "because he is my disciple." What is a disciple?** (A: Someone who follows Jesus and learns from Him. Someone who places Jesus first in their lives.)

**Q: So, Jesus is saying that it's because we are His disciples that we CAN by the grace of the Holy Spirit, be kind to other people. So, we come back to the beginning of the Gospel. Jesus wants us to place Him first in our lives so that we can love other people with HIS love. How can we place Jesus first in our lives?** (A: Open, e.g. morning offering, prayers, paying attention in Mass, sacraments reading the Bible....)

**Q: Praying a morning offering is a very good way to put Jesus first each day. Let's pray it now together and then you can colour it in to put up on the wall at home.**

I thank you Jesus for this  
day,

So, fill me with your grace,

And let your Holy Spirit

Lead me to your Father's  
place.

I want to love you more and  
more

In everything I do

So, Lord Jesus be my guide

As this whole day belongs to  
you

There are many different morning offerings. May be older children  
can make up their own to say.

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



### Gospel for 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A

#### Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically

✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*There are two parts to this Gospel; in the first part, Jesus is showing that His mission is not His own but it's the Father's mission which He is carrying out. Jesus is God – God the Son – and so the mission of the Father and the Son is the one mission of God carried out by the grace of the Holy Spirit.*

*In the second part, Jesus shows how this works in practice. Jesus' mission is to save us from our sins and our sins are a burden to us, so when we turn to Him to confess our sins, He removes that burden from us by His grace. A good way to show this would be to have a sack or bag and then as the children give examples of sins, write them on card (or pieces of wood which are heavier) and place them in the sack. Then at the end, tip the sack out to show that it's light after confession.*

**Q: Who is Jesus inviting to come to Him?** (A: Those who labour and are overburdened.)

**Q: What is a burden?** (A: A heavy load to carry.)

**Q: Burdens are not always actual (physical) things, but things we worry about can be burdens too. What are the kinds of things we worry about?** (A: Open.)

**Q: The Church has a word for the bad things we do – what is that word?** (A: Sins,)

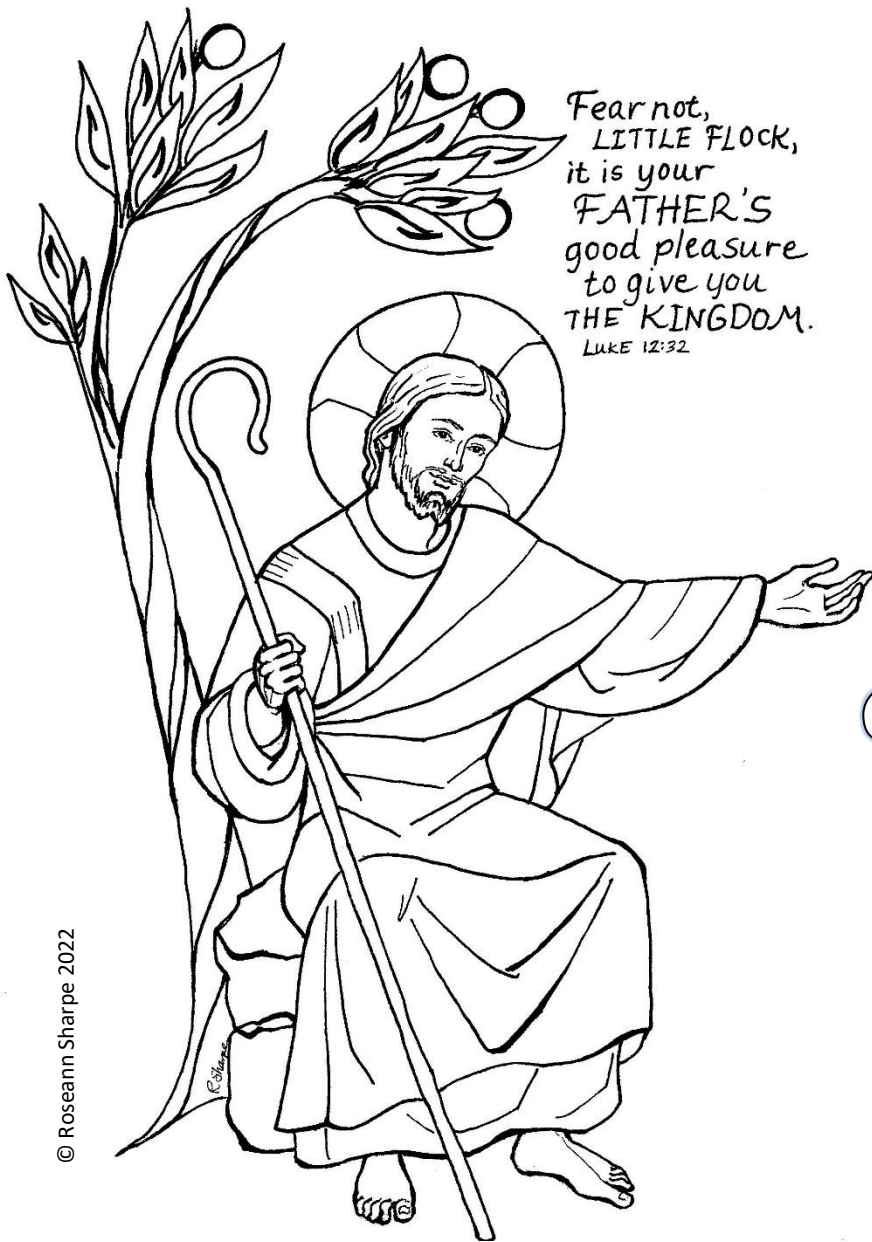
**Q: Give me some examples of some sins that we might do.** (A: Write suggestions on pieces of card/wood.)

**Q: And what good things should we do, that we don't do?** (A: As above)

**Q: Sins are like burdens – every time we do something bad, that we should not do... or we don't do something that we should do, it is as if we are filling a big sack on our backs and it's getting heavier and heavier each day that we don't say sorry to Jesus. What is the special time called that we say sorry to Jesus for our sins?** (Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation.)

**Q: When we say sorry to Jesus in the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation it's as if He picks up the heavy bag off our back and tips all the sins away.** (Tip out sack. And show how light it is.) **Let's finish with this little prayer to ask Jesus to forgive us and take our sins away.**

**Lord have mercy/ Christ have mercy/Lord have mercy.** (Teach children to strike their breast three times)



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

○ my God because  
you are so good, I  
am very sorry that  
I have sinned  
against you, and by  
the help of your  
grace I will not sin  
again.



## Gospel for 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

### Matthew 13:1-9

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.

And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched.

And since they had no root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

He who has ears, let him hear.'

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

## Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*Again, we have a well-known parable today. It is suggested that the children are given a seed to sow in a small pot – but if you so, then I suggest that you give them the attached handout with prayers and scripture quotes – so each time they water the pot, they read the scripture reminding them that when we read the Bible/pray etc we are watering the seed that was sown in us at our Baptism. Alternatively, the children can colour in the picture on the following page and stick/write one of the prayers under it.*

**Q: Who was Jesus talking to?** (A: Large crowds.)

**Q: What did Jesus ask the people to imagine?** (A: A sower going out to sow.)

**Q: What is a sower?** (A: A farmer who is sowing seeds in the ground so that plants grow.)

**Q: Where did the seeds land?** (A: Edge of path, rock thorny patches and deep soil – if you can either produce pictures or better still, trays to replicate these conditions it may help the children to understand.)

**Q: What happened to the seeds on the path.... On the rock....in the thorns?** (A: answers in the text.)

**Q: What happened to the seed in the deep rich soil?** (A: It produced a great crop – again it would help you can show a plant growing in good soil and discuss why it is thriving.)

**Q: Jesus ends by telling us to listen to Him. When we were baptised, the Holy Spirit planted a seed of love for Jesus deep inside us. When we listen to Jesus it is as if that seed is being watered. When do we listen to Jesus?** (A: Mass, Children's Liturgy of the Word, when we pray, read the Bible etc....)

**Q: Let us plant a seed in a pot. As we plant it lets think of something that Jesus says to us. Invite the children to think of a saying of Jesus that they can remember. Remember to water the seed when the soil is dry. Each time you water it, tell it something that Jesus says.**

**Finish with the glory be....**

Try to learn one of these by heart each time you water your seed. Maybe you can look up some more of your own.

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Matthew 5:44

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:16

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." ~ Matthew 22:37-40

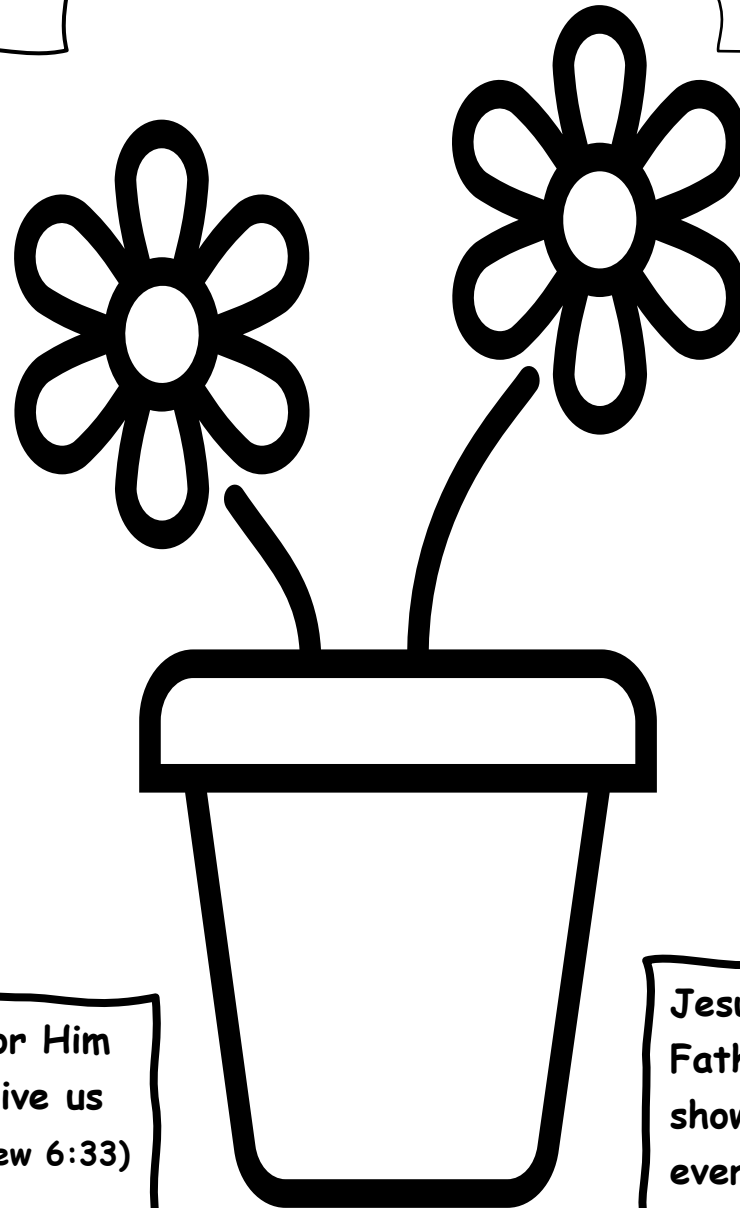
"But seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you as well."  
~ Matthew 6:33

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ~ John 14:6

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." ~ Matthew 7:7-8

Every time you remember to say a prayer draw another flower. How many flowers can you add?

When the flowerpot is full, take this picture back to church to show your priest or catechist.



Jesus says that when we look for Him first, His heavenly Father will give us everything we need. (C.f. Matthew 6:33)

Jesus says that we must love God our Father as much as we can and then show that same love and care for everyone else. (C.f. Matthew 22:37-40)

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



### Gospel for 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

#### Matthew 13:24-30

At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?"' He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

The Gospel of the Lord:

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*Another Gospel with crops at its heart. Planting and growing is a common motif in Jesus' teaching, partly because the society in which he moved was much closer to the earth and the seasons than many of us today and partly because the images He presents can speak to us so well about how God, the Eternal Farmer, reaches out to us and how we need to respond. Today's Gospel is a message of being faithful and tolerant, ultimately allowing God to be the judge. It might help to have a visual image of a pot with weeds muddled up with a plant to show the children.*

**Q: What did the farmer sow in his field?** (A: Wheat/good seed.)

**Q: What did the enemy sow?** (A: Weeds [also called darnel or tares in some translations].)

**Q: Why did the farmer want to leave the darnel/weeds in place?** (A: Because if the weeds were pulled out, then the wheat might come up too.)

**Q: When was the farmer going to sort out the weeds?** (A: At harvest time.)

**Q: Who does the wheat represent?** (A: Those people who listen to and love God.)

**Q: Who does the darnel/weeds represent?** (A: Those who don't love God.)

**Q: Jesus is telling us that there will always be people among us who don't love God. what are we to do when we know there are people around us who don't love God?** (A: Open – pray, love them and keep loving God ...)

**Q: At the end of the parable, Jesus says that the weeds will be burnt, but what happens to the wheat?** (A: It is gathered into the farmer's barn.)

**Q: What does the barn represent?** (A: Heaven.)

**Q: Jesus is telling us that if we stay faithful, and love Him, even if people around us don't love Him, we will go to heaven. Who helps us to stay faithful to Jesus even if people near us are not faithful?** (A: The Holy Spirit.)

*Invite the children to shut their eyes and silently ask the Holy Spirit to help them to stay faithful to Jesus even when people around us don't love Jesus.*





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



### Gospel for 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Matthew 13:44-52

**At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'**

**'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.'**

**'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad.'**

**So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

**'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'**

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*All of today's readings are about the treasures of grace that God wants to give us. Our real treasure is a relationship with Jesus Christ who leads us to His Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit. (The words in bold are the official short version of the Gospel and the questions are based on this short text.)*

**Q: Jesus gives us various examples of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. What are they?** (A: Treasure hidden in a field, the finest pearl.)

**Q: Let's think about this – so a person discovers that something really valuable is in a field and in order to be able to afford to buy the field, he has to sell everything; His house, His car, His furniture....in order to be able to afford to buy the field. So, the field is worth more than everything He has put together. Why does the man do that?** (A. Because he recognises that the treasure is worth more than everything he has.)

**Q: The same with the pearl – Jesus says that the man sells everything to buy it. Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of Heaven is worth more than everything we have, put together. What does He mean by the Kingdom of Heaven?** (A: Heaven/knowing and loving Him who leads us to His Father, being open to the graces that the Holy Spirit wants to give us, etc...)

**Q: What is the most valuable/precious thing you have?** (A: Open.)

**Q: The gifts we receive from Jesus are more valuable and precious than all the things/possessions we have. What is the first gift we received from Jesus?** (A: Baptism.)

**Q: When we were baptised, the Holy Spirit gave us lots of gifts including three special gifts: faith in Jesus, hope in Jesus and love for Jesus. And in all these three gifts Jesus leads us to His Father in heaven. What is faith?** (A: Believing that what we learn in the Gospel and about Jesus is true.)

**Q: What is hope in Jesus?** (A: Hoping to spend eternal life in heaven with Him.)

**Q: How can we love Jesus?** (A: Open...)

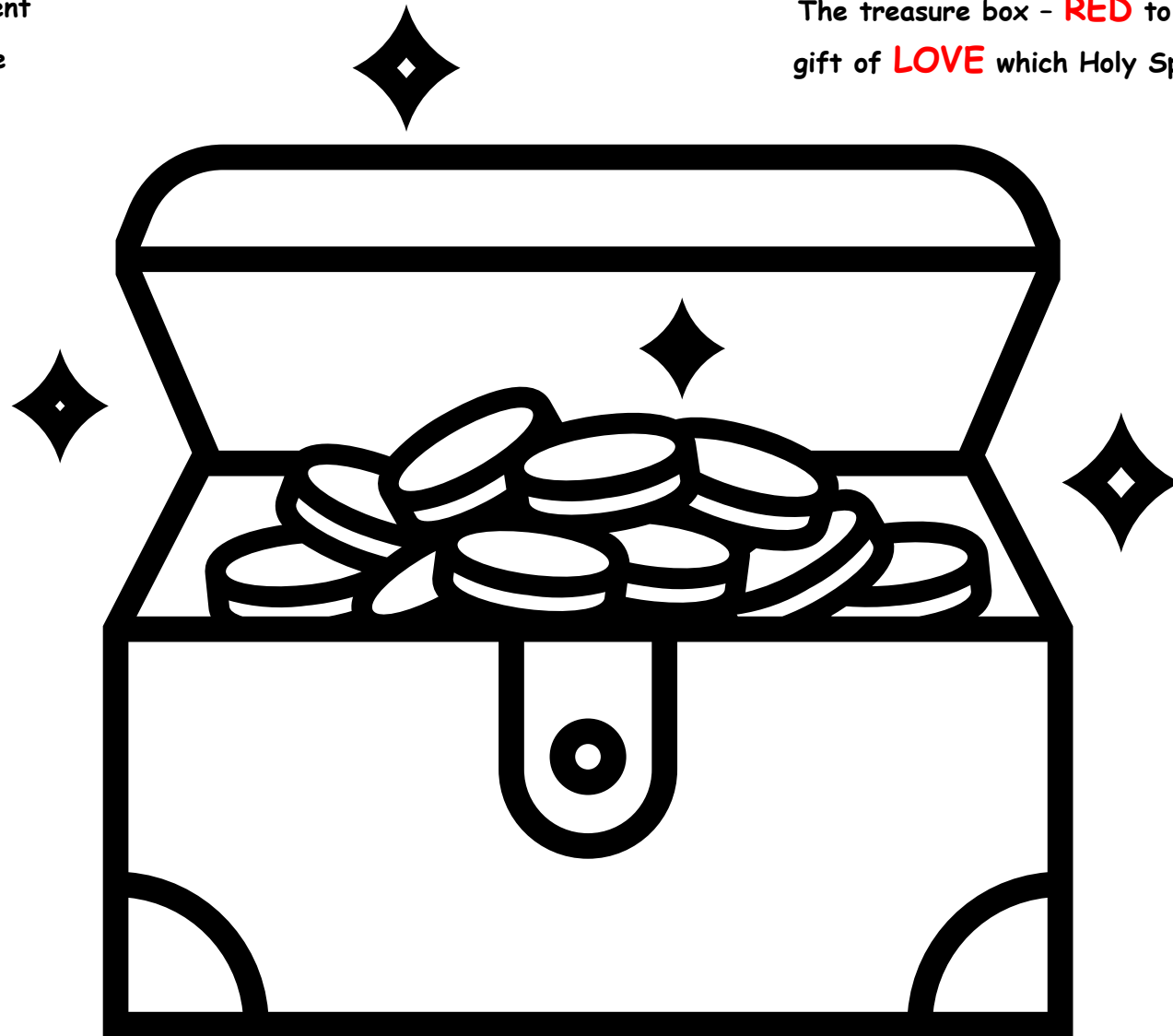
**Q: One person who had a lot of faith hope and love for Jesus is Mary. Let us finish by asking her to help us to store up treasure in heaven, Hail Mary....**

Colour in the coins in this treasure box with these colours:

The coins - **GOLD** to represent the golden gift of **FAITH** we were given in Baptism.

The treasure box - **RED** to represent the gift of **LOVE** which Holy Spirit pours into our hearts

The catch and the corner strengths - **GREEN** to represent the gift of **HOPE** which keeps us firm and strong for Jesus.



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



### Gospel for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A

#### Matthew 17:1-9

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, He withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.'

But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing.

Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied.

And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*A very famous miracle which goes to the heart of the Gospel and neatly follows on from last Sunda's Gospel – tat our faith in Jesus who leads us to His Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit is all that we need. This miracle prepares us for the greatest miracle of the Eucharist where Jesus Himself feeds us with His very self. If you can show the children models/paper cut outs of 5 loaves and 2 fish it would help.*

**Q: What did Jesus do with the loaves and fishes?** (A: blessed them and shared them out so that there was enough for everyone.)

**Q: How many loaves and fishes were there?** (A: 5 loaves and 2 fish. – show the children the models/paper cut outs)

**Q: How many people did Jesus feed with just this amount of food?** (A: 5,000)

**Emphasise that it definitely did not look like there was enough food to go around, but 12 baskets were filled with the leftovers!**

**Q: Later on, Jesus is going to perform another miracle with bread – what is that?** (A: Change the bread and wine into His Body and Blood just before He died on the cross.)

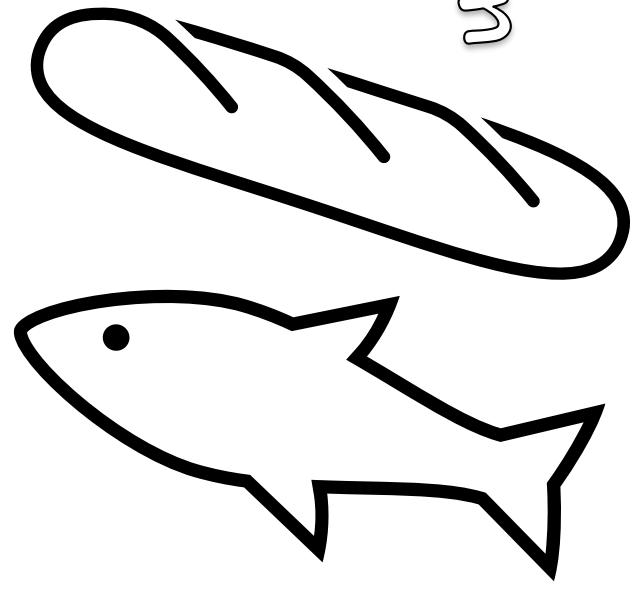
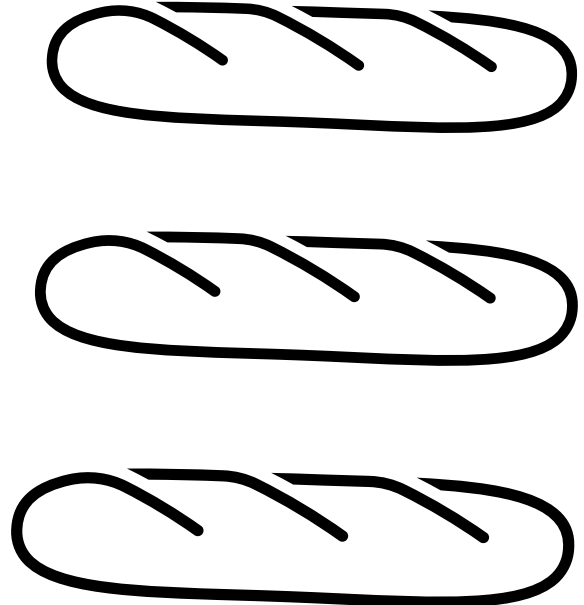
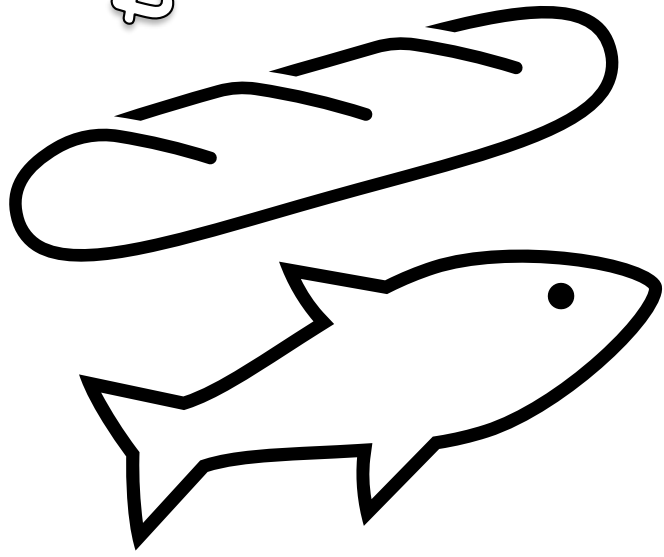
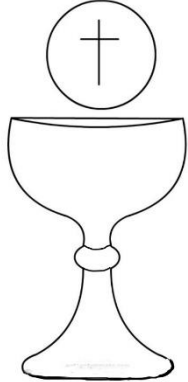
**Q: When does bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood these days?** (A: At Mass.)

**Q: The priest asks God the Father to send His Holy Spirit, and the bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood for us to feed on when we have made our First Holy Communion. When Jesus fed the 5,000 He was feeding people's bodies, but in Holy Communion, He is feeding our souls. What is the part of Mass called when the bread and wine become Jesus' Body and Blood?** (A; The Consecration.)

**Q: What can we do during the consecration at Mass?** (A: Open... e.g. Be kneeling, watching the priest, listening for the bells, and making a bow when the Host and chalice are lifted up....)

***Let's finish by shutting out eyes and silently thanking Jesus for giving Himself to us in Holy Communion.***

Jesus fed people with bread and fishes to prepare them to be fed by Himself in Holy Communion



## Gospel for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

### Matthew 14:22-33

After the crowd had eaten and were satisfied, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, 'It is a ghost!' and they cried out in fear.

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.' And Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'

Jesus said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

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

*There's a well-known phrase, "If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat." Today, we see the origin of this phrase and the fact that sometimes Jesus is inviting us to take risks. But, as He rescued St. Peter, if things go wrong, He too will pick us up and not leave us to drown.*

**Q: Where were the disciples?** (A: In a boat on the lake.)

**Q: Where was Jesus?** (A: In the hills, praying.)

**Q: What happened to the boat in the middle of the night?** (A: It was battered by wind and storms.)

**Q: What did Jesus do when He realised that His disciples were having to deal with a storm in the boat?** (A: He began to walk toward them on the lake.)

**Q: Let's just think about this – Jesus knew that His disciples were in difficulties, so He went to them. This makes us realise that Jesus knows when we are finding things hard. When do we find things hard?** (A: Open.)

**Q: What did the disciples think when they saw Jesus walking on the water?** (A: They thought that He was a ghost and were afraid.)

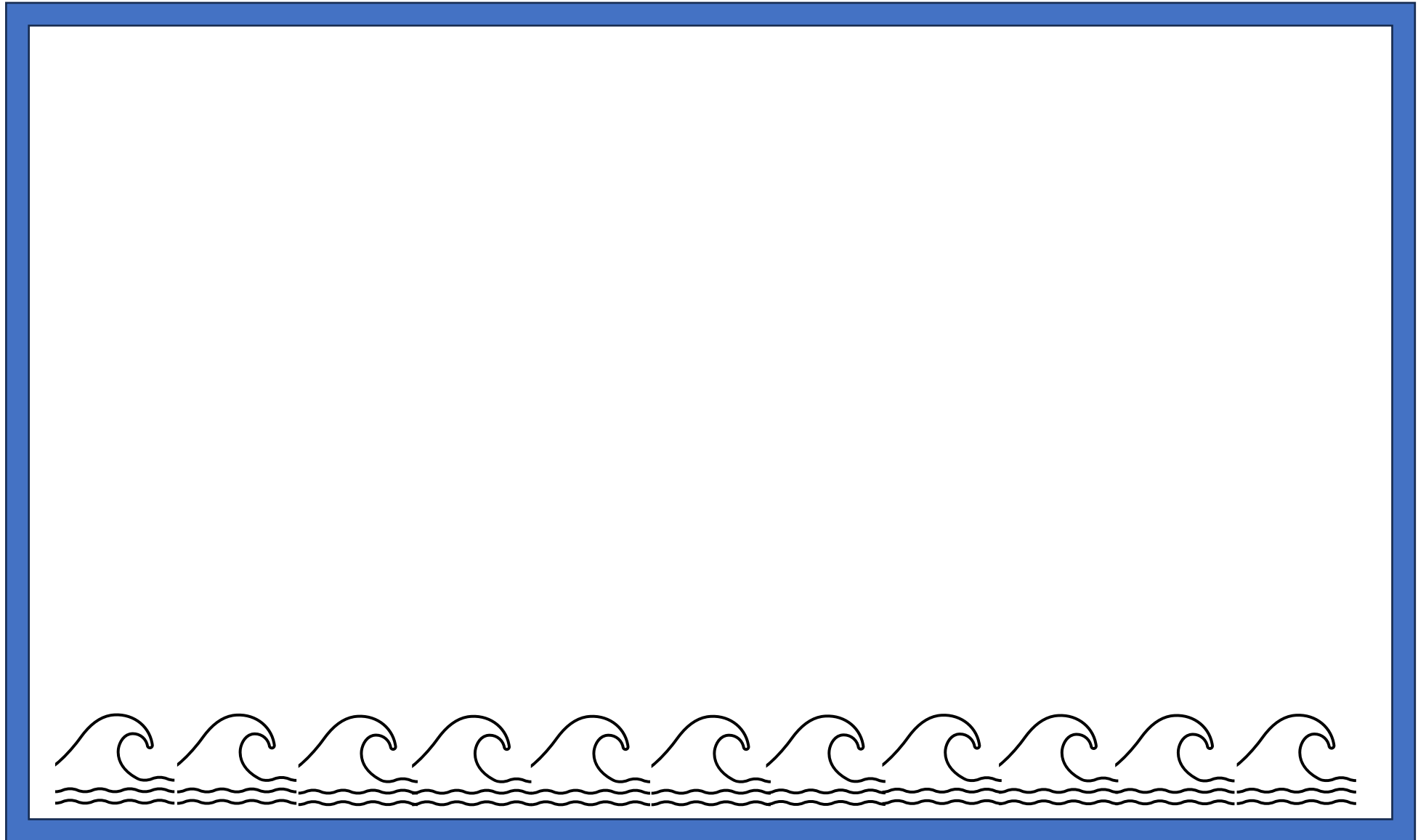
**Q: What did St. Peter do?** (A: Got out of the boat and walked on the water.)

**Q: That must have been quite a brave thing to do. But He trusted that Jesus would help Him... at first. What happened when he stopped trusting Jesus?** (A: Began to sink)

**Q: But Jesus rescued Him. We learn from this that Jesus might ask us to do some pretty difficult things but if He does, He is with us and will rescue us if things go wrong. But we have to trust Jesus in the first place, as St. Peter did. What difficult things might Jesus ask us to do?** (A: Open.)

**Let's ask Jesus to help us to do the difficult things He wants us to do. (invite the children to make up prayers)**

**Draw a picture of Jesus holding your hand as you both walk on water. Keep this picture as a reminder of the fact that Jesus is always with you and will hold your hand when times are difficult.**



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



### Gospel for the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

#### Matthew 15:21-28

At that time: Jesus went away and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.'

But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she is crying out after us.'

He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'

But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.'

And he answered, 'It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.'

She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.'

Then Jesus answered her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically

✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*It could seem that Jesus is being rude here, but as with everything in His ministry, there's a purpose to His reaction. He is showing that we have to really want something and be prepared to really pester God... with faith! It was the faith of the woman who was not a Jew, that impressed Him.*

**Q: Where was Jesus?** (A: In the region of Tyre and Sidon.)

**Q: This was not part of Israel and so the woman who approached Jesus was not a Jew but a Gentile. What did she call Jesus?** (A: Son of David.)

**Q: Why did she call Jesus "Son of David"?** (A: Because He descended from King David.)

**Q: What did she want Jesus to do?** (A: To heal her daughter.)

**Q: What did the disciples think about the woman?** (A: They did not like her shouting at Jesus and wanted Him to heal her daughter.)

**Q: When Jesus agreed to heal her, what did He say to her?** (A: Woman you have great faith.)

**Q: What is faith?** (A: Believing in Jesus.)

**Q: When we pray to Jesus and ask Him to help, it's not always easy to believe that He will make a change. Of course, sometimes we ask Him for the wrong things. Like when we ask our parents for something that isn't good for us. What are the wrong things might we ask for?** (A: Open.)

**Q: What are the good things we can ask Jesus for?** (A: Open – if they don't suggest it, add that we can ask Jesus to increase our own faith in Him.)

**Q: Jesus praised the woman for her faith. The saints give us many examples of praying for more faith. On the next page is the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester which is great to learn by heart. Let's pray this together and then you can colour it in and decorate it to put up on your wall at home.** (If there are young children who cannot read, leader should read the prayer a few words at a time for the others to repeat.)

**Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester**

Thanks be to you my Lord

Jesus Christ

for all the good things which  
you have given me;

for all the pains and insults  
which you have suffered for  
me.

O most merciful and forgiving  
Redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly, follow  
you more nearly day by day.

Amen.



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



### Gospel for the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

#### Matthew 16:13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?'

And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

Jesus said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle and introduce the Gospel liturgically

✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*Jesus asks us this question each day. He is not just a "good and brave" man, but He is also God. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man and is like us in all ways but sin. It's important to realise this. Jesus was just as human as we are. So if we are tempted to say, "I'm only human", remember that Jesus is human too. Only, we are sinful human beings, He is not.*

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

**Q: What were some of the answers?** (A: John the Baptist, Elijah... .)

**Q: Jesus Then asked the Apostles who they thought that He is. What did St. Peter say?**

(A: That He is the Christ/Messiah Son of the living God.)

**Q: What does "Christ/Messiah mean?** (A: It means anointed. The Jews were expecting someone anointed by God to come and be their saviour.)

**Q: St. Peter also called Jesus "Son of the living God." What does this mean?** (A: That Jesus is God the Son.)

**Q: So, St. Peter realised that Jesus is not just a good and holy man but that He is also God the Son. We need to remember this, that Jesus is God AND a human being. A couple of months ago we celebrated the Holy Trinity on Trinity Sunday. What is the Trinity?** (A: That God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

**Q: When do we remember that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit?** (A: When we make the Sign of the Cross.)

**Q: When do we make the Sign of the Cross?** (A: Open, e.g. at Mass, when putting fingers into Holy Water, beginning and ending of prayers, when we see a Catholic church, when an ambulance passes us by, before and after meals, the Sign of the Cross was made on us when we were baptised, the priest blesses us with a Sign of the Cross..... on the final page is a long list of these occasions – you may like to make a group poster with them instead of the individual handouts.)

**When we make the Sign of the Cross it's like a door to prayer. Let's slowly make a Sign of the Cross and think about the fact that the Father is God, the Son, Jesus Christ is God and the Holy Spirit is God. On the next pages is an activity where the children can write or draw times they make the Sign of the Cross. Suggestions are on the last page.**

## When do we make the Sign of the Cross?



We are baptised into the NAME of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.	The Sign of the Cross shows that we believe in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	The Sign of the Cross is like a shield in front of our bodies.
We make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass.	We make a Sign of the Cross over our bodies with our arms because it shows that our whole bodies are important.	The Sign of the Cross helps us to be aware of the grace that Jesus gives us to help us love Him and other people.
We make the Sign of the Cross when we genuflect in front of the Tabernacle.	Making the Sign of the Cross with our bodies shows that we don't always need words to pray.	The Sign of the Cross is like a door that we go through to be able to pray.
We make the Sign of the Cross at the end of Mass when the priest blesses us.	The Sign of the Cross reminds us that Jesus died on a cross.	We make the Sign of the Cross when we pass a Catholic Church as Jesus is there in the Tabernacle.
We make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips and heart at the Gospel.	The Sign of the Cross was marked on us by our parents and godparents when we were baptised.	We make the Sign of the Cross when we say grace before meals as it is like inviting Jesus to be with us.
On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ash in a cross shape.	The Sign of the Cross is recognised all over the world as a prayer.	The Sign of the Cross helps us to be strong in our faith.
The Sign of the Cross means that we belong to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	When we make the Sign of the Cross it shows that we love Jesus who died for us on the cross.	The Sign of the Cross helps us to stay close to Jesus when we are tempted to make wrong choices.
The Sign of the Cross means that we are joined to Jesus.	The priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine before it becomes Jesus' Body and Blood.	We make the Sign of the Cross when we see an ambulance to pray for the person inside.
Some people make the Sign of the Cross when they see a funeral to pray for the person who has died.	The Sign of the Cross is like a shield in front of our bodies.	We can bless ourselves and other people by marking a Sign of the Cross on their foreheads. (This is not the same as a priest's blessing).

