

St. Joseph's Family Activities



3rd Sunday of Easter 18th-25th April 2021

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Jesus Christ is risen, Alleluia!

We continue to celebrate the risen Lord and in this Sunday's Gospel we see that Jesus gave his disciples the gift of understanding. He gives us this gift too, through the Holy Spirit, but what did the disciples understand? Read below to find out.

We have two great saints this week, St. Anselm and St. George. There is a short family quiz on St. George and an activity to help other people spelling out "George". (There is also a note about who was patron saint of England before St. George was chosen.)

Let us pray for all those called George/Georgina etc, and also for our country this week.

If you have done any of these activities (and I am not just addressing the parish of St. Joseph's in Malvern) please do feedback to let me know what has been useful – and if you have any ideas of things that could be covered in future editions, please also let me know.

As ever, if you wish to see past copies of these sheets, please go to <https://www.stjosephsmalvern.org/j/> and then click on the dropdown box for past editions.

There are Four Dimensions of the Faith making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen



Photo credit © Carol Ann Hamnett

The family is the “domestic Church” and if we are not able to gather in person with the parish, it's a good idea to set aside special times to pray with the family, even if it is just 10 mins two or three times a week. These are graced moments. Light a candle and have a few moments' silence and remind everyone that they are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These times are very precious and even if it is just a few minutes after a meal, it can be a fruitful time. Don't bite off more than you can chew! Start with just a few moments and build up the scope and variety of prayers slowly. Give everyone the opportunity to voice their own prayers as well as reciting traditional prayers.

**Speaking/Learning the faith
(which the Church calls
“professing the faith”)**

**Living it (in Christ) – i.e. the
choices we make in
everyday life**

**Celebrating it in the liturgy
and the sacraments**

Christian prayer.

Gospel for Sunday 18th April

Luke 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord:

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Family discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Background: This is the continuation of the account of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus. It would be worth reading this first if you have time, as it's a great story in its own right and also shows us the pattern of Mass: reading and unpacking the Scriptures (the bible readings) and then recognising the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Q: What did the disciples think that Jesus was? (A: A ghost).

Q: How did Jesus prove that He wasn't a ghost? (A: He ate some fish.)

Q: What did Jesus mean when He talked about the Law of Moses, the Prophets and Psalms? (A: Basically, what we call, the Old Testament. *The Law of Moses refers to the first 5 books of the Bible, the Prophets is not just the writings of Isaiah and other prophets but the history books as well and the Psalms refer to those and the other wisdom literature.*)

Q: How did the disciples suddenly come to understand this? (A: Jesus opened their minds).

Q: What did the suddenly understand? (A: That on the cross Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins and that the Apostles had to go out and tell everyone this.)

Q: At Mass, just after the consecration (when the bread and wine have become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ) we say a little prayer which sums up this understanding of the disciples. What it is? (A: The mystery of faith, which is either: *We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.* Or: *When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.* Or: *Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*)

Finish by saying thank you to Jesus for dying on the Cross and rising again so that we can know and love Him more and more each day. Colour in the bookmarks on the next page and decorate the back of each one.

We proclaim your Death,

O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until
you come again

Save us, Saviour of the world,

for by your Cross and

Resurrection you have

set us free

When we
eat this

Bread and
drink this

Cup, we
proclaim

your Death,

O Lord,

until you

come again

21st April, St. Anselm

St Anselm (1033 - 1109)

St. Anselm was born in Italy and became a monk at Bec in Normandy. If you look at his dates you can see that he was alive during the time that the Normans came to England (1066). At Bec, Anselm became Abbot and taught theology and was known for his deeply prayerful life. Because the monastery at Bec has founded some communities in England after the Norman conquest, Anselm came to visit these places and became well known for his wisdom and prayerful life in this country too. When William the conqueror was dying, asked that Anselm was at his bedside, praying for him.

In 1093 St. Anselm reluctantly agreed (some say he was forced) to become Archbishop of Canterbury. He then had a lot of arguments with the kings who came after William the conqueror, who tried to control the Church, especially the choice and ordination of bishops. Anselm was sent away (exiled) but remained firm that church organisation and the appointment of bishops and priests should be the work of the Church, not of kings. Eventually these issues were resolved, and he was able return to his writing, and he died peacefully at Canterbury on 21 April 1109. His most famous teaching is:

Faith seeks understanding

This means that we need to have faith before we can begin to understand it. This is why most of us were baptised as babies. In Baptism we are given the gift of faith and then in our lives we grow in understanding of the faith we have been given.

Information from: The Catholic Encyclopaedia, <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01546a.htm>

A Prayer by St. Anselm

O my God, teach my heart where and how to seek You, where and how to find You.
You are my God and You are my all, yet I have never seen You.
You have made me and help me when I sin.
You have given me all the good things I have, yet still I do not know You.
I have not yet done that for which I was made.
Teach me to seek You, to look for you.
I cannot look for You unless You teach me or find You unless You show Yourself to me.
Let me look for You in the things I want, let me want to look for you.
Let me find You by loving You,
let me love You when I find You.

Amen

Read this prayer out slowly and then invite members of the family to choose one line to repeat slowly and to explain why they have chosen it.



23rd April, St. George, Patron Saint of England

Not a lot of detail is known about St. George's life. First of all, he was not English! It is often thought that he might have been a Roman soldier who became a Christian and then was prepared to die for His faith rather than give it up.

In the late 2nd and early 3rd Century, the Roman Emperor Diocletian persecuted Christians as they refused to worship the Roman gods. Thousands of men, women and even children were prepared to die rather than give up Jesus, and St. George was one of them.

He was martyred at Lydda (now in Israel) in about 303. He must have been a very special person as very quickly people prayed to him for protection. The story of him killing the dragon to save a princess developed about 500 years later! Dragons in the Bible represent the devil, and so St. George became known as a saint who would fight for those who called on him. This is why St. George is a very popular patron saint.

During the crusades, which began in about 1094 and went on for about 400 years, various European kings and nobles, encouraged by the popes, tried to reclaim the Holy Land (Israel), from Islamic rule. At this time, St. George represented the ideal of a brave Christian soldier and was adopted by a number of cities and countries as their patron. King Richard I of England placed his crusading army under the protection of St George, and in 1222 his feast was proclaimed a national holiday. Gradually St. George became the patron saint of all soldiers, and then in 1350 King Edward III made him the patron saint of England.

St. George is patron saint of:

Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany, Greece, Russia, Istanbul, Ethiopia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, as well as a lot of cities, e.g. Barcelona, Aragon, Catalonia, Genoa, and Venice (second to **Saint** Mark). I suspect that there are a lot more - if you know, please let me know!

Interesting fact:

Before St. George was patron saint of England, we actually had an English Patron saint, St. Edmund, who is portrayed on the reredos of our church in Malvern. He was the Anglo-Saxon king of East Anglia but he, refused to give up his faith in Jesus when the Vikings attacked. Therefore, he was tied to a tree and was used as target practice by the Vikings in about 870. That is why he is pictured holding an arrow. He was also a martyr and his feast is 20th November. Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk is named after him.



Ideas to Celebrate the Solemnity of St. George

Think of six great things you can do to show your care and concern for other people, spelling out "George". Some ideas have been given, but what can you think of?

G (be generous, give someone something)

E (encourage someone, entertain someone)

O (obey your parents straight away)

R (remove all the rubbish from your room)

G (gather up all the dirty plates at the end of the meal)

E (empty the dishwasher)

A quick Quiz - answers all in the information above

1. Was St. George English? (No).
2. What was he most likely to have been? (A Roman soldier).
3. Where did he die? (Lydda).
4. What is a martyr? (Someone who dies for their faith).
5. What was St. George patron saint of first? (Crusading soldiers).

Pray this prayer (the collect, or opening prayer from Mass today)

God of hosts, who so kindled the fire of charity in the heart of Saint George your martyr, that he bore witness to the risen Lord both by his life and by his death; grant us through his intercession, we pray, the same faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in his triumph may be led to share with him in the fullness of the Resurrection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

6. Why is St. George a popular saint? (Because he seemed to be good at fighting evil).
7. When was St. George's day first celebrated in England as a public holiday? (1222).
8. When was he officially made patron saint of England? (1350).
9. Name three other countries that he is patron saint of? (see the list above).
10. Who was patron saint of England before St. George? (St. Edmund the Martyr).