

St. Joseph's Family Activities



5th Sunday of Easter

2nd - 8th May 2021

stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com

“I am the true vine”

Yet another of Jesus' “I am” statements features in the Gospel this week. When Jesus says, “I am” He is using the unpronounceable name of God and is effectively declaring that He is God. Each of the “I am” statements reveal to us what kind of God we have. If you can do the reflection of the Gospel outside near a tree (or a vine if you have one) then that may help family members to grasp the message of the Gospel more fully.

On 3rd May we celebrate the feast of Sts. Philip and James Apostles, and on 4th May, it's the feast of the Martyrs of England. As this is the month of Mary, there is a prayer litany to Our Lady listing some of her many titles.

If you want to send in something about any of the English martyrs, or any feed-back, I would love to include it in future editions.

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

This is the paschal candle at St. Joseph's Malvern. It was painted by a parishioner with an image of a vine climbing up the candle to show that baptism unites us with Jesus Christ, and at Baptism we become a part of the true vine that He is.
(Image reproduced with permission)



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 minutes 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 5th Sunday of Easter

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to His disciples:

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.’

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

As with last week, John's Gospel is written in beautiful poetry which is not always easy for children to follow. You might like to just read the sections in bold, as the reflection below is based on these.

Q: What does Jesus say that He is? (A: The true vine).

Q: What is a vine? (A: It's a plant that grapes grow on.)

Q: What are the different parts of the vine (or a tree)? (A: Trunk or stem, branches, leaves, flowers, fruit, roots.) *It may be helpful to have a picture of a vine to help identify the different parts if you are not able to see one in reality.*

Q: What does Jesus say that we are? (A: The branches).

Q: Are branches a part of the vine? (A: Yes.)

Q: When did/do we become a part of Jesus the true vine? (A: At baptism.)

This means that every baptised person is a part of Jesus, as the branches are a part of a vine (or a tree).

Q: What does Jesus mean by asking us to “remain in Him”? (A: To stay close to Him, attached to Him, do what He says by His grace.....)

Q: What happens if you chop a branch off a tree or a vine? (A: It will die as the sap can't reach it.)

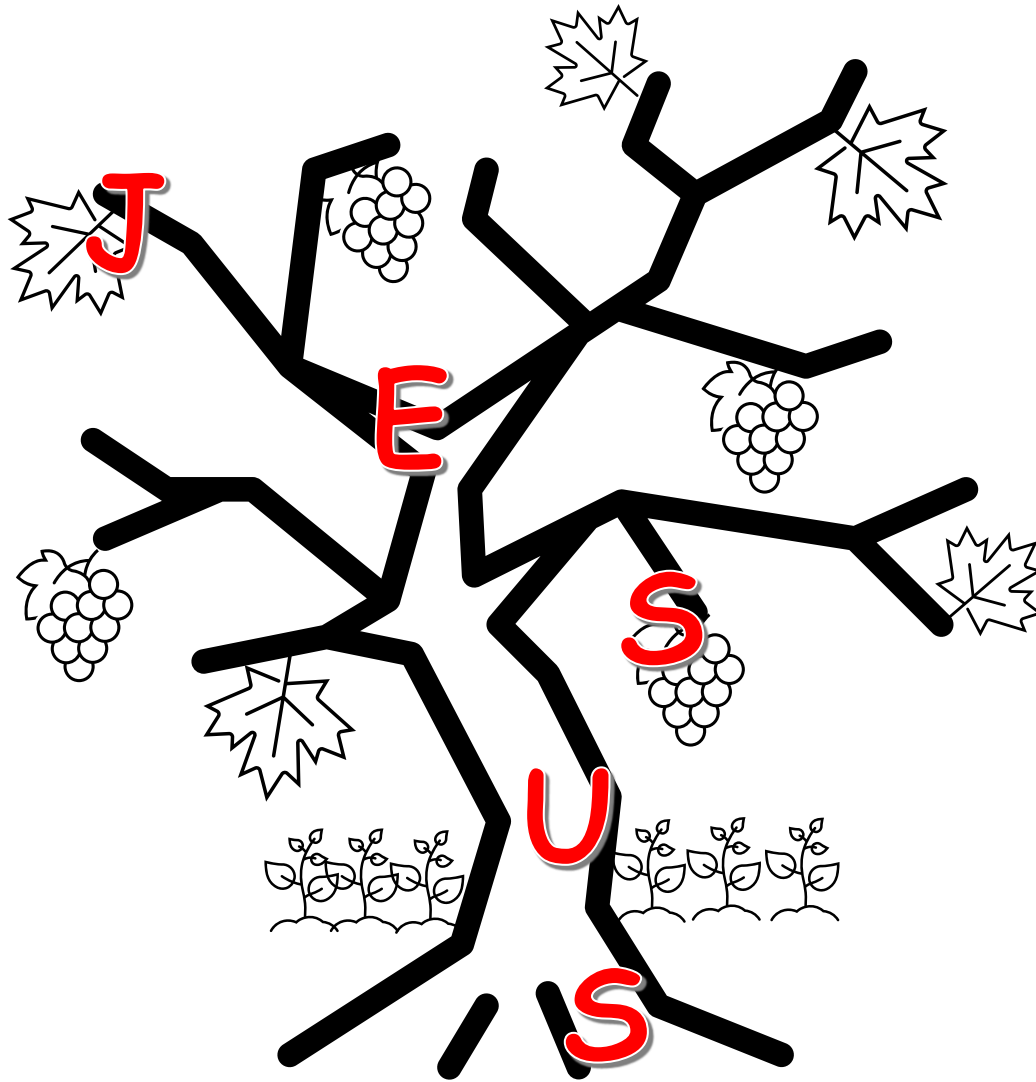
Q: When are we like a branch that is cut off from the vine or a tree? (A: When we choose not to pray, not to go to Mass, not to read the Bible not to be loving of other people.)

Q: How can we stay a part of Jesus the true vine and “bear fruit”? (A: When we pray, go to Mass, read the Bible and we bear fruit by being loving to other people.)

Decide what each person can do during the week to keep close to Jesus who is the true vine and “bear fruit”.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and every shall be, world without end, Amen.

To stay a part of Jesus the True Vine and bear fruit this week I can:



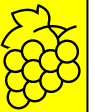
Learn this by heart:

"I am the true vine... As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me."



Or I will learn this: _____

Pray for members of my family or friends:






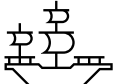
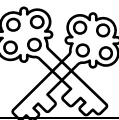

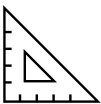




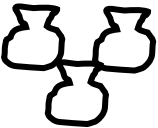

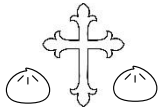


I will be loving to _____



By doing this: _____

3rd May, St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

Symbols of the Apostles			
<p>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.</p>			
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 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

St. Philip:

He was born at Bethsaida and was originally a disciple of St. John the Baptist. Jesus "found" Philip (Jn. 1:43) who in turn, invited to his friend, Nathaniel, to come and see Jesus, the long-expected Messiah (v.46). It was St. Philip who was worried that they did not have enough food or money to feed the 5,000 (Jn. 6:7). It is also Philip who says to Jesus "Show us the Father" (Jn. 14:8), which leads Jesus to explain that if we have seen Him (Jesus), we have seen the Father. In other words, Jesus is the face of the Father and we come to know the Father in and through Jesus.

We can see from these few accounts that St. Philip is someone who likes the facts and who is someone who likes to get things clear in his head. When we are finding things too confusing at times, we can turn to St. Philip and ask for his prayers to help us get things sorted in our heads.

St. James, son of Alphaeus:

He is called "James the Less" and is also called "James the brother of the Lord" (Mt. 13:55, Gal.1:19) to distinguish him from James the son of Zebedee. (Note that "brother" means cousin or from the same tribe or other relative). James "the brother of the Lord" ruled the Church (was the Bishop) at Jerusalem and wrote the epistle that bears his name, which is full of sober advice on the Christian life. At the "council of Jerusalem" the Church's first council, it was St. James who sensibly summed up the conditions for gentile converts and who recognised that gentiles (pagans) who became Christians did not need to become Jews first.

James says many wise things in his letter, such as:

- Anyone who lacks wisdom should ask God in faith for more wisdom (1:5).
- Faith without works is dead (2:17)
- Do not speak evil against one another (4:11)

Josephus, a Romano-Jewish historian, recorded the importance James had in the early Church at Jerusalem and also that he was stoned to death in AD 62.

Information from Butler's Lives of the Saints, Concise edition, Burnes & Oates (1991)

4th May, the English Martyrs

On 4 May 1535, at Tyburn in London, three Carthusian monks, the first of many martyrs of the English Reformation died for their faith in Jesus Christ. Since then, hundreds of men and women of every walk of life remained faithful to the universal Church and were prepared to die for their faith. There were rich and poor; married and single; men and women. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith and courage in the face of persecution. Many were tortured in prison in an effort to give up the names of other Catholics, but they refused to speak. Over forty of these men and women have been canonised (declared a saint) and nearly 250 have been beatified (declared a blessed).

On 25th October 1970 Pope Paul VI canonised 40 martyrs of England and Wales and this was their liturgical feast day until 2001 when the English date was moved to 4th May, but the Welsh still celebrate their martyrs on the 25th October.

Saint John Almond
Saint Edmund Arrowsmith
Saint Ambrose Barlow
Saint John Boste
Saint Alexander Briant
Saint Edmund Campion
Saint Margaret Clitherow
Saint Philip Evans
Saint Thomas Garnet
Saint Edmund Gennings
Saint Richard Gwyn
Saint John Houghton
Saint Philip Howard
Saint John Jones
Saint John Kemble
Saint Luke Kirby
Saint Robert Lawrence
Saint David Lewis
Saint Anne Line
Saint John Lloyd

This is the list of the forty martyrs canonised in 1970.

Why don't you find out about one of these and send what you find to me to include in a later edition of this activity pages. May be one of these martyrs lived near you? Or may be one of these people share your name.

*For example, **St. Anne Line** shares my second name (Ann) and so I looked up about her to find out that she and her husband became Catholics even though they knew that it was illegal. Her husband, Roger, was caught and banished to live abroad until he died, but this did not deter Anne. Anne used to hide priests in her house and secretly enabled people to come to Mass there, until one day it was noticed that a crowd had gathered, and the constables were sent to investigate. The priest, Fr Francis Page, hid in a secret hiding hole but Anne was arrested and was eventually sentenced to death. Before she died, she said that she did not regret what she had done and only wished that she could have helped a lot more priests.*

Saint Cuthbert Mayne
Saint Henry Morse
Saint Nicholas Owen
Saint John Payne
Saint Polydore Plasden
Saint John Plessington
Saint Richard Reynolds
Saint John Rigby
Saint John Roberts
Saint Alban Roe
Saint Ralph Sherwin
Saint Robert Southwell
Saint John Southworth
Saint John Stone
Saint John Wall
Saint Henry Walpole
Saint Margaret Ward
Saint Augustine Webster
Saint Swithun Wells
Saint Eustace White

May, the Month of Mary

Mary has lots of different titles many of which reflect how she cooperated (helped) her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ in His work of saving us so that we can live in the loving care of His Father, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. The wonderful thing about these titles is that we can use them when we pray to her and ask her for help. Say this litany by beginning each petition: Holy Mary, then use the given title, e.g. "Ark of the covenant", and then end with, "pray for us...."

Ark of the Covenant
Help of Christians
Holy Mary
Holy Mother of God
The Immaculate Heart
The Immaculate Conception
Mother Most Pure
Mother of Christ
Mother of God
Mother of Our Redeemer
Mother of Sorrows
Our Lady of Fatima
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Our Lady of Knock
Our Lady of Loreto



Our Lady of Lourdes
Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Our Lady of Nazareth
Our Lady of Peace
Our Lady of Sion
Our Lady of the Assumption
Our Lady of the Rosary
Our Lady of Victories
Our Lady Refuge of Sinners
Our Lady, Star of the Sea
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Queen of Angels
Queen of Heaven
Queen of Apostles
Queen of Peace