

# St. Joseph's Family Activities



**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

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**“Father, keep those you have given me true to your name,”**

This Sunday's Gospel comes from Jesus' "High-priestly prayer" in which He prayed for His disciples and for all those who would come after them. It's called Jesus' "High-priestly" prayer because it is similar to the prayer the Jewish High-priest would pray at the feast of the atonement in the Temple, when he systematically prayed for himself, those present and then for everyone else. It's reassuring that even then, Jesus is praying for us and praying that we stay true to Him!

The feast of St. Dunstan is coming up this week – we have a series of important English saints over the next few weeks and each of them have shaped our country and other countries too!

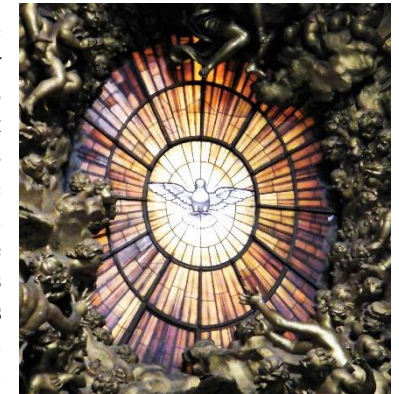
Please do send in photos of anything that you have done.

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 our Faith and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.***

## Come Holy Spirit

This is the week of the novena to the Holy Spirit which began on Thursday with the celebration of Christ's Ascension into heaven. Have a look at last week's pages for some prayer ideas to do this week as we pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. One way we can pray, is to pray the rosary, especially the glorious mysteries. See below for more on this and how you can make your own rosary.



*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 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

John 17:11-19

**Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:**

**‘Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us.**

While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name.

**I have watched over them** and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures.

But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full.

**I passed your word on to them**, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world.

**I am ... asking you ... to protect them from the evil one....**

Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.

**As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world**, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.’

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

*Again, some sections are in bold and if appropriate for younger children, just read these, as the reflection below is based on these.*

**Q: Who is Jesus praying to?** (A: His heavenly Father/God the Father. *If “God” is given as a response, remind the children that Jesus is God and that He is not talking to Himself. He is talking to God His Father. Remember that **God** is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*)

**Q: What does He ask the Father to do?** (A: To keep those the Father has given Him, true to His name.)

**Q: Who is Jesus talking about?** (A: His Apostles/disciples, also us.)

*This prayer was prayed by Jesus at the Last Supper, so He knew that He was going to be arrested. Therefore, He was asking the Father to help the Apostles as they were going to be very frightened.*

**Q: What does Jesus mean by keeping “true to Him”?** (A: Jesus did not want the Apostles to desert Him or run away, and if they did, to be able to come back to Him, which they all did apart from Judas, who betrayed Him.)

**Q: How can we stay true to Jesus?** (A: Various: pray, listen to/read the Bible, love Him, love other people, go to Confession to say sorry when we have done bad things.....)

**Q: Jesus has passed on the Father’s word to us, which means that He has taught us. What has He taught us? List as many things as you can that Jesus has taught us** (A: Open answers... ).

*It would be worth writing these down on a large sheet of paper and putting it up in a prominent place. Older children can add things they think of during the week.*

*End by slowly saying or reading out some of the sentences offered and then concluding with the Our Father together.*

# 19<sup>th</sup> May, St. Dunstan (909 - 988)

St. Dunstan is one of our most important English saints as he really helped the king before the Norman Conquest to organise the Church and the country. In those days there was almost no difference between the "law of the land" and "Church law."

Dunstan was a Benedictine monk who became the Archbishop of Canterbury, the most important Bishop in England at that time. He was born near Glastonbury in Somerset and educated at the abbey there (which is just ruins now). He became a priest at Winchester but then started to work for King Edmund who appointed him as Abbot of Glastonbury, his old school! A lot of the monks had become lax, that is, they had lost the habit of praying regularly, so Dunstan began to organise, not just the monks at Glastonbury, but all over England as well. This is considered to be one of the best things that he did for the Church in England.

After a short spell in what is now Belgium, where he saw the strict discipline of a monastery there, Dunstan came back to England and was made Bishop first of Worcester, then of London and then Archbishop of Canterbury. As archbishop, He composed (wrote) the Rite for the Coronation of King Edgar at Bath which is the basis of the Coronation Rite still in use.

Dunstan worked well with King Edgar, and together they worked on reforming the Church in England through the monastic orders. Dunstan advised King Edgar, making laws and generally governing the country and setting up governing structures for the Church in England. Remember, there was not much difference between Church law and state law. The whole law of the country was based on God's law of love for Him and our neighbour.

Dunstan died at Canterbury, on 19 May 988 at nearly 80 years old which was a long life for those days! After his death he was quickly recognised as a saint and was one of the most popular Anglo-Saxon saints. St. Dunstan, pray for us and for England.

## Making Laws:

If you had the chance to help create laws for this country based on God's law of love for Him and one another, what would your three most important laws be?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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# May, the Month of Mary

This week we are thinking about praying the rosary. The rosary is a lovely prayer which helps us to meditate on Jesus from His Incarnation (becoming man in Mary's womb) to His Ascension into heaven. We also reflect on the honour Jesus gives His mother in her Assumption and crowning. Traditionally, the Church reflects of different mysteries on different days of the week but as praying the rosary is an option (called a "devotion"), then you can reflect on the different mysteries whenever you like.

The Rosary classically is a ring of 5 sets of 10 beads, separated by another bead. There is a short set of 5 beads at the bottom, in a set of 3 with two on their own, above a crucifix.

Rosaries can also be "One-decade" that is, only the Our Father bead and 10 beads on a string with a crucifix. This is easier for carrying around. The photo also shows a rosary ring which is also a one-decade rosary.

The key prayers prayed are:

- The "Apostles Creed"
- The "Hail Mary"
- The "Our Father"
- The "Glory Be"
- And if you wish, the Fatima prayer can be added at the end of each decade:

*"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy".*

## **The Joyful Mysteries:** *Mondays, Saturdays*

- The Annunciation (Lk. 1:26-38)
- The Visitation (Lk. 1:39-56)
- The birth of Christ (Lk. 2:1-19)
- The presentation in the Temple (Lk. 2:22-36)
- The finding of the child Jesus in the Temple (Lk. 2:41-52)

## **The Mysteries of light:** *Thursdays*

- Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan (Mt. 3:13-17)
- The changing of water into wine (Jn. 2:1-12)
- Jesus' preaching (any Gospel but especially Mt. chapter 5-7)
- The Transfiguration (Lk. 9:28-36)
- The Institution of the Eucharist (Mk. 14:22-25)

## **The Sorrowful Mysteries:** *Mondays, Saturdays*

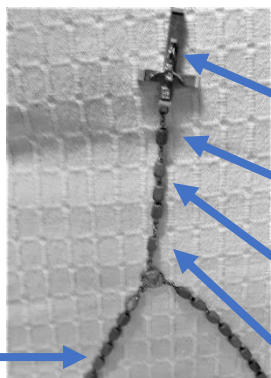
- The Agony in the garden (Lk. 22:39-46)
- Jesus is scourged (Mt. 27:27, Lk. 22:63-65, Jn. 19:1)
- Jesus is crowned with thorns (Mk. 15:17, Mt. 27:29)
- Jesus carried His cross (Jn.19:17, Lk. 23:26-29)
- Jesus dies on the Cross (Lk. 23:32-49, Jn. 19:17-37)

## **The Glorious Mysteries:** *Wednesdays, Sundays*

- Jesus' Resurrection (Mt. 28:1-10, Mk. 16:1-6)
- Jesus Ascension into heaven (Mt. 28:16-20, Acts 1:6-11)
- The coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)
- Mary's Assumption into heaven (Catechism 966, also Gen. 2:16-17, death as a result of sin)
- Mary is crowned queen of heaven (Rev.12:1-2)



## How to pray the Rosary



- Holding the crucifix between your fingers, make the Sign of the Cross with it.
- On the first bead, pray the Apostles Creed (may be omit with young children).
- On the next three beads say a "Hail Mary" for each bead, for the Pope.
- On the next bead say the "Our Father"
- Announce which "mystery" you are praying, e.g. "the Annunciation" and then may be describe the scene of the Angel Gabriel coming to Mary.
- Pray a "Hail Mary" for each of the beads until you come to the large bead or the one that is set apart.
- Pray the "Glory Be" and then the Fatima prayer if you wish.
- Announce the next mystery, e.g. "The Visitation" and briefly describe the scene.
- Begin with an "Our Father" and then the 10 "Hail Marys" as before.

### *Praying the rosary together:*

It is usual for the prayers to be split into two so one person prays the first part of the "Our Father" and everyone else prays the second half, as a response. This also applies to the "Hail Marys and the "Glory be". The Fatima prayer is generally prayed together.

### *Praying for an intention:*

The Rosary is a very powerful prayer and so we can "offer" our rosary for someone else. May be for the sick, or for a particular person. Or we can offer each decade for a different intention. Don't forget that we can pray for ourselves! As Catholics we are good at praying for other people, but if you have a concern, ask Our Lady to pray for us!

## Variations and suggestions with children

- Have a picture of the scene that the mystery is based on. (Collect good Christmas cards for the Joyful Mysteries and look for images on the internet.)
- Just pray one decade at a time.
- Or if you would like to cover the whole set of mysteries, then pray the "Our Father", three "Hail Marys" and the "Glory be".
- Instead of praying on a rosary, with very young children you can put out some cups or bowls with each "Hail Mary" so that they have to put one down. It keeps them involved. May be get a set of wooden bricks and label them to use again and again and why not let the children choose which mystery they are going to pray?
- Make a one-decade Rosary (see below) and as each bead is added you can talk through the mystery you are focussing on.

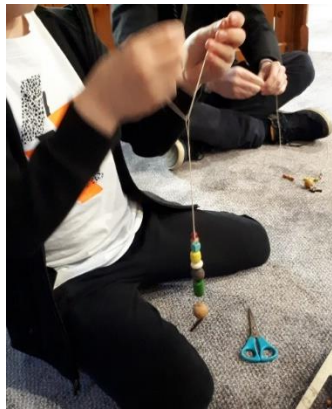


# Making a one-decade Rosary

1. Begin with a crucifix (one from a broken Rosary may be?) and thread a cord through the loop at the top.

2. Fold the cord in half and thread both ends through a single bead, knotting them together on the other side of the bead.

3. Carefully thread five beads along each string. It's easier to do one side and then the other, but take care not to drop the first side when threading the second.



4. When all ten beads are in place, tie the two ends together at the end of the sets of beads. Make sure that you allow some space between the beads so that you can finger them when praying.

5. Carefully cut the ends of the cord.



6. Your rosary is now ready to use.

Ask your priest to bless your rosary and it becomes a holy object.

Maybe you can make a nice bag or box to keep it in when you are not praying with it.

