

# St. Joseph's Family Activities

## August 2021

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### August, a month crowded with lots of amazing saints and feasts.

This month there are five Sundays, so I have prepared an question and answer section for each of the Sunday Gospels. One of these Sundays is the wonderful celebration of Mary's Assumption into heaven. We were once in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on this Solemnity and just at the moment of the consecration, suddenly a shaft of sunlight came through a high window and shone directly on a statue of Our Lady on the sanctuary. God is so good to give us these precious moments.

A reader has sent in some photos of the cress growing suggestion, and another reader emailed with feedback on the saints. If you are out and about this August, and visit places of Catholic cultural heritage, please do send in photos to share. Also as ever, any photos of the activities you do would be most appreciated.

I wish you a blessed August whether it's a true "staycation" in your home or you are managing to visit our beautiful country.

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.***

Marking the mid-point of August we celebrate the Assumption – when Mary was taken up into heaven at the end of her earthly life. This is a mosaic of Jesus crowning Mary from St. Mary Major in Rome. Note that Jesus is crowning her with his crown.



*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.**

## First reading and Gospel for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August; 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### First reading, Exodus 16:2-4,12-15

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion.'

And so it came about: in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

### Gospel: John 6:24-35

Jesus said, 'You are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: ***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

## Discussion on the Gospel

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

***Introduction: The first reading sets the scene for the Gospel. Jesus has fed the 5,000 with just 5 loaves and 2 fish, and still, they want a sign like the manna in the desert. Both reading have been edited for the children.***

**Q: Why were the people looking for Jesus in the Gospel?** (A: Because they wanted to eat more (free) bread.)

**Q: Who did Jesus say had given the bread in the desert?** (A: His Father (in heaven).)

**Q: What did Jesus say that the Father gives them today?** (A: The True Bread that gives life to the world.)

**Q: Who is the True Bread?** (A: Jesus.)

**Q: How does Jesus describe Himself?** (A: As the Bread of life.)

**Q: Why do think that Jesus describes Himself as this?** (A: Because when we receive Him, He helps our souls to grow, and we receive His life which is Eternal Life. It means that He is inviting us to live with Him in heaven for ever.)

**Q: Why is receiving Jesus in Holy Communion better than the manna in the desert?** (A: Because the manna in the desert kept the people from starving and fed their bodies but receiving Jesus in Holy Communion feeds our souls.)

**Q: What can we do at Mass to make it a more prayerful time?** (A: Various, e.g. following the Mass in a missal, reading the Gospel beforehand, looking up and praying "My Lord and my God" when the host and chalice are raised up...)

**Finish by praying; "O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment thine"**

**Colour in this prayer and draw or cut out a picture of Jesus in the middle, to put up in your bedroom.**

O Sacrament most Holy O Sacrament divine

all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment thine

## Readings for Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### First reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah went into the wilderness, a day's journey, and sitting under a furze bush wished he were dead. 'O Lord,' he said 'I have had enough. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down and went to sleep. But an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked round, and there at his head was a scone baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you.' So he got up and ate and drank, and strengthened by that food he walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

### Gospel: John 6:41-51

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' ... How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"? Jesus said in reply, 'Stop complaining to each other.

... I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. 'I am the bread of life....

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle

✠ Make the Sign of the Cross

✠ Someone read the readings slowly (the Gospel has been shortened for the children)

*Once again, the first reading sets the scene which helps us to understand the Gospel. The background of the first reading is that Elijah had worked very hard to help people to understand God's message, but they still did not want to listen to him, so he ran away, trying to hide. He had no food for his journey, but God was not going to abandon him!*

**Q: In the first reading how was Elijah feeling at the beginning?** (A: depressed, unhappy, alone, unloved....)

**Q: What did God do to help him?** (A: Sent an angel to give him food and drink and to encourage him.)

**Q: Why did God give Elijah food and drink?** (A: To give him strength for his journey to Horeb.)

**Q: What is the bread that Jesus gives?** (A: Himself.)

**Q: Where does Jesus say that He comes from?** (A: Heaven.)

**Q: What kind of bread is Jesus?** (A: The living bread.)

**Q: What will happen to anyone who eats the bread that Jesus gives?** (A: Will live for ever)

**Q: Jesus is not talking about living on earth for ever, but where is he referring to?** (A: In Heaven/Eternal Life.)

**Q: In the first reading, Elijah was given bread (a scone) and water to give him strength for his journey to Horeb, God's sacred Mountain. In the Gospel Jesus is referring to the Bread of Life as giving us strength for a different journey.**

**What is that we are on journey towards?** (A: Heaven/Eternal Life.)

**Q: How does receiving Jesus in Holy Communion help us on our earthly journey to heaven?** (A: It gives us grace to be strong and to resist temptations.)

*We each have a guardian angel. Finish with the guardian angel prayer on the next page and learn it by heart. Colour it in and decorate the page and may be draw a picture of the angel helping Elijah as a reminder of how God helps us when life is not easy. It's good to ask our guardian angel to protect us at the beginning of every journey.*



Angel of God my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love commits me here,  
Ever this day be at my side,  
To light and guard,  
To rule and guide.

Amen.

## Gospel for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'  
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Discussion on the Gospel

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

*The beautiful dogma of the Assumption of Mary into heaven teaches us that we are all called to live in heaven with Jesus. Remember that sin leads to death but as Mary had no sin, the Church understands that at the end of her earthly life, Mary ascended into heaven and is now with her Son, praying for us. Mary was Jesus' first tabernacle on earth (the tabernacle is where the Body of Our Lord is reserved in the church) and Mary carried Jesus, who is God, around with her before she gave birth to Him. United with God is a unique way before Jesus' birth, she is now united with Him in heaven, whilst praying for us all.*

**Q: How does Elizabeth describe Mary?** (A: The most blessed.)

**Q: Mary's response is by singing the song which we know as the "Magnificat". How does it begin?** (A: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.....)

**Q: Why does Mary praise God like this?** (A: Various – because He has chosen her, a poor and lowly girl to carry Jesus and to give birth to Him who is God the Son.)

**Q: How does Mary help Jesus with His ministry? We can answer this by listing all the occasions that you can think of that Mary appears in the Gospels:** (A: See next page for the answers).

**Q: Mary prayed – she *asked* how she could be the Mother of God; she *praised* the Father in the Magnificat; she *pondered* (reflected) on the amazing things that were happening to her; she *interceded* (asked Jesus to help) for these in need; she *followed* Jesus and *obeyed*, right to the Cross; and she *prayed* for the Holy Spirit with the disciples. What kind of prayer can we do now?** (A: Follow the suggestions and have a time of prayer, such as praising God, thanking Him, reflecting on His amazing gifts and asking for what we need.)

**Finish by praying the Hail Mary or another prayer to Our Lady.**

*Draw pictures in each of the boxes below – may be share out with others and cut out and stick/hang in a long line to create a pictogram of Mary's life.*

**1. Annunciation** [Lk. 1:26-38]  
Mary agrees to God's plan.

**2. Visitation** [Lk. 1:39-55] Mary  
recognises God's plan is amazing.

**3. Jesus' Birth** [Lk. 2:1-20]  
Mary brings Him into the world.

**4. Presentation in the Temple**  
[Lk. 2:22-36] Jesus is recognised  
as the Son of God.

**5. Visit of the wise men** [Mt.  
2:1-12] Mary shows Jesus to the  
wider world.

**6. Finding in the Temple** [Lk.  
2:41-52] Mary obeys the Jewish  
rituals giving Jesus the chance to  
begin his heavenly Father's work.

**7. Mary ponders on what is  
happening** [Lk. 2:19,51]  
inviting us to do the same.

**8. Wedding at Cana** [Jn. 2:1-12]  
Mary intercedes for those in need.

**9. Mary accompanies Jesus**  
[Mt. 12:46-50] Obeying Jesus  
makes us His family.

**10. At the foot of the Cross**  
[Jn. 19:25-27] Mary becomes the  
mother of the Church.

**11. Pentecost** [Acts 1:12-14, 2:1-  
4] Mary is with the disciples at  
the beginning of the Church.

**12. Mary's Assumption** and she  
is now in heaven praying for us.

**Gospel for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August; 21<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**John 6:60-69**

*(The first part of the Gospel has been  
summarised for the children as below)*

*Many of the followers of Jesus were upset about  
Jesus' teaching that He is the Bread of life and  
left Him.*

...

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about  
you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter  
answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have  
the message of eternal life, and we believe; we  
know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: ***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

**Discussion on the Gospel**

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

*The full text of this Gospel is difficult for children to grasp, especially as we don't have the continuity from last week as Sunday was the solemnity of the Assumption. So, this week, we will look at this key statement from St. Peter.*

**Q: What did Jesus ask His Apostles?** (A: If they wanted to leave Him.)

***Explain that Jesus' teaching that He is the Bread of Life shocked a lot of people, so they left Jesus.***

**Q: What was St. Peter's response?** (A: He asked to whom they could go, as Jesus has the words of Eternal Life.)

**Q: What does "Eternal Life" mean?** (A: A life with Jesus which actually begins now but carries on in Heaven after we have died.)

**Q: What does St. Peter say that the Apostles believe?** (A: That Jesus is the "Holy One of God")

**Q: What does St. Peter mean what He says that Jesus is the "Holy One of God"?**  
(A: That Jesus is the Son of God/God the Son, who was promised long ago and who would save us from our sins [by dying on the Cross].)

**Q: When do we say that we believe in Jesus?** (A: Open... e.g. in the Creed on Sundays, at Baptism [our parents probably said this on our behalf if we were babies] when people ask us about Jesus/and or why we go to Mass.)

**As well as praying the Creed, we can make a short act of faith, such as the one below. Finish with this prayer:**

**O my God, I firmly believe that you are the One True God in  
three Divine Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe  
that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and  
that He will come to judge the living and the dead. Amen.**

***On the next two pages are activities to build on this statement of faith in God***



These are all the kinds of questions that people might ask you about Jesus, or about your faith. Draw a line from the question to the answer that you might give (there are several possibilities of answers)

Who is Jesus?

God is Trinity; He is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to show us how much He loves us and to bring us back to Him.

Jesus is God the Son

What do you mean you say that Jesus is God the Son?

I go to Church because Jesus gives me strength (called grace) to be a Christian

Jesus is the One who saves us from our sins

What is this "sin" that Jesus saves us from?

I go to Church because I learn more about Jesus and about my faith

A sin is something that we do on purpose that hurts God and other people.

We know that Jesus is God's Son because when He was on earth, He prayed to God and called Him "Father".

A sin is also something that we do not do on purpose that we should do, and this also hurts God and other people.

Why do you go to Church?

I go to Church because I meet Jesus at Church

# Finding the Holy Trinity around us

*The Holy Trinity is often symbolised by the number three, and we can look out for things that have threes or are in threes or are three sided (triangular) to remind us that God is Trinity. Tick off then you see each of these things. How many can you find in a week?*

1. A flower with three petals
2. A flower with three leaves
3. A tree with three stems
4. A triangular window
5. A house with a triangular roof
6. A building with a triangle on it
7. A triangular leaf
8. A triangular stone
9. Three steps leading to a door
10. Three windows on the front of a building
11. Three cars parked together
12. Three houses together
13. Three trees on the top of a hill
14. Three horses in a field together
15. Three boats sailing together
16. Three people standing together
17. Three cakes on a plate
18. Three apples in a bowl
19. A bird's footprint with three talons going forward
20. Three arches together (as on a bridge)

Draw some of the things you find here or ask Mum or Dad to send me photos of what you found.

## Gospel for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August; 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,  
while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,  
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## Discussion on the Gospel

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

*Jesus' list of sins is hard-hitting and may not be appropriate to read in its entirety to very young children unless you can give a good and faith-filled explanation of them. See the explanation below and may be omit terms which are not appropriate for your age group. Note however that the list in its entirety is appropriate for teens and it can lead to a discussion on why Jesus teaches these things (contrary to the message they receive from society).*

**Q: What did the Pharisees complain about?** (A: That Jesus' disciples did not ritually wash.)

**Q: What was Jesus' response?** (A: He said that nothing that goes into someone [that we eat] will make us unclean but it's what we do [that comes out of us] that makes us unclean.)

**Q: What does "unclean" in this text mean?** (A: It means being "dirty" because of our sins.)

**Q: What are the things that Jesus says make us unclean?** (A: Evil intentions bad ideas]; fornication [sex before marriage]; theft [stealing] murder [killing people] adultery [breaking marriage vows] avarice [greed] malice [unkindness/hatred/mean-ness] deceit [lies] indecency [not dressing properly] envy [being jealous of others] slander [telling lies about others] pride [boasting] folly [doing stupid things that can be dangerous or selfish])

**Q: When we do things that make us "unclean" what part of us is made unclean?** (A: Our souls.)

**Q: How can our souls be made clean again?** (A: By saying sorry to God and best of all, by going to confession.)

**Finish with a moment of recollection and think about the things that we have done that hurt other people and have made our souls unclean. Say together: O 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.**

# The seven deadly sins and their opposites

Below are the traditional seven deadly sins, an explanation and an action that is the opposite. Draw a line from the sin (in the middle) to the explanation on the left and the positive action on the right.

I want something that someone else has, even if it's more than my fair share

I get so cross that I lose control of myself

I think that I am the best

I want or desire someone or something for my own pleasure

I am lazy and can't be bothered to work or help

I eat too much and more than my share

I am so jealous of that others have that it makes me hate them

Pride

Covetousness

Lust

Anger

Gluttony

Envy

Sloth

I can give some of my possessions away, or to a charity shop

I can say "well done" to someone else for their hard work, even if you think that my effort is better

I can fast from something nice or give up a treat for a few days/a week

I can imagine Jesus giving a big hug to the person I am angry with

I can count all the things I have and say thank you to God for each of them, e.g. Thank you God for... Thank you God for ...

I can do an extra job at home to help a member of the family

I can complement someone on the one thing that they have that I wish that I had



# Some August Feasts

## 6<sup>th</sup> August, The Transfiguration of the Lord

This is a beautiful feast which confirmed Jesus' divinity (that He is God as well as man), Jesus invited Sts. Peter, James and John to go with Him up a mountain to pray. Whilst Jesus was praying, suddenly His clothes became all shiny and bright and He shone like the sun. Then Moses and Elijah (two people from the Old Testament) were seen talking to Jesus. Jesus was then covered with a cloud and a voice was heard saying "This is my Son, the beloved, listen to Him." When the cloud disappeared, only Jesus was to be seen. Jesus told the Apostles not to tell anyone until after He had risen from the dead, but the Apostles didn't know what He meant at that time. (Mk. 9:2-10).

**Q: How does this event show us that Jesus is God?** (A: Jesus shone with the glory of heaven/the Father said that Jesus is His Son.)

**Q: What did Jesus mean about rising from the dead?** (A: That He would rise from the dead after His crucifixion.)

**Q: We "see" Jesus, we "hear" the voice of the Father, how do you think the Holy Spirit is represented in this story?** (A: The cloud that covered Jesus.)

**Q: All three Divine Persons are featured here. What other Gospel passages are all three Divine Persons mentioned?** (A: The Annunciation [Lk1:26-38], Jesus Baptism [Mt. 3:13-17 & parallels], when Jesus promises the Holy Spirit



This is part of a very famous painting by Raphael of Jesus' Transfiguration.

**Q: Why do you think that Jesus' arms are spread out like they are?** (A: Because Jesus was talking about His death with Moses and Elijah and this is the position He would have on the Cross).

Picture accessed from: <https://m.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani-mobile/en/collezioni/musei/la-pinacoteca/sala-viii---secolo-xvi/raffaello-sanzio--trasfigurazione.html>

[Jn.14:15=17], Jesus' death in the Cross "Father into your hands I give my Spirit" [Lk. 23:46].)

## 8<sup>th</sup> August, St. Dominic (1170-1221)

This year marks the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Dominic, one of the most important medieval saints in Europe. He was born in Spain and accompanied his bishop (Diego de Azevedo) in a mission of the Gospel in France. Dominic and Diego rejected wealth and riches, which was unusual for respected bishops and priests of that time. Their main aim was to be able to explain the Gospel clearly and to help people to understand the truth of the Church's teaching about Jesus and the sacraments.

In 1216 Dominic founded the Order of Preachers. The main aim of his order was to build communities who would send preachers out, teaching the Gospel, relying completely on the donations of those who supported them. He emphasised the importance of prayer and good preparation for explaining the Gospel to people.

He said, "When those devout wise men entered the home of Mary, they found the child Jesus with His mother, and falling down on their knees they worshipped Him. When we enter a church, we too need to fall down on our knees and worship Jesus."

A contemporary of St. Dominic's said about him, that he used to pray by throwing himself outstretched upon the ground, lying on his face, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Bert Ghezzi, *The Times Book of Saints*, Harper Collins, 2000).

There are now hundreds of Dominican communities, some of men and some of women, around the world.



Dominicans wear white tunics with a black cloak and the many places called "Blackfriars" in this country, reflect former Dominican houses before the Reformation.

There are some famous Dominicans, such as one of the greatest teachers of the faith of the Middle Ages, St Thomas Aquinas, and also, a couple of hundred years later, a favourite of mine, blessed Fra Angelico, was a Dominican who taught with his paintbrush rather than with words.

What is Fra Angelico preaching about in this painting of the "Adoration of the Magi" on:

- Jesus
- Mary
- The wise men
- Joseph
- The world

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/fra-angelico/adoration-of-the-magi-1434>

Jesus is God as the wise men are kneeling and kissing His foot, so He must be God.  
Mary wears blue meaning that she has been chosen by God (blue is a heavenly colour)  
The wise men recognise the importance of worshipping Jesus and of giving him good things  
St. Joseph (and Mary) have a halo which means that they are saints and now live in heaven with Jesus  
The bare rocky mountains in the distance show us that the world is sinful but Jesus came to save us from our sins.



## 14<sup>th</sup> August, St. Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941)

Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish Franciscan priest who taught that Christians must do everything they can to get the message of Jesus' work of our salvation to as many people as possible. He urged people to use "modern" means of communication such through magazines and radio. When the Germans invaded Poland in 1939, his community sheltered thousands of refugees from the Germans, most of them Jews. However, in 1941 he was arrested and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz. He did not stop working and did everything possible to help his fellow captives, encouraging them and supporting them as best he could. One day, a prisoner escaped, and the camp authorities chose ten people to die by starvation as a warning to everyone else. One of the men chosen to die had a family, and Maximilian Kolbe offered to take his place. The offer was accepted, and he spent his last days comforting his fellow prisoners as one by one they all died in a tiny, cramped cell not big enough to stand up in. In the end, Maximilian was the last to die and was finally killed by a poisonous injection.

The man he saved was present at his canonisation.

**WWJD - what would Jesus do? St. Maximilian Kolbe did what Jesus did - Jesus died for us, and St. Maximilian died instead of another man**

**Next time you see someone needing help, think,  
WWJD?**

**Then do what Jesus would do!**

## 27<sup>th</sup> August, St. Monica (331-387)

Monica a Christian lived in Thagaste in North Africa. She married a man called Patricius, who was not a Christian and who did not always treat her very nicely. However, he did not stop her from praying and practicing her faith. Monica had a number of children who were brought up as Christians and one of these was her rebellious but brilliantly clever son, Augustine. He did not pay attention to the Christian teaching that he had been taught as a child. However, every day, Monica prayed for Augustine and others in her family that they might come to know Jesus Christ. Eventually, just before she died, Monica's prayers were answered, and Augustine was baptised and went on to become one of the most important teachers of the faith the Church has known. Also, her husband and mother-in-law were also converted and were baptised.

St. Monica gives hope to all those who pray hard for family members. God hears our prayers and answers them in his own good time. But we must not give up praying.

### **Make a family prayer tree:**

**Cut out a large tree shape from card and put it up somewhere that everyone can see. Then using post-its or labels, stick on the names of people in your family that you want to pray for.**


**Don't just pray for those who are sick, pray above all everyone becomes the person that God created them to be. And don't forget to pray for yourselves.**

## 28<sup>th</sup> August, St. Augustine (354 - 430)

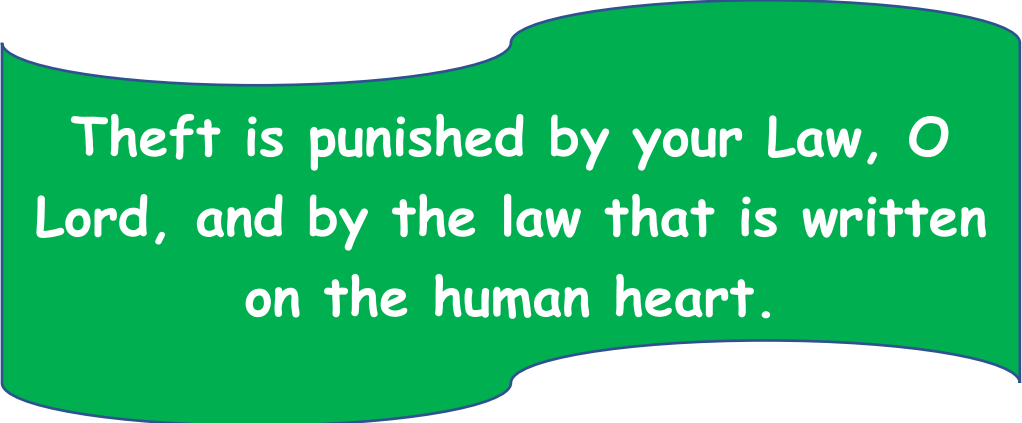
Augustine was born in Thagaste in North Africa of a Berber family and was the son of St. Monica. He was brought up a Christian but left the Church early and lived a rather dissolute life. Eventually, through the prayers of his mother and the teaching of St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptized in 387, shortly before his mother's death.

Augustine had been a brilliant and clever man and had many admirers in "secular" society. But after his conversion he returned home to Africa and led a life of poverty, living off only what he needed and nothing more. He was much happier now than he's ever been. He became Bishop of Hippo and spent 34 years looking after his flock, teaching them, strengthening them in the faith and protecting them strenuously against the errors of the time. He wrote an enormous amount and his works contributed greatly to the Church's teaching and understanding of the mystery of Jesus Christ's work of our salvation (saving us from our sins and restoring us to the Father in Eternal Life).

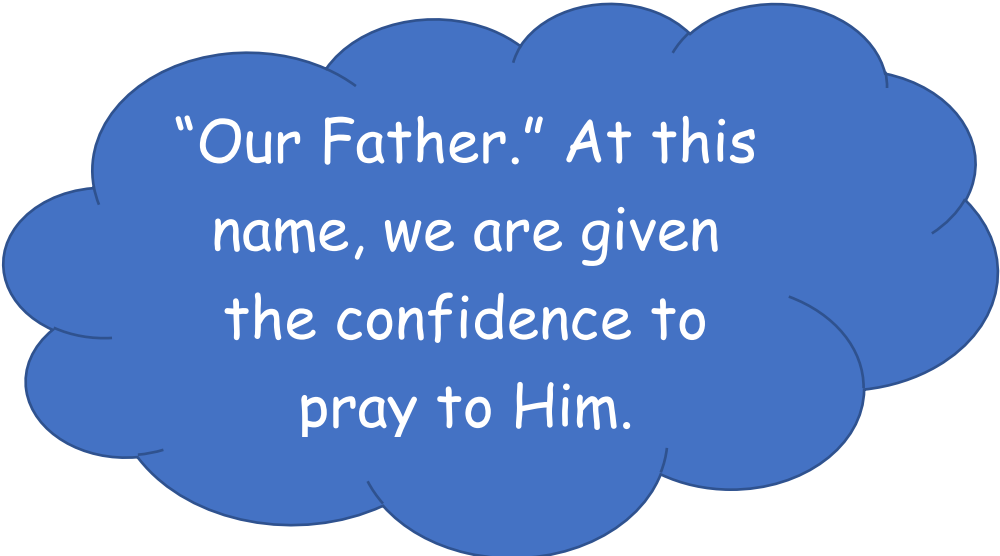
These are just some of the things that St. Augustine said. Cut them out and put them up on the fridge to remind you.



"Our hearts are  
restless until they  
rest in you O Lord"



Theft is punished by your Law, O  
Lord, and by the law that is written  
on the human heart.



"Our Father." At this  
name, we are given  
the confidence to  
pray to Him.



## Feedback Page!



In June, there was the suggestion to grow cress on some kitchen paper and Pamela and her daughters had a go with great success.

"I just wanted to tell you that I had not been so aware of all the different saints until I started to read these sheets. Thank you for featuring them and the related prayers and activities." (SC)

*If you have any feed-back or photos, please so send them to me. If in the holidays you visit places with an interesting Catholic heritage, please do send me any photos to feature here.*