

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

## Easter tide 2024 (Year B)



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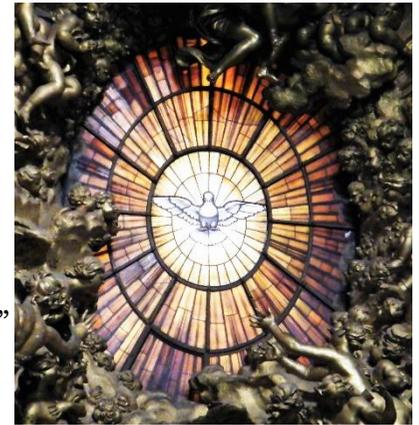
St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were developed to support my parish of St. Joseph in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, but they are now used by parishes and schools not just in the UK,

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.***

### An extraordinary seven weeks

The Easter Season is longer than Lent! Our joy in the Resurrection and the new life Christ brings us is longer than the time we spent preparing for it! The journey of Eastertide is one of joy which culminates in the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost. This is the season of the sacraments when many in our parishes are being prepared for their First Holy Communion and for Confirmation. Don't forget that we receive the Holy Spirit in all the sacraments; the Holy Spirit first comes to us in Baptism, and His grace is strengthened in the reception of all the other sacraments. In Confirmation we receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as He strengthens us for mission. For most of us, our mission is in the home, parish and school but the Holy Spirit helps us in the everyday situations of our lives at home and in the community to witness to Christ's work of salvation in words and deeds. I wish you a joyous Eastertide!



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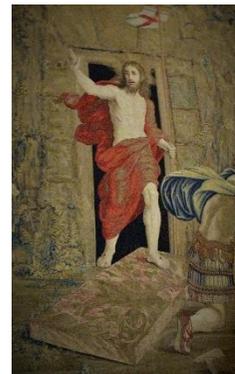
This is the “Holy Spirit” window in St Peter's Basilica, Rome. Unlike most churches, because of the lie of the land, the building is orientated to the West and not the East, and so this window catches the wonderful light of the setting sun, filling the building with its soft glow. This reminds us of how the Holy Spirit fills us with His power and grace, enabling us to see and understand Christ's wonderful work in us.

***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**

The Resurrection, tapestry, Vatican Museums © Carol Ann Harnett 2022.



**Living the faith in Christ (making choices by the grace of Jesus Christ)**

**A prayer-filled life where the Our Father takes centre stage**

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



### Gospel for The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

#### 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*

### 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. If you are looking at this in a non-Mass situation, 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 they 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

**Gospel for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 21<sup>st</sup> April  
(Good Shepherd Sunday)**

**John 10:11-18**

**Jesus said: ‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.**

**The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;** this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

**‘I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;**

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

‘The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

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**

*John’s Gospel is written in beautiful poetry but it not always easy for children to follow so you might like to just read the sections in bold, as the reflection below is based on these.*

**Q: What did Jesus say that He is?** (A: The Good Shepherd).

**Q: What does a shepherd do?** (A: Look after sheep.)

**Q: What kind of animals are sheep?** (A: Various answers possible, but you might like to say that they can be very silly and get themselves into scrapes and need rescuing. They will also follow other silly sheep.)

**Q: How does a shepherd look after sheep?** (A: Various answers, such as gathering them, feeding them, shearing them, leading them with dogs/buggies/helps them to give birth to lambs...).

**Q: What does Jesus say the hired man does?** (A: Runs away at danger.)

**Q: Why does Jesus say this?** (A: to show that He is the one who will rescue us from danger and look after us.)

**Q: Who does Jesus say He knows?** (A: His own (sheep), which means that He knows us.)

**Q: What can we sum up then about Jesus from this short passage?** (A: That Jesus leads us, protects us, looks after us, rescues us from danger, He will not run away if there is danger, and He knows each one of us as much as He knows His heavenly Father.)

**Invite everyone to sit still with their eyes closed and imagine they are looking at Jesus and that He is looking at them. In their imagination, invite them “hear” Jesus softly calling their name and to “hear” Him saying the He loves them. End by inviting them to tell Jesus that they love Him too and then pray together,**

***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.***



## Jesus the Good Shepherd

- ✚ Write your name and the names of some of your family or friends alongside each sheep
- ✚ Write a prayer in the box below inviting Jesus the Good Shepherd to care for you and everyone you have named.
- ✚ Colour in the picture

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----
4. -----
5. -----
6. -----
7. -----



Dear Jesus the Good Shepherd,

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----- Amen

## Gospel for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

28<sup>th</sup> April

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*

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



### Discussion on the Gospel

*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.)

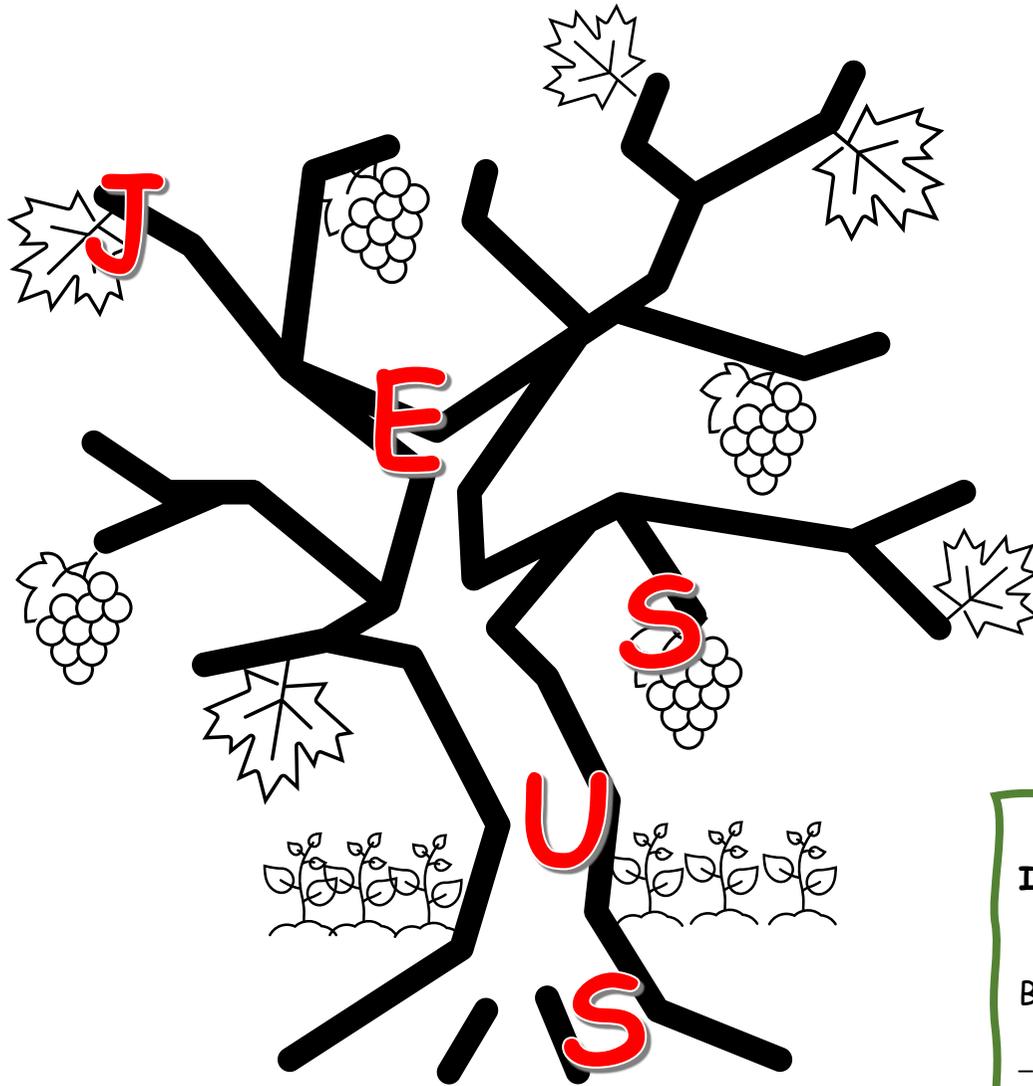
**Q: When are we like a branch that is cut off from the vine or a tree?** (A: When we choose not to pray, not to go to Mass, not to read the Bible not to be loving of other people.)

**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" (Jn. 15:1)



Pray for members of my family or friends:

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I will be loving to \_\_\_\_\_



By doing this: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Gospel for 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
5<sup>th</sup> May**

**John 15:9-17**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.  
Remain in my love.**

**If you keep my commandments you will remain in  
my love, just as I have kept my Father’s  
commandments and remain in his love.**

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you  
and your joy be complete.

**This is my commandment:**

**love one another, as I have loved you.**

**A man can have no greater love than to lay down his  
life for his friends.**

**You are my friends, if you do what I command you.**

I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant  
does not know his master’s business;

I call you friends, because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

**You did not choose me: no, I chose you;**

and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit,  
fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you  
anything you ask him in my name.

**What I command you is to love one another.’**

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**

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

**Q: What does Jesus ask us to do?** (A: Remain in His love.)

**Q: What does this mean?** (A: Various possible answers but basically, stay close to Jesus, do what He says, obey/keep His commandments. *This is a recap from last week so you may like to remind them about the vine and that last week we talked about doing as He says by His grace, etc.*)

**Q: Whose commandments has Jesus kept?** (A: His Father’s. *If the children answer “God’s”, whilst they are not wrong, gently remind them that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that Jesus is God and in particular has kept God the Father’s commandments.*)

**Q: What is Jesus’ commandment/what does He want us to do?** (A: love one another as He has loved us).

**Q: What has Jesus done to show us His love for us?** (A: various; taught/healed/forgives our sins/especially He died on the cross and rose again .....

**Q: How can we be Jesus’ friends?** (A: By doing what He commands us to do.)

**Q: What does Jesus mean by that He chose us?”** (A: Various, but remind the children that He knew us before we were born and that a babies brought for Baptism don’t now Jesus but He knows them and that He has already chosen us.)

**Q: Jesus’ final sentence is a repeat – Jesus commands (tells) us to love one another. How can we do this?** (A: various, e.g., being kind/patient/helpful/ taking turns/noticing if someone is a bit unhappy or tired.....)  
*End by praying prayer on the next page which the children can colour in and decorate. May be on the back draw a picture of themselves next to Jesus .*

*Jesus, I know that you love  
me. You fill me with your  
Holy Spirit in Baptism so  
that I can come to know and  
love you and your Father.  
Help me to love you more and  
more each day. Amen*

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



### Gospel for Ascension Day Year B,

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them:

‘Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.’

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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

### Discussion on the Gospel

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

**Q: What did Jesus do first in this Gospel?** (A: Showed Himself to the Eleven.)

**Q: Who are “the Eleven?”** (A: The remaining Apostles (after Judas betrayed Jesus.)

**Q: Why What does Jesus tell the Eleven to do?** (A: To go out to the whole world and tell people the Good News about Jesus.)

**Q: Why did Jesus tell them to tell the whole world about Him?** (A: If they did not tell people then no one would know about Jesus.)

**Q: After Jesus said this, what happened to Him?** (A: He was lifted up into heaven.)

**Q: What did the Apostles do after Jesus ascended into heaven?** (A: They went everywhere and taught about Jesus.)

**Q: Who told you about Jesus?** (A: Open – parents/teachers/grandparents/catechist/priests.)

**Q: Who told them about Jesus?** (A: Same answer as above.)

**Q: We can go back to the beginning of the Church and realise that from the Apostles onwards, people have joyfully told other people about Jesus. Who can you tell about Jesus?** (A: Open.)

**Q: Some of the Apostles wrote letters about Jesus. On the next page, write a joyful letter to someone about Jesus. Don't forget its Good News! There are some words you can use to help you.** (Younger children can be invited to colour the picture of Jesus' Ascension on the next page. If you print back-to-back, then there's a choice.)

***Finish by praying the Gloria together slowly and invite the children to write words in the box which praise God.***

**A Good News letter about Jesus Christ who came to lead us to His Father in heaven  
with the Holy Spirit**

**taught**

**Jerusalem**

**Cross**

**Bethlehem**

**Father**

**Holy Spirit**

**Apostles**

**Heaven**

**wonderful**

**for ever**

**Disciples**

**Rose again**

**baptise**

**come again**

**Died**

**Good news**

**Church**

**Amazing**

**Ascended**

**Dear** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told His Apostles to go around the whole world telling everyone about Jesus. Who are you going o tell today?**

# 9<sup>th</sup> May, Christ's Ascension into Heaven

Jesus' Ascension into heaven is His final departure from His Apostles who at first stand in shock as He is taken from their sight. How He is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven and because He is not only in one place on earth, He can be everywhere that His people are. So He is in our churches as the blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle; He is with us wherever we are gathered to pray, whether that is in our families at home, or in school or anywhere else. He is also in the poor and the sick and the needy.

Before Jesus left, He told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit (at Pentecost). They did this for nine days and now the Church has a Tradition of praying before a particular feast day or for a cause for nine days. This is called a "novena" from the Latin "novem" meaning "nine". It's a good idea to pray a novena between Ascension and Pentecost for the coming of the Holy Spirit. On the next page is an imagined picture of some of the Apostles gathered with Mary praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Below is a traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit. In the speech bubbles are some of the parts of the prayer in simpler language. Either cut these out and place above the Apostles or fill in your own speech bubbles. There is one for each day of the novena.

Come Holy Spirit!

Holy Spirit fill our hearts

Send your Spirit

Holy Spirit renew us and the whole earth

Holy Spirit teach us

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Holy Spirit set us on fire with your love

Holy Spirit make us wise

Holy Spirit, re-create us (make us new people)

Holy Spirit make us happy and content



A novena  
to the  
Holy  
Spirit

Gospel for 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
12<sup>th</sup> May

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*

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



### 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 to the Father 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... ).

*Write the children’s responses down on a large sheet of paper to display in a prominent place. If this is in a parish hall, invite other members of the parish to add to these phrases. You can use the heading on the next page for your display.*

Jesus has taught us  
many things. What  
can you remember  
that He has said?

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



### First Reading for Pentecost Day Year B

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

### Discussion on the First Reading

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

*We are using the first reading today as this is the main account of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The Gospel focusses on Jesus' giving the Holy Spirit to His Apostles only.*

**Q: What did everyone gathered in the room hear?** (A: Sound of wind.)

**Q: What seemed to appear on the heads of all the Apostles?** (A: Flames/tongues of fire.)

**Q: What were the sound of wind and flames signs of?** (A: The Holy Spirit.)

**Q: What was the effect of the Holy Spirit on the disciples?** (A: They began to speak different languages.)

**Q: What why did the disciples need to speak different languages?"** (A: Because they were going to go all over the world teaching about Jesus.)

**Q: What were the disciples talking about in these different languages?** (A: The marvels of God.)

**Q: What does the passage mean when it says, "the marvels of God"?** (A: The wonderful things He has done.)

**Q: What are the wonderful things that God has done"?** (A: Open... e.g., creation, created you and me, the Father sent Jesus who died on the Cross and rose again, so that we can go to heaven and be with Jesus and His Father.... Miracles, He helps us in our day to day lives....)

*It would be a great idea to write these suggestions down and put them up on a board or the fridge if you are at home. Finish by praying this extract from today's responsorial Psalm.*

**Bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Lord God, how great you are,**

**How many are your works, O Lord!**

**The earth is full of your riches.**

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth**

Jesús está vivo

Bonum est Deus

Jezus stierf en  
stond weer op

Jesús est mort et  
est ressuscité

Jezus jest  
Panem

Yesu ngwa  
moyo

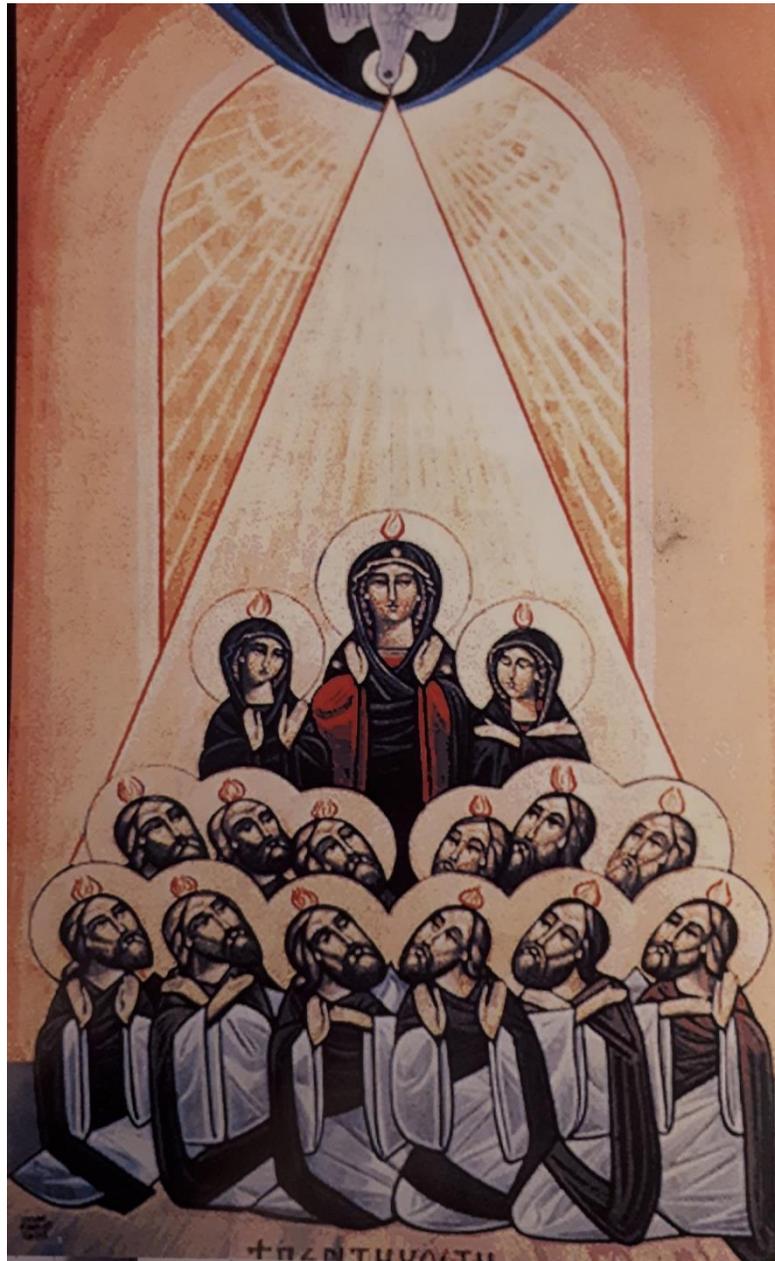
Gesu è il figlio  
di dio

ang Banal na  
Espiritu ay  
dumating

Jumala loi  
maaliman

Cut out these speech bubbles with the Good News of salvation in different languages and stick on the picture on the next page. Then see if you can find out what each of the different bubbles say. You may want to cut out the picture and stick on a larger page to give space for all the speech bubbles. If you know other languages, please add them to the collection.

**Coptic icon of Pentecost Used in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church**



Mary is in the centre as she was the first to be filled with the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation. She is also called the mother of the Church as she was present both at the birth of Jesus (of course!) and at the birth of the Church. The Apostles are all looking up and are open to the coming of the Holy Spirit. The wonderful light and rays, represents the power of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Look at the different hand positions, some are just "open", some are "listening," and others have their hands crossed reflectively. Mary looks straight at us, indicating that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will hear the message of her Son, through the Apostles.