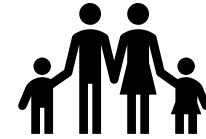




St. Joseph's Parish



Family Activity Sheet



3-9 January 2021



A very happy and blessed new year to everyone. I hope that you were able to have a good Christmas despite the last-minute changes to plans because of the increasing virus threat. Let's all pray for a better year this year and that Masses will continue to be open to us all. I've left the Christmas quiz in this issue in case you didn't get a chance to look at it over Christmas. Try it out on friend or family zoom meetings!

Please do send feedback of the activities which you have enjoyed, and we can include pics in next year's editions of this sheet. If anyone has any suggestions for future faith-based activities, please do let me know, either through the office or by emailing me directly.

There are Four Dimensions of the Faith which we can put around the cross, making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do:



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.

Feast/memorial	Activity
<p data-bbox="250 183 996 215"><u>Sunday 3rd January, 2nd Sunday of Christmas</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 268 510 300"><u>Gospel John 1:1-18</u></p> <p data-bbox="239 320 676 424">In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.</p> <p data-bbox="239 432 846 536">He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him.</p> <p data-bbox="239 544 779 683">All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.</p> <p data-bbox="239 703 631 770">The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;</p> <p data-bbox="239 815 788 882">But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God,</p> <p data-bbox="239 903 873 1082">The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.</p> <p data-bbox="239 1102 976 1353">Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.</p> 	<p data-bbox="1240 183 1682 215"><u>Family reflection on the Gospel:</u></p> <ul data-bbox="1081 233 1314 264" style="list-style-type: none"> • Light a candle <p data-bbox="1032 272 2105 392"><i>This magnificent and amazing passage from John’s Gospel is so  rich that I thought that we could focus on a few of the points made here, in relation to the Four Dimensions of the Faith (see above). I’ve put these phrases on bold on the left.</i></p> <p data-bbox="1032 400 1778 432">“In the beginning was the Word.... But through Him.”</p> <p data-bbox="1032 440 2040 515">If you open any Bible you can see that St. John has taken the first words of the Bible here, to show that in Christ we have a new creation.</p> <ul data-bbox="1081 531 2092 563" style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: How does God create in Genesis? A: by speaking – “and God said...” <p data-bbox="1032 571 2101 730">This is the “Word” that John speaks about. When Jesus was on the earth teaching and speaking, He is God speaking. Jesus then is the Word of God. Notice the next line says that “all that came to be had life in Him.” EVERYTHING has its origins in God – we make things out of materials that come originally from creation.</p> <p data-bbox="1032 754 1789 786">“The Word was the true light, that enlightens all men;”</p> <ul data-bbox="1081 810 2096 954" style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What is the tall candle in the Church that is lit at Easter and again at baptisms? A: The Paschal Candle • Q: What does it represent? A: Jesus, the light of the world – when we are baptised, we are filled with His light. <p data-bbox="1032 975 2085 1007">“From his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace</p> <ul data-bbox="1081 1015 2074 1158" style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What is grace? A: grace is God’s special inner help that enables us to live as He would like us to live, loving Him and those around us. • How do we get grace? A: In the sacraments, starting with Baptism and then in Holy Communion, the Sacrament of Reconciliation etc. <p data-bbox="1032 1166 2047 1230">“It is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.”</p> <p data-bbox="1032 1238 1619 1270">Jesus showed us that His Father is our Father.</p> <ul data-bbox="1081 1278 1859 1310" style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What prayer did He teach us? A: The “Our Father” <p data-bbox="1032 1318 1576 1350">Finish by praying the Our Father together.</p>

Wednesday 6th January – Epiphany

We can use art to think about the meaning of this great feast, which is at the end of the 12 days of Christmas. On the next page is a picture by Gentile Da Fabriano. As with the Annunciation we looked at last time, this is also an altar piece, painted to go behind the altar. When this was painted altars were against the East Wall of the Church, and the priest faced East so was facing the same way as everyone else. (Church Tradition is that when Jesus comes again, He will come from the East, so Mass was always said with everyone facing East, not just the congregation, looking for Christ to come again.) How does this picture help us to understand the Eucharist? (Holy Communion).



Here are some discussion points about this picture which will help you to understand the mystery of who Jesus is.

- **Before we look at the three “kings” lets just look at the light in this picture. Half close your eyes and squint at the picture. List all the bright spots you can see;** A: The gold, especially the star above Joseph’s head and the light coming down from it to baby Jesus.
- **Why do you think that this is the brightest part of the picture?** A: because Jesus is the light of the world and this picture reminds us of that.
- **The three “kings” or “Wise men” are of different ages; what is the youngest one doing?** A: He’s standing up, holding out his gift, and he’s still wearing his crown.
- **What is the middle one doing?** A: he’s started to remove his crown, started to bow, and has started to offer his gift.
- **What is the oldest one doing?** A; He’s on the ground kneeling and kissing Baby Jesus’ feet.
- **What has happened to the oldest one’s crown and beautiful robe?** A: They are on the ground.
- **What do you think this means?** A: that the oldest wise man considers that worshiping Jesus is more important than any worldly riches.
- **When do we get on our knees and worship Jesus?** A: At Mass.
- **Look how the oldest wise man is taking Jesus’ flesh to His lips. When do we take Jesus’s flesh to our lips?** A: When we receive Him in Holy Communion.
- **The wise men followed the star and went on a long journey to find Jesus – think about how as a family you can search for Jesus this coming year.**



Heres' a fun Quiz: Questions in black, answers in red!

1. In the advent carol "The Angel Gabriel from heaven came" how is Mary described at the end of each verse? **Most highly favoured lady.**
2. In the medieval carol "Gaudete" what does *Gaudete Christus est natus* mean? **Rejoice, Christ is born. (1 point for each correct word).**
3. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? **2 possible answers: 1. Because there was a census and Joseph needed to be enrolled in Bethlehem. 2. Because Joseph was of the line (a descendant of) David and his home town/city was Bethlehem.**
4. Who called a census? **Caesar Augustus (Lk. 2:1).**
5. What is the other name given to Bethlehem in the Gospel? **City of David (Lk. 2:4, 11).**
6. What does "Bethlehem" mean? **House of bread.**
7. What comes next in this verse of "O little Town of Bethlehem": "And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth"? **For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above....."**
8. How many inns did Mary and Joseph call at before they found a place to stay? **The correct answer is, we dont know, it only says that there was no place for them at THE inn.**
9. Who wrote the tune for "Silent Night" **Franz Gruber.**
10. Which of the 4 Gospels tells us about the visit of the shepherds? **Luke's, (chapter 2).**
11. Which carol is this from? "He came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all"? **Once in Royal David's City.**
12. How did the angel who appeared to the shepherds, describe Jesus? **A Saviour who is Christ the Lord (Lk. 2:11).**
13. What prayer at Mass quotes from the Christmas story? **The Gloria (Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will - c.f. Lk. 2:14).**
14. What was Mary's reaction to the visit of the shepherds? **She kept these things and pondered in her heart (Lk. 2:19)**
15. Where in the Bible will we find mentioned the ox and the ass (donkey) that is so common in the stable scene? **Isaiah 1:3; "The ox knows its owner and the donkey it's master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people does not understand."**
16. In the carol "In the Bleak mid winter," what would the shepherd bring? **A lamb.**
17. What are the words of the verse of "O Come all ye faithful"? that is only sung on or after Christmas? **Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesu to thee be glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing....**
18. What date does the Church traditionally celebrate the feast of Epiphany (when the magi/wise men/kings arrived)? **6th January.**
19. Which Gospel has the account of the visit of the Magi? **Matthew's, (chapter 2).**
20. How many Kings are mentioned in the account of the visit of the Magi? **Two: King Herod and Jesus, the new baby King. We do not know how many wise men/kings there were, the number 3 arose because of the 3 gifts.**
21. What are the three gifts brought by the Magi? **Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh (Mt. 2:11).**
22. What is the Latin title of "O Come all ye faithful"? **Adeste fidelis.**
23. In the carol "We Three Kings" in what verse are the words "Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume" sung. **Verse 4 (out of 5).**
24. Of all characters mentioned in the Christmas stories, who actually worshipped Jesus? **The wise men (Magi) who "when they saw the child, with Mary His mother... they fell down and worshipped Him" (Mt. 2:11).**

25. What are the different ways in which Jesus is described in “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”? (1 point for each). **New born King; Christ; By highest heaven adored; Everlasting Lord; Offspring of a virgin’s womb, Godhead (veiled in flesh); Incarnate Deity, Emmanuel; Prince of Peace; Sun of Righteousness; Bringer of light and life; Risen; born to raise mankind. (You may interpret more!)**