

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

July & August 2023 (Year A)



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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.

Growing in Christ over the Summer

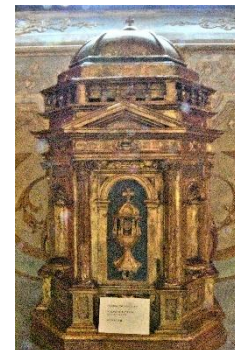
This is a combined issue covering July and August. Please do pass this issue on to families if you don't have Children's Liturgy of the Word over the summer holidays. I am more than happy for these pages to be sent out with parish bulletins etc. Over the nine Sundays covered by these two months we learn what it is to follow Jesus and at the end of August comes the question – who do we think that Jesus is? The activity for the children focusses on the fact that He is fully God and turns to that so simple prayer, the Sign of the Cross. This is a good time to take stock and teach the children to make to Sign of the Cross correctly using the trinitarian words – otherwise they will not learn them and will not grow in understanding of the fact that God indeed is, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

C17 Tabernacle, Basilica of St. Ambrose © Carol Ann Harnett



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

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



Christ on the East Front of The Basilica of St. Peter's Rome. He is pointing to heaven, holding His Cross, which is the door for each of us to be able to follow Him. In these two months we see what it is to Follow Jesus until at the end of August, in the Gospel, Jesus asks “who do we think He is”?

Gospel for 13th Sunday Year A

2nd July 2023

Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

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

On the surface, these sayings of Jesus can be challenging. He is saying that even our closest family ties come second to our relationship with Him. However, we need to realise that once our relationship with Jesus is on the right footing all other relationships deepen as they are then aided and inspired by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Q: Jesus is telling people that we have to put Him first in our lives. When we do this, then He helps us by His grace, to do even the most difficult of things. What can you remember from this Gospel I have just read? (A: Open.)

Q: Jesus says that we have to take up our cross and follow Him. What does that mean? (A: We have to accept difficult things in life.)

Q: What might our "crosses" be/what is difficult to do? (A: Open.)

Q: How does God help us when we have to do difficult things? (A: Various answer, but if the Holy Spirit is not mentioned, you can offer Him as a suggestion.)

Q: At the end of today's Gospel, Jesus gives an example of how we can be kind to other people – what does He say? (A: If we give people a cup of water.)

Q: Jesus adds "because he is my disciple." What is a disciple? (A: Someone who follows Jesus and learns from Him. Someone who places Jesus first in their lives.)

Q: So, Jesus is saying that it's because we are His disciples that we CAN by the grace of the Holy Spirit, be kind to other people. So, we come back to the beginning of the Gospel. Jesus wants us to place Him first in our lives so that we can love other people with HIS love. How can we place Jesus first in our lives? (A: Open, e.g. morning offering, prayers, paying attention in Mass, sacraments reading the Bible....)

Q: Praying a morning offering is a very good way to put Jesus first each day. Let's pray it now together and then you can colour it in to put up on the wall at home.

I thank you Jesus for this
day,

So, fill me with your grace,
And let your Holy Spirit
Lead me to your Father's
place.

I want to love you more and
more

In everything I do

So, Lord Jesus be my guide

As this whole day belongs to
you

There are many different morning offerings. May be older children
can make up their own to say.

**Gospel for 14th Sunday
Year A**

9th July 2023

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord
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

There are two parts to this Gospel; in the first part, Jesus is showing that His mission is not His own but it's the Father's mission which He is carrying out. Jesus is God – God the Son – and so the mission of the Father and the Son is the one mission of God carried out by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

In the second part, Jesus shows how this works in practice. Jesus' mission is to save us from our sins and our sins are a burden to us, so when we turn to Him to confess our sins, He removes that burden from us by His grace. A good way to show this would be to have a sack or bag and then as the children give examples of sins, write them on card (or pieces of wood which are heavier) and place them in the sack. Then at the end, tip the sack out to show that it's light after confession.

Q: Who is Jesus inviting to come to Him? (A: Those who labour and are overburdened.)

Q: What is a burden? (A: A heavy load to carry.)

Q: Burdens are not always actual (physical) things, but things we worry about can be burdens too. What are the kinds of things we worry about? (A: Open.)

Q: The Church has a word for the bad things we do – what is that word? (A: Sins.)

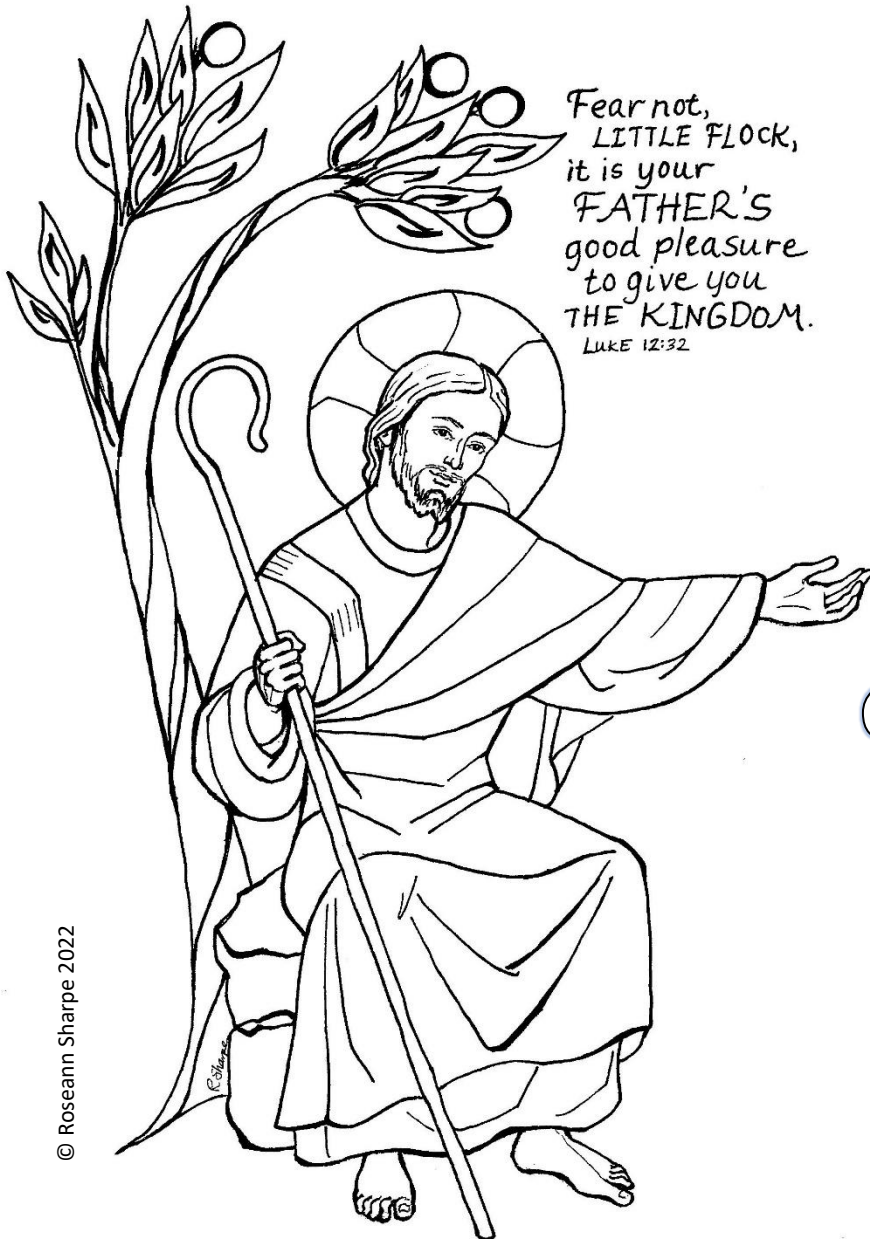
Q: Give me some examples of some sins that we might do. (A: Write suggestions on pieces of card/wood.)

Q: And what good things should we do, that we don't do? (A: As above)

Q: Sins are like burdens – every time we do something bad, that we should not do... or we don't do something that we should do, it is as if we are filling a big sack on our backs and it's getting heavier and heavier each day that we don't say sorry to Jesus. What is the special time called that we say sorry to Jesus for our sins? (Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation.)

Q: When we say sorry to Jesus in the Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation it's as if He picks up the heavy bag off our back and tips all the sins away. (Tip out sack. And show how light it is.) **Let's finish with this little prayer to ask Jesus to forgive us and take our sins away.**

Lord have mercy/ Christ have mercy/Lord have mercy. (Teach children to strike their breast three times)



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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.

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

16th July 2023

Matthew 13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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

Again, we have a well-known parable today. It is suggested that the children are given a seed to sow in a small pot – but if you so, then I suggest that you give them the attached handout with prayers and scripture quotes – so each time they water the pot, they read the scripture reminding them that when we read the Bible/pray etc we are watering the seed that was sown in us at our Baptism.

Q: Who was Jesus talking to? (A: Large crowds.)

Q: What did Jesus ask the people to imagine? (A: A sower going out to sow.)

Q: What is a sower? (A: A farmer who is sowing seeds in the ground so that plants grow.)

Q: Where did the seeds land? (A: Edge of path, rock thorny patches and deep soil – if you can either produce pictures or better still, trays to replicate these conditions it may help the children to understand.)

Q: What happened to the seeds on the path.... On the rock....in the thorns? (A: answers in the text.)

Q: What happened to the seed in the deep rich soil? (A: It produced a great crop – again it would help you can show a plant growing in good soil and discuss why it is thriving.)

Q: Jesus ends by telling us to listen to Him. When we were baptised, the Holy Spirit planted a seed of love for Jesus deep inside us. When we listen to Jesus it is as if that seed is being watered. When do we listen to Jesus? (A: Mass, Children's Liturgy of the Word, when we pray, read the Bible etc....)

Q: Let us plant a seed in a pot. As we plant it lets think of something that Jesus says to us. Invite the children to think of a saying of Jesus that they can remember. Remember to water the seed when the soil is dry. Each time you water it, tell it something that Jesus says.

Finish with the glory be....

Try to learn one of these by heart each time you water your seed. Maybe you can look up some more of your own.

"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Matthew 5:44

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:16

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." ~ Matthew 22:37-40

"But seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you as well."
~ Matthew 6:33

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ~ John 14:6

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." ~ Matthew 7:7-8

**Gospel for 16th Sunday
of Ordinary Time Year A**

23rd July 2023

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

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.

Another Gospel with crops at its heart. Planting and growing is a common motif in Jesus' teaching, partly because the society in which he moved was much closer to the earth and the seasons than many of us today and partly because the images He presents can speak to us so well about how God, the Eternal Farmer, reaches out to us and how we need to respond. Today's Gospel is a message of being faithful and tolerant, ultimately allowing God to be the judge. It might help to have a visual image of a pot with weeds muddled up with a plant to show the children.

Q: What did the farmer sow in his field? (A: Wheat/good seed.)

Q: What did the enemy sow? (A: Darnel [also called tares in some translations].)

Q: Why did the farmer want to leave the darnel/weeds in place? (A: Because if the darnel was pulled out, then the wheat might come up with it.)

Q: When was the farmer going to sort out the darnel? (A: At harvest time.)

Q: Who does the wheat represent? (A: Those people who listen to and love God.)

Q: Who does the darnel/weeds represent? (A: Those who don't love God.)

Q: Jesus is telling us that there will always be people among us who don't love God. what are we to do when we know there are people around us who don't love God? (A: Open – pray, love them and keep loving God ...)

Q: At the end of the parable, Jesus says that the weeds will be burnt, but what happens to the wheat? (A: It is gathered into the farmer's barn.)

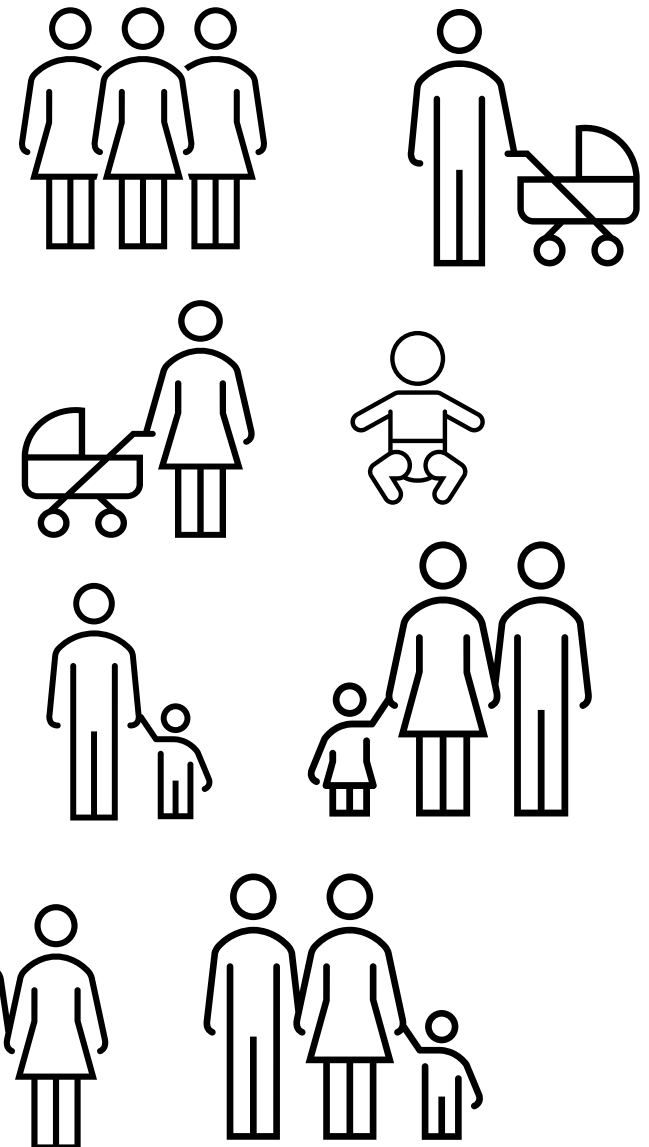
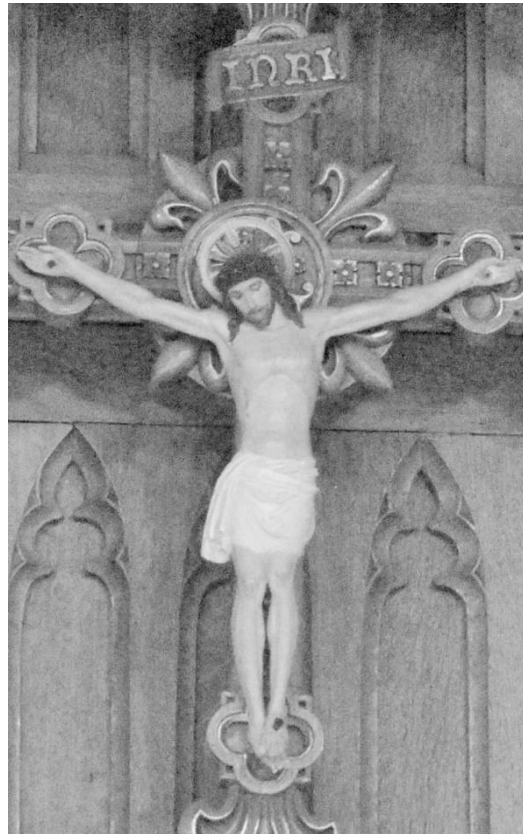
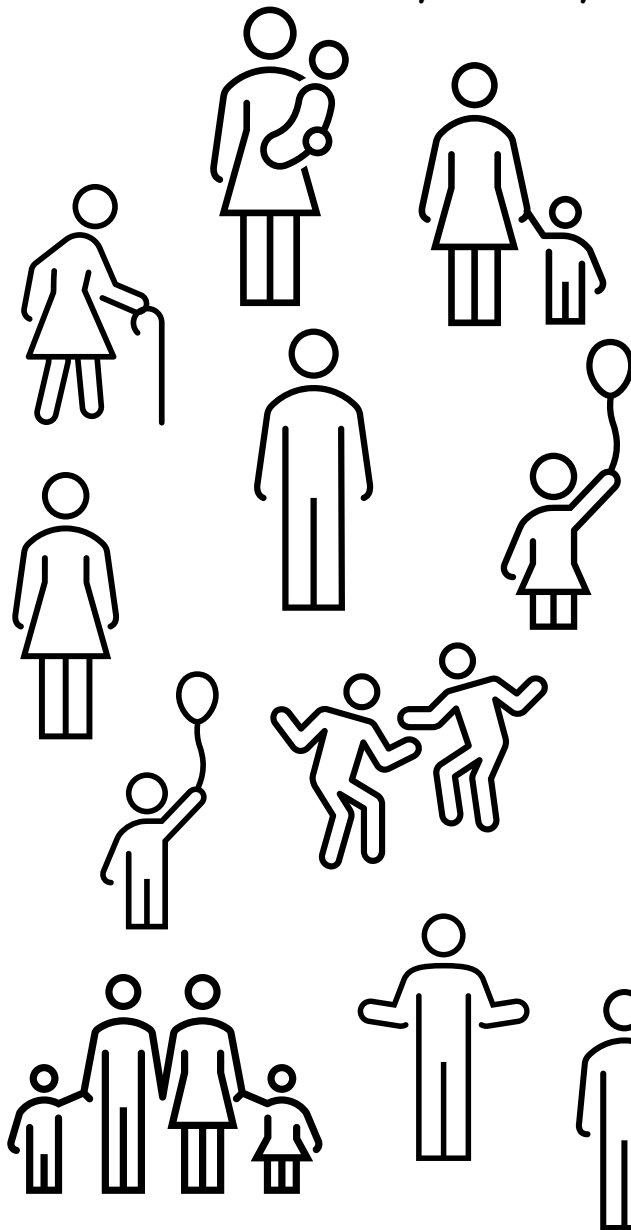
Q: What does the barn represent? (A: Heaven.)

Q: Jesus is telling us that if we stay faithful, and love Him, even if people around us don't love Him, we will go to heaven. Who helps us to stay faithful to Jesus even if people near us are not faithful? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Invite the children to shut their eyes and silently ask the Holy Spirit to help them to stay faithful to Jesus even when people around us don't love Jesus.



Colour in these people all around Jesus on the cross in different colours. Everyone is different and Jesus died for everyone. Only Jesus knows who truly loves Him. It is not up to us to decide!



**Gospel for 17th Sunday of
Ordinary Time Year A**

30th July 2023

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

The Gospel of the Lord: R/: ***Praise to you
Lord Jesus Christ***

Children’s liturgy of the word for this week

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



All of today’s readings are about the treasures of grace that God wants to give us. So often we think that things of this life have more value, but the real treasure is a relationship with Jesus Christ who leads us to His Father by the grace of the Holy Spirit. (The words in bold are the official short version of the Gospel and the questions are based on this short text.)

Q: Jesus gives us various examples of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. What are they? (A: Treasure hidden in a field, the finest pearl.)

Q: Let’s think about this – so a person discovers that something really valuable is in a field and in order to be able to afford to buy the field, he has to sell everything; His house, His car, His furniture....in order to be able to afford to buy the field. So, the field is worth more than everything He has put together. Why does the man do that?
(A. Because he recognises that the treasure is worth more than everything he has.)

Q: The same with the pearl – Jesus says that the man sells everything to buy it. Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of Heaven is worth more than everything we have put together. What does He mean by the Kingdom of Heaven? (A: Heaven/knowing and loving Him who leads us to His Father, being open to the graces that the Holy Spirit wants to give us, etc...)

Q: What is the most valuable/precious thing you have? (A: Open.)

Q: The gifts we receive from Jesus are more valuable and precious than all the things/possessions we have. What is the first gift we received from Jesus? (A: Baptism.)

Q: When we were baptised, the Holy Spirit gave us lots of gifts including three special gifts: faith in Jesus, hope in Jesus and love for Jesus. And in all these three gifts Jesus leads us to His Father in heaven. What is faith? (A: Believing that what we learn in the Gospel and about Jesus is true.)

Q: What is hope in Jesus? (A: Hoping to spend eternal life in heaven with Him.)

Q: How can we love Jesus? (A: Open....)

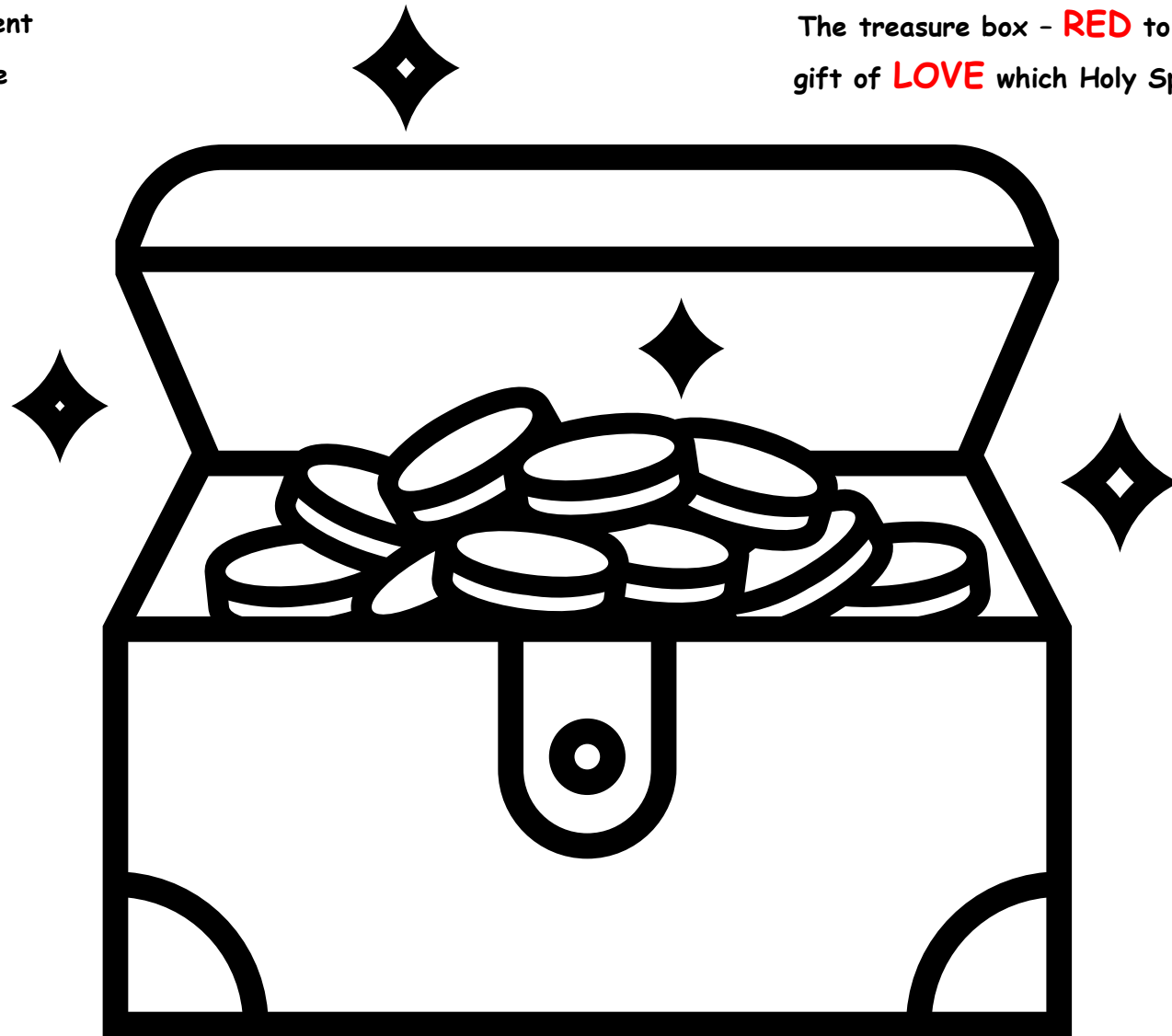
Q: One person who had a lot of faith hope and love for Jesus is Mary. Let us finish by asking her to help us to store up treasure in heaven, Hail Mary....

Colour in the coins in this treasure box with these colours:

The coins - **GOLD** to represent
the golden gift of **FAITH** we
were given in Baptism.

The treasure box - **RED** to represent the
gift of **LOVE** which Holy Spirit pours into
our hearts

The catch and the
corner strengths -
GREEN to
represent the gift of
HOPE which keeps
us firm and strong
for Jesus.



Gospel for the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord Year A

6th August 2023

Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said, 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

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.

This is a beautiful feast which confirmed Jesus' divinity (that He is God as well as man).

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

On the next page is part of a very famous painting by Raphael of Jesus' Transfiguration.

Q: One of the figures with Jesus is holding a tablet of stone which represents the Ten Commandments. This is Moses. Why is Moses holding the Ten Commandments? (A: Because God gave us the Ten Commandments through Moses.)

Q: The other figure is Elijah – who was Elijah? (A: A prophet).

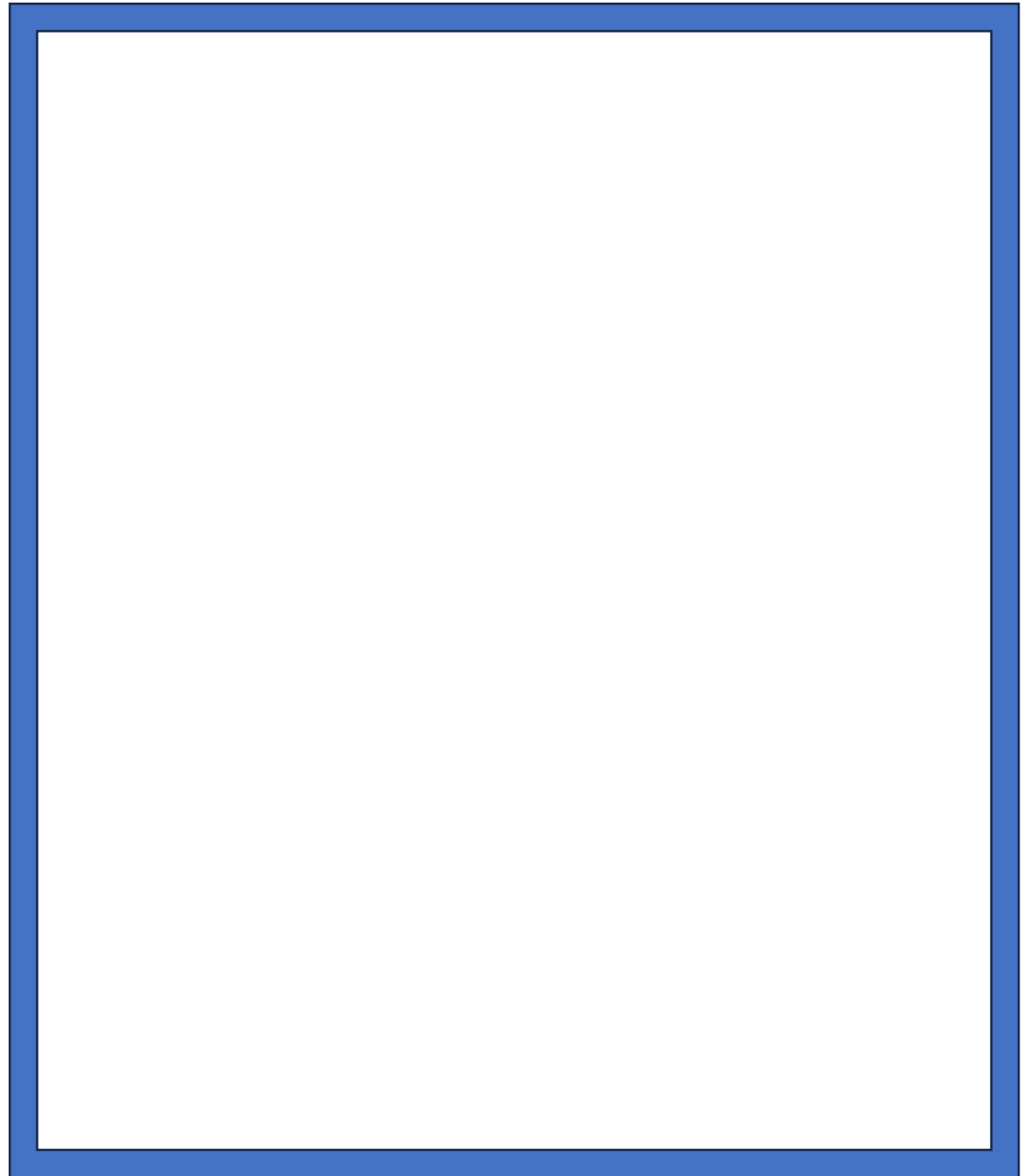
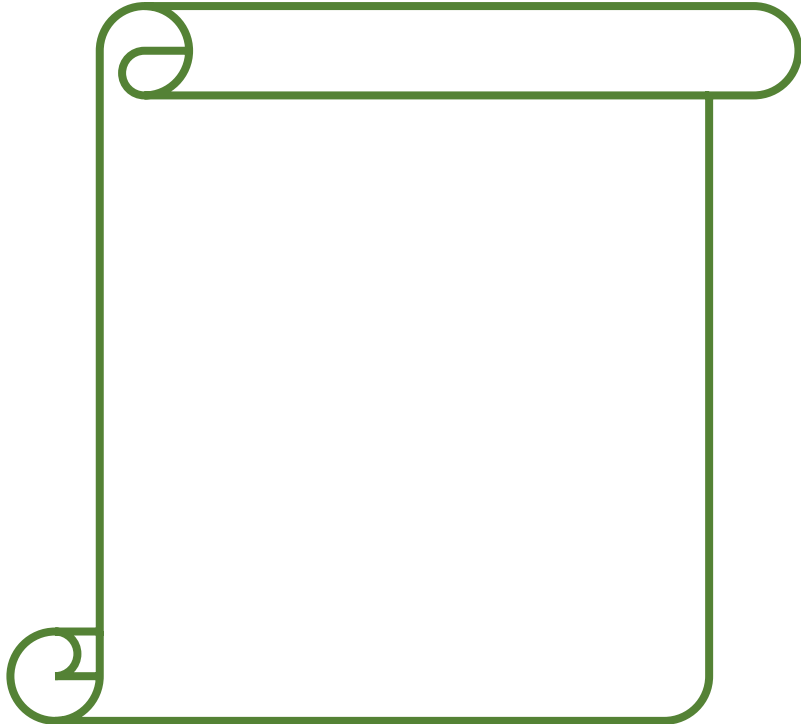
Q: What is a prophet? (A: Someone who speaks God's words.).

Q: Look at how Jesus' hands are spread out wide. When else do you see images of Jesus with His hands spread out wide? (A: When he's on the Cross).

Q: Jesus showed Himself looking like this to give His disciples strength when He died on the cross. But only one disciple had the courage to stay close to Jesus all the time and was with Him when He died on the cross – who was that? (A: St. John). *On the next page draw a picture in the frame, of Jesus on the Cross with St. John and His mother Mary by His side. Write a prayer in the scroll.*



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



**Gospel for the 19th Sunday of
Ordinary Time Year A**

13th August 2023

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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

There's a well-known phrase, "If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat." Today, we see the origin of this phrase and the fact that sometimes Jesus is inviting us to take risks. But, as He rescued St. Peter, if things go wrong, He too will pick us up and not leave us to drown.

Q: Where were the disciples? (A: In a boat on the lake.)

Q: Where was Jesus? (A: In the hills, praying.)

Q: What happened to the boat in the middle of the night? (A: It was battered by wind and storms.)

Q: What did Jesus do when He realised that His disciples were having to deal with a storm in the boat? (A: He began to walk toward them on the lake.)

Q: Let's just think about this – Jesus knew that His disciples were in difficulties, so He went to them. This makes us realise that Jesus knows when we are finding things hard. When do we find things hard? (A: Open.)

Q: What did the disciples think when they saw Jesus walking on the water? (A: They thought that He was a ghost and were afraid.)

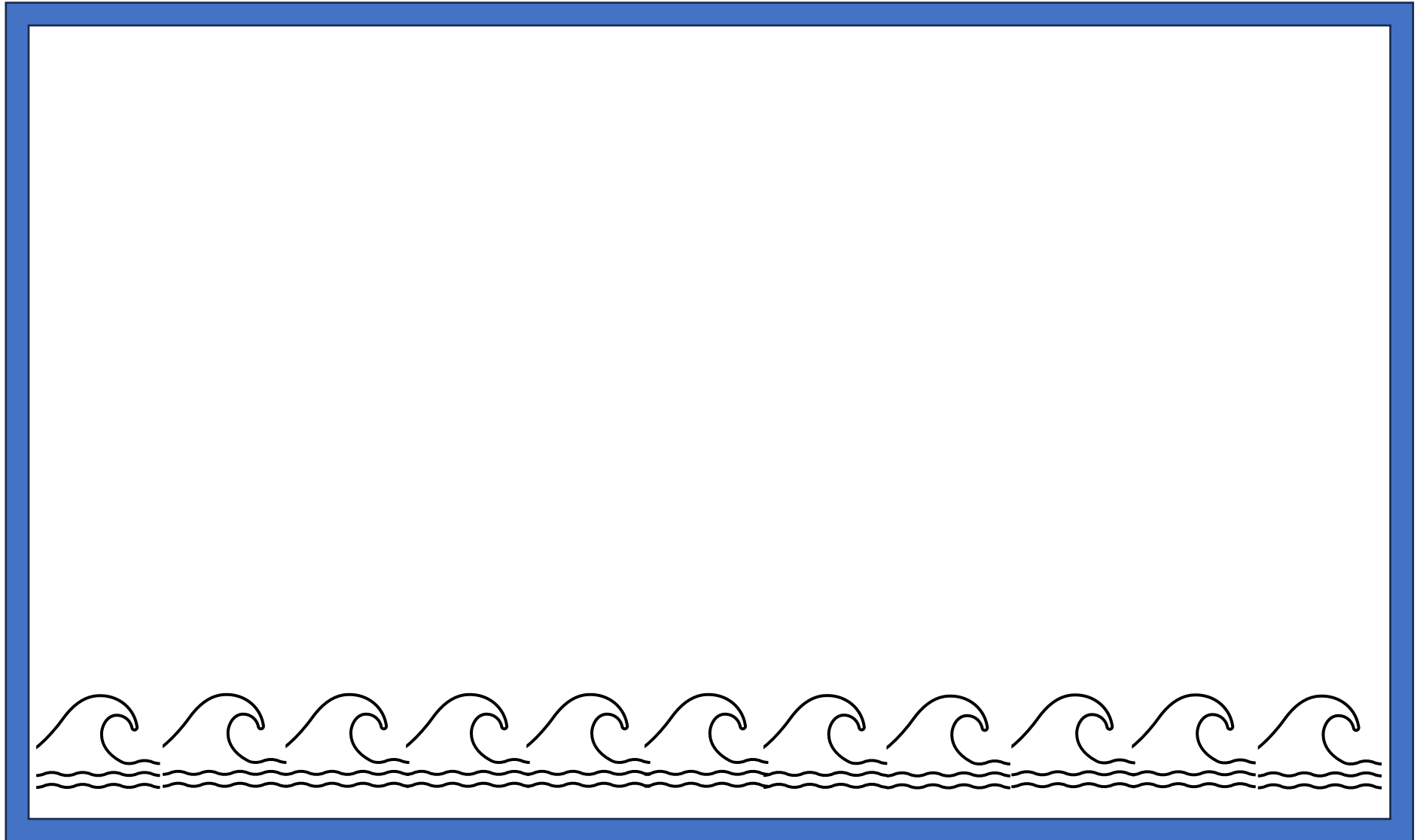
Q: What did St. Peter do? (A: Got out of the boat and walked on the water.)

Q: That must have been quite a brave thing to do. But He trusted that Jesus would help Him... at first. What happened when he stopped trusting Jesus? (A: Began to sink).

Q: But Jesus rescued Him. We learn from this that Jesus might ask us to do some pretty difficult things but if He does, He is with us and will rescue us if things go wrong. But we have to trust Jesus in the first place, as St. Peter did. What difficult things might Jesus ask us to do? (A: Open.)

Let's ask Jesus to help us to do the difficult things He wants us to do. (invite the children to make up prayers)

Draw a picture of Jesus holding your hand as you both walk on water. Keep this picture as a reminder of the fact that Jesus is always with you and will hold your hand when times are difficult.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

20th August 2023

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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

It could seem that Jesus is being rude here, but as with everything in His ministry, there's a purpose to His reaction. He is showing that we have to really want something and be prepared to really pester God... with faith! It was the faith of the woman who was not a Jew, that impressed Him.

Q: Where was Jesus? (A: In the region of Tyre and Sidon.)

Q: This was not part of Israel and so the woman who approached Jesus was not a Jew but a Gentile. What did she call Jesus? (A: Son of David.)

Q: Why did she call Jesus "Son of David"? (A: Because He descended from King David.)

Q: What did she want Jesus to do? (A: To heal her daughter.)

Q: What did the disciples think about the woman? (A: They did not like her shouting at Jesus and wanted Him to heal her daughter.)

Q: When Jesus agreed to heal her, what did He say to her? (A: Woman you have great faith.)

Q: What is faith? (A: Believing in Jesus.)

Q: When we pray to Jesus and ask Him to help, it's not always easy to believe that He will make a change. Of course, sometimes we ask Him for the wrong things. Like when we ask our parents for something that isn't good for us. What are the wrong things might we ask for? (A: Open).

Q: What are the good things we can ask Jesus for? (A: Open – if they don't suggest it, add that we can ask Jesus to increase our own faith in Him.)

Q: Jesus praised the woman for her faith. The saints give us many examples of praying for more faith. on the next page is the prayer of St. Richard of Chichester which is great to learn by heart. Let's pray this together and then you can colour it in and decorate it to put up on your wall at home. (If there are young children who cannot read, leader should read the prayer a few words at a time for the others to repeat.)

Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you my Lord
Jesus Christ
for all the good things which
you have given me;
for all the pains and insults
which you have suffered for
me.

O most merciful and forgiving
Redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly, follow
you more nearly day by day.

Amen.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

27th August 2023

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord: R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light a candle and make the Sign of the Cross

✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Jesus asks us this question each day. He is not just a "good and brave" man, but He is also God. Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man and is like us in all ways but sin. It's important to realise this. Jesus was just as human as we are. So if we are tempted to say, "I'm only human", remember that Jesus is human too. Only, we are sinful human beings, He is not.

Q: What did Jesus ask the disciples? (A: Who do the people say He is.)

Q: What were some of the answers? (A: John the Baptist, Elijah... .)

Q: Jesus Then asked the Apostles who they thought that He is. What did St. Peter say?
(A: That He is the Christ/Messiah Son of the living God.)

Q: What does "Christ/Messiah mean? (A: It means anointed. The Jews were expecting someone anointed by God to come and be their saviour.)

Q: St. Peter also called Jesus "Son of the living God." What does this mean? (A: That Jesus is God the Son.)

Q: So, St. Peter realised that Jesus is not just a good and holy man but that He is also God the Son. We need to remember this, that Jesus is God AND a human being. A couple of months ago we celebrated the Holy Trinity on Trinity Sunday. What is the Trinity? (A: That God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

Q: When do we remember that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit? (A: When we make the Sign of the Cross.)

Q: When do we make the Sign of the Cross? (A: Open, e.g. at Mass, when putting fingers into Holy Water, beginning and ending of prayers, when we see a Catholic church, when an ambulance passes us by, before and after meals, the Sign of the Cross was made on us when we were baptised, the priest blesses us with a Sign of the Cross..... on the final page is a long list of these occasions – you may like to make a group poster with them instead of the individual handouts.)

When we make the Sign of the Cross it's like a door to prayer. Let's slowly make a Sign of the Cross and think about the fact that the Father is God, the Son, Jesus Christ is God and the Holy Spirit is God. On the next pages is an activity where the children can write or draw times they make the Sign of the Cross.

When do we make the Sign of the Cross?



We are baptised into the NAME of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.	The Sign of the Cross shows that we believe in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	The Sign of the Cross is like a shield in front of our bodies.
We make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass.	We make a Sign of the Cross over our bodies with our arms because it shows that our whole bodies are important.	The Sign of the Cross helps us to be aware of the grace that Jesus gives us to help us love Him and other people.
We make the Sign of the Cross when we genuflect in front of the Tabernacle.	Making the Sign of the Cross with our bodies shows that we don't always need words to pray.	The Sign of the Cross is like a door that we go through to be able to pray.
We make the Sign of the Cross at the end of Mass when the priest blesses us.	The Sign of the Cross reminds us that Jesus died on a cross.	We make the Sign of the Cross when we pass a Catholic Church as Jesus is there in the Tabernacle.
We make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips and heart at the Gospel.	The Sign of the Cross was marked on us by our parents and godparents when we were baptised.	We make the Sign of the Cross when we say grace before meals as it is like inviting Jesus to be with us.
On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ash in a cross shape.	The Sign of the Cross is recognised all over the world as a prayer.	The Sign of the Cross helps us to be strong in our faith.
The Sign of the Cross means that we belong to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	When we make the Sign of the Cross it shows that we love Jesus who died for us on the cross.	The Sign of the Cross helps us to stay close to Jesus when we are tempted to make wrong choices.
The Sign of the Cross means that we are joined to Jesus.	The priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine before it becomes Jesus' Body and Blood.	We make the Sign of the Cross when we see an ambulance to pray for the person inside.
Some people make the Sign of the Cross when they see a funeral to pray for the person who has died.	The Sign of the Cross is like a shield in front of our bodies.	We can bless ourselves and other people by marking a Sign of the Cross on their foreheads. (This is not the same as a priest's blessing).

