

St. Joseph's Family Activities

June 2022

Year C

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<https://www.theannunciation.org.uk/resources/>



Back to Ordinary Time

Although the Sundays continue to be “special” Sundays, for the time being (as Corpus Christi is still celebrated on a Sunday) by the time we reach the end of the month we are back into the green Vestments on Sundays of ordinary time. June is the month of the Sacred Heart. Ideas for this are in the “Saints and Celebrations” issue I sent out last week. As is a feature on Father’s Day.

This is the month when many parishes celebrate First Holy Communions; you are all in my prayers. Corpus Christi is a wonderful celebration of the gift of Christ Himself to us in the Eucharist and there is quite a big feature on the readings for the Sunday in case that is your First Holy Communion Day and you want to help parents to understand all the readings.

At the end is a “Snakes and Ladders” game to play. I am sure that you know the rules, you just need a dice and some coloured counters. Go up the ladders and down the snakes. The imagery is totally appropriate as the snakes remind us of the temptation in the garden of Eden when our first parents were tempted away from God, and the ladders remind us of Jacob’s ladder to heaven. So enjoy the game.

Recent past copies are available from <https://www.theannunciation.org.uk/resources/> If you are after copies that go back further, please contact me directly.

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith, and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

The month of the Sacred Heart

This is the tiny window in the sacred heart chapel at Maryvale house in Birmingham. The chapel is so tiny that there are only about 8-10 chairs in it. It is hidden inside the house and can’t be seen from the outside. The heart is a sign of love and also we don’t see our hearts or those of other people, we see the effects of their love. The effects of Jesus’ love is His gift of Himself to us on the Cross and at each Mass in Holy Communion.

O Sacred heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.



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.**

Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for The Trinity Sunday Year C

12th June 2022

John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now.

But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself

but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said:

All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

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

Q: Today is Trinity Sunday. What does "Trinity" mean? (A: It means that there is one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

Q: In the Gospel, who is talking to the disciples? (A: Jesus)

Q: Jesus is talking about someone coming, who is that? (A: The Holy Spirit [the Spirit of truth].)

Q: What does Jesus say that the Spirit will do what He comes? (A: Lead the disciples to the Truth and will glorify Jesus.)

Q: What does "glorify" mean? (A: It means to praise, honour to recognise as great.....)

Q: For most of the year, every Sunday at Mass we sing or pray the Gloria, what are we doing then? (A: We are praising God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

Q: The Holy Spirit will help the disciples to understand (know the truth of) all that Jesus has said and done. What are some of the things that Jesus said or did? (A: Open).

Q: Lets' recap, who is the Holy Trinity? (A: God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)

Q: We believe in One God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Jesus refers to the Father and the Holy Spirit, but who is the Son? (A: Jesus Christ.)

Q. There are lots of paintings and images of the Holy Trinity some are more useful than others. Basically, if we see three faces sometimes, we can think that God is three people, but that is not right. Only Jesus is a human being. The image on the next page can help us to think about how the Father Son and Holy Spirit all work together. When you have gone through this image, children can colour it in and finish with the Glory-be.

An image of the Holy Trinity

The lovely thing about this picture is that it's true to the words of Jesus, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). Classic images of "an old man" as the Father, can confuse children, and do not help them to see that "God" means Father, Son and Holy Spirit. "God" is Trinity and neither the Trinity, nor the Father, is an old man sitting on a cloud. This kind of image can be harmful to young minds once they mature and realise that clouds are vapour and their image of "God" as an old man evaporates with belief in Father Christmas. Although this is a woodcut, children do enjoy colouring it in as it gives them an opportunity to meditate on the three Divine Persons represented here.

Here is a question and answer reflection on the Holy Trinity as seen here.

Q: Where is Jesus? (A: On the Cross.)

Q: Who does the dove above Jesus's head represent? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Q: Where is the Father? (A: He is behind the Cross.)

Q: Why can't we see the Father's face? (A: Because Jesus said that when we see Him, we see the Father.)

Q: What is the Father doing? (A: He is holding up the Cross.)

Q: Why is He doing this? (A: This picture shows that the Holy Trinity works as one. When Jesus died on the Cross, He gave His Spirit to His Father (Lk. 23:46)), but it was the support of His Father that enabled Him to do this.)

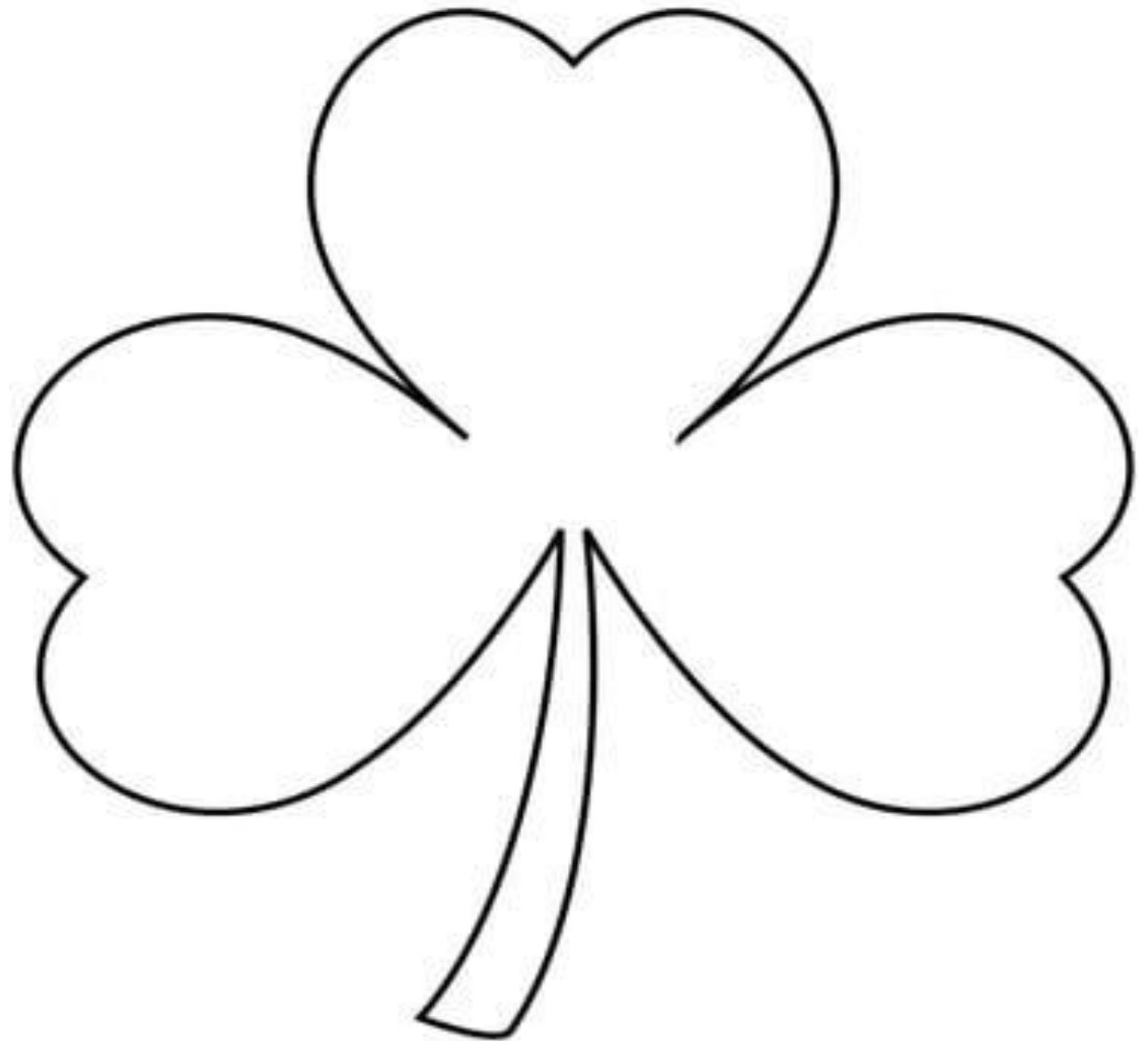
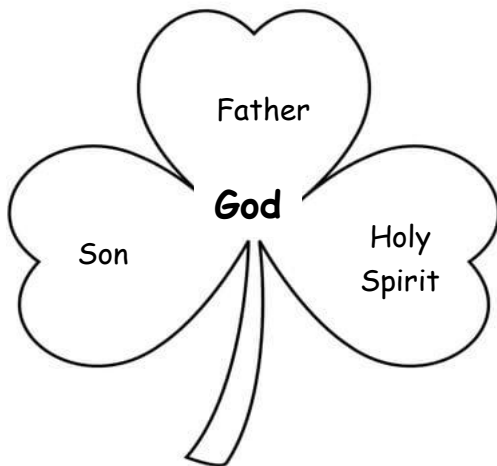
With children who have made or who are preparing for their First Holy Communion you might like to add a reference to the chalice in the picture by saying that when we receive Holy Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ who unites us to His Father through the Holy Spirit. So, in effect, we receive the Holy Trinity! We cannot separate Jesus from His Father or the Spirit.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.



St. Patrick and the shamrock:

Whilst St. Patrick is associated with the shamrock as an image of the Trinity, it is important to label it correctly. Remember that the whole leaf represents *God* and each of the segments represent a Divine Person. Here is a leaf to cut out, label and colour. May be as you say the *Glory-be*, children can point to the different segments.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Discussion on the Second reading

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

I've used the second reading here as the focus of this reading is the events of the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist. The author is St Paul and he is recounting what he has learned "from the Lord".

Gospel for Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ) Year C,

19th June 2022

Second reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Q: Today we celebrate the fact that Jesus gives Himself to us in Holy Communion. This is the most wonderful gift, and we are so lucky to be able to come to Mass and be joined to Jesus in Holy Communion. The reading is from a letter by St Paul describing how Jesus gave Himself to His did in Holy Communion for the first time.

Q. What did Jesus do on the night that he was betrayed? (A: He took bread....)

Q: What do we call this night when Jesus did this? (A: the Last Supper.)

Q: What was going to happen to Jesus the next day? (A: He was going to die on a cross.)

Q: What does Jesus say that the bread is? (A: His Body.)

Q: What does Jesus say about the "cup" (or chalice)? (A: It is the cup of the new covenant in His blood....)

Q: "Covenant" means promise, and Jesus is promising that whenever we receive Him in Holy Communion we are joined to Jesus. Who has made their First Holy Communion? (A: Open.)

Q: When we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, He really comes to us and makes out home in us. What do we do at home when we are expecting guests? (A: Get ready, tidy up, cook nice food... etc.)

Q: How can we get ready and "tidy up" our hearts for Jesus? (A: Open, but you could hint at saying sorry for our sins, say an extra prayer, tell Jesus that we love Him... etc.)

Finish with a moment of reflection inviting Jesus to come and stay with us in our hearts.

Amina Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me

Body of Christ, save me

Blood of Christ, inebriate me

Water from the side of Christ, wash me

Passion of Christ, strengthen me

O good Jesus, hear me

Within Thy wounds hide me

Suffer me not to be separated from
Thee

From the malignant enemy defend me

In the hour of my death call me

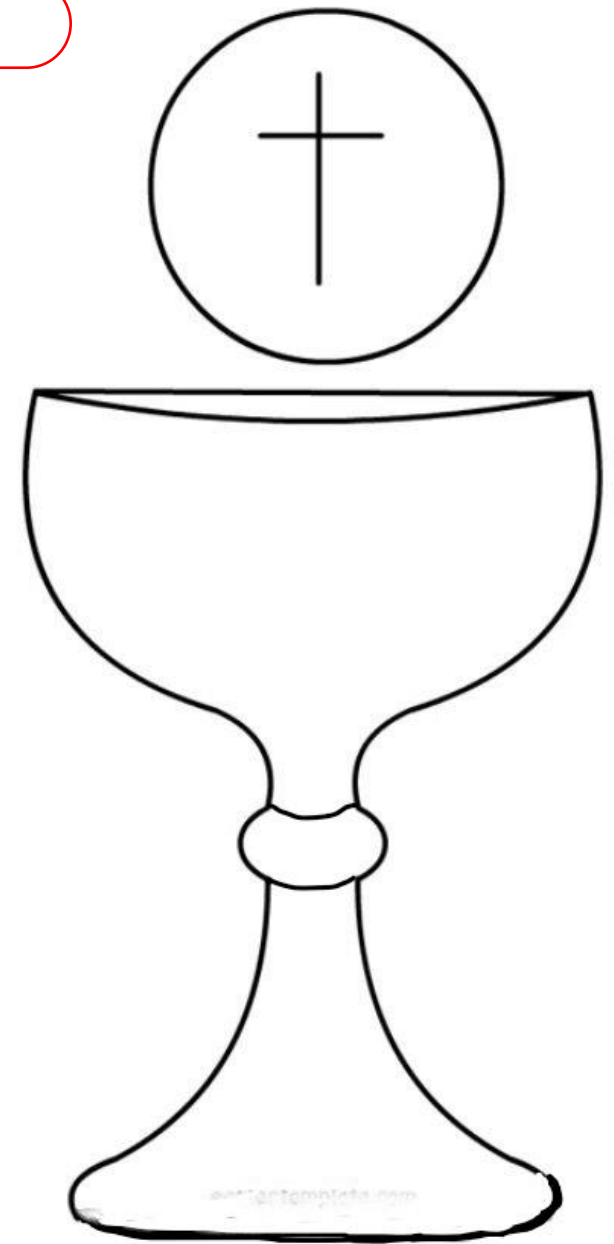
And bid me come unto Thee

That with Thy Saints I may praise Thee

Forever and ever.

Amen.

My Prayer to Jesus who makes his home in me in Holy Communion



An explanation of the readings for Corpus Christi

First Reading Genesis 14:18-20

The fact that Melchizedek, about nothing else is known, blesses Abraham, indicates somehow that he is greater than Abraham. Abraham offers him a tithe (tenth) of what he has, so this shows that Melchizedek, the priest-king of Jerusalem is greater than Abraham. Events in the Old Testament look forward to Christ and as Jesus also said that He was greater than Abraham (Jn. 8:58) Melchizedek is a “type” of Jesus Christ. The offering of bread and wine of course is fulfilled in the Last Supper when it was changed by Jesus into His own Body and Blood.

First reading

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek brought bread and wine

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing:

‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you.’

And Abram gave him a tithe of everything.

Responsorial Psalm

Even before the coming of Christ, the Jews recognised that this Psalm is about the Messiah. The first Christians recognised that the psalm was about Jesus Christ. Jesus is the greatest priest and the king of Kings. He is the true King-priest. The role of a priest is to offer sacrifice and the sacrifice Jesus offers is Himself.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 109(110):1-4

You are a priest for ever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

The Lord’s revelation to my Master:

‘Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet.’

The Lord will wield from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
‘You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.’

Second reading: Luke 9:11-17

We are very familiar with this account in the Gospels. It is included today because by a miracle, Jesus fed all those who needed food with a very little amount of food. The link to Corpus Christi is that Jesus feeds us all with what looks like something very small... but in fact it is the biggest and best gift we can have. Jesus does not feed us to take away our earthly hunger but our spiritual hunger. Jesus feeds us with Himself. Often we crave for things in life and when we get them, we are still not satisfied, because the craving is actually for Jesus Himself. St. Augustine said that our hearts are restless until they rest in God (Confessions). When Jesus feeds us with Himself, He feeds our souls, not our bodies.

Gospel

Luke 9:11-17

The feeding of the five thousand

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected, they filled twelve baskets.

What is a sacrifice?

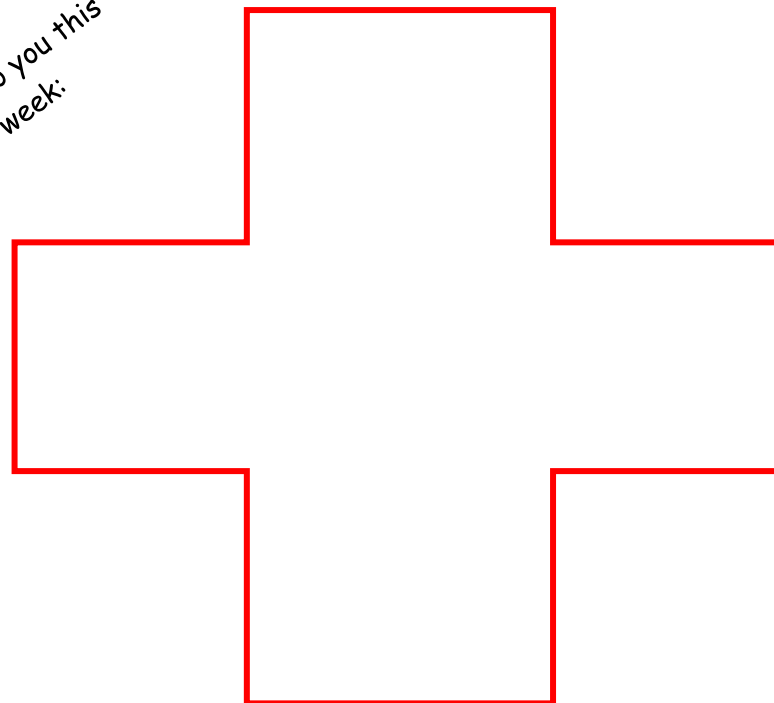
Today we think of a sacrifice as giving up something - in Lent we may sacrifice eating chocolates or sweets, for example. In the past, sacrifices were always offering to God so that the person doing the offering would become holy.

Jesus offered Himself to His Father so that everyone joined to Him in Baptism (His Body, the Church) would become holy.

However today we can still share in Jesus' offering of Himself to His Father every time we do something kind for someone else, especially if it is "giving up" our time.

Think about and write in the cross below how you can do something helpful for someone else this week.

Jesus I offer to you this
sacrifice this week:



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

26th June 2022

Luke 9:51-62

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me', replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say goodbye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom 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

This is the first Sunday in ordinary time since February! We return to Luke's Gospel and we are at the point where the journey towards Jerusalem and towards His sacrifice of the Cross begins. Rather than just wondering around the towns and villages preaching and healing, there is a definite sense of journey in today's Gospel. A journey that we can all be a part of.

Q: Where was Jesus heading for? (A: Jerusalem.)

Q: What did James and John want to do? (A: Call down fire from heaven on those who well done not accept Jesus.)

Q: Why did Jesus rebuke them [tell them off]? (A: Because Jesus does not exact revenge on those who hate Him.)

Q: When the first man on the road said that he would follow Jesus what disciple Jesus say? (A: Foxes have holes ... etc.)

Q: What did Jesus mean by this? (A: That following Jesus would not be easy.)

Q: What did Jesus say that the duty was of the person who wanted to bury his father? (A: That it was more important to spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God.)

Q: The last person Jesus asked, also gave an excuse, what was that? (A: That he wanted to say goodbye to his family.)

Q: in these little events, Jesus is showing us that following Him is not always easy. We can be rejected (like the Samaritan village rejected Jesus), we may not always have the best homes and things, we will have to work to tell other people about Jesus and must not allow ourselves to be distracted by the people we love. How can we best keep close to Jesus and not be distracted? (A: Open, e.g. praying, coming to Mass, morning offering....,)

Finish with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, I love you. Help me to stay close to you every day as you lead me to your Father in heaven with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Play this game of "snakes and ladders" - who makes the tight decisions and reaches Jesus?



31	30	29 You don't say your prayers at bedtime	28	27	26 You argue about going to Mass	25	24	23
								22
11 You don't say goodnight to Jesus	12	13 You make a beautiful prayer corner in your room	14	15	16 You ask the Holy Spirit to help you love Jesus more	17	18 You play around at Mass	20
10								
9								
8	7	6 You pray the "Hail Mary"	5	4	3 You say good morning to Jesus	2	1	

Draw yourselves here