St. Joseph's Family Activities Eastertide 2029



Eastertide 2022

Year C

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

A very special seven weeks

From Easter Sunday to the Sunday after Pentecost, (The seventh Sunday of Easter) the Church rejoices and reflects on Jesus Christ's saving work in His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension. Now that the Solemnity of the Ascension has returned in England and Wales to the Thursday, we have regained the seven Sundays of Easter and can fully appreciate that Eastertide is longer than Lent.

The journey of Eastertide is one of joy which culminates in the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. 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 int the community to witness to Christ's work of salvation in words and deeds.

May also has a number of other feasts and celebrations, including some important English saints, so do take a look at this accompanying edition.

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.

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

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 Chris's wonderful work in us.
(The high altar at St Peter's is free-standing and the
priest always faced East during the celebration of
Mass, as did all priests, but because the church
building faced West, he faced the congregation, who,
during the Eucharistic prayer, would also turn and
face East with their backs to the priest!)



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.

Gospel for The Third Sunday of Easter Year C 1st May 2022

John 21:1-14

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising 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



Q: What happened after the disciples threw the net out to starboard (right)? (A: They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net in. There were 153 fish!)

Q: Who recognised that it was Jesus on the shore? (A: The disciple that Jesus loved [John].)

Q: What did Peter do when he realised that it was Jesus on the shore? (A: Wrapped his cloak around him and jumped into the water).

Q: What did the disciples find on the shore after they had pulled the boat in? (A: A charcoal fire with fish cooking on it.)

Q: What did Jesus say to the disciples? (A: Come and have breakfast.).

Q: When do we have breakfast? (A: In the morning.)

Q: What does the word "breakfast" mean? (A: It means to break the fast – that is, to stop fasting.).

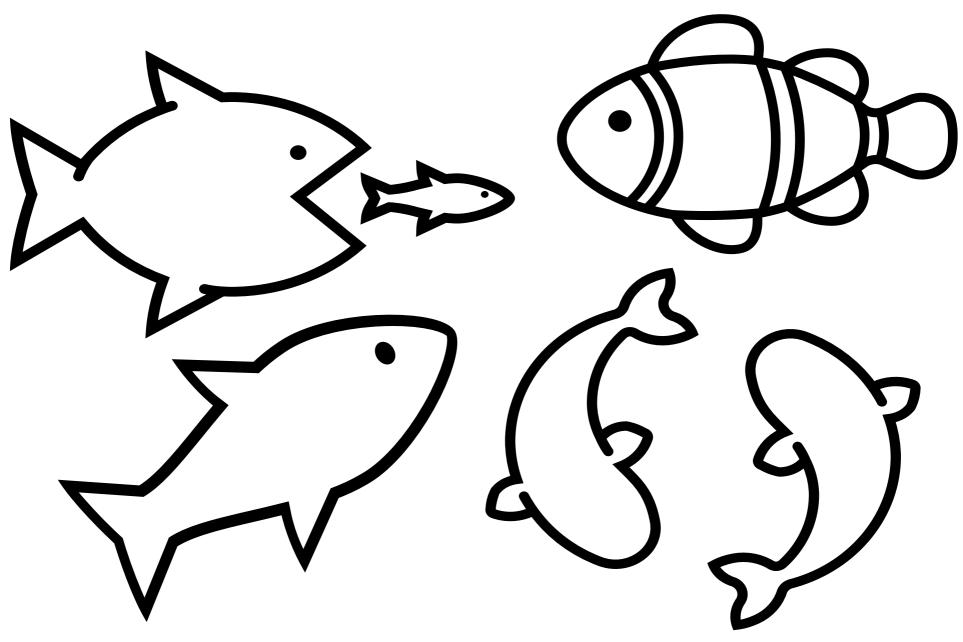
Q: What does "fasting" mean? (A: It means to not eat or not do something for a period of time [so we can fast from our devices, as well as fast from food].)

Q: In Lent we traditionally fast, that means we "give up" something that we like, as a kind of prayer. At Easter, when Jesus rises from the dead we stop fasting and rejoice that He is alive and that He is "back". When Jesus invites us to break our fast in the morning, it is like He is inviting to celebrate a new day with Him. Which day of the week especially celebrates Jesus' Resurrection? (A: Sundays.).

Q: How can we celebrate Sundays and give up our fasts for Jesus? (A: Open.)



In each of these fish, draw or write something that you could do to make Sunday a real celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Then cut the fish out and put them in a "net".



Gospel for 4th Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) Year C,

8th May 2022

John 10:27-30

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from
me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

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



This very short Gospel may have few words but each line is a treasure trove of riches. In 1st century Palestine, shepherds called their sheep and the sheep followed them, recognising the voice of their own shepherd. We are Jesus' sheep – do we recognise His voice?

- Q: What do the sheep that belong to Jesus do? (A: They listen out for His voice and follow Him.)
- Q: What does Jesus give His sheep? (A: Eternal Life.)
- **Q: What does "Eternal Life" mean?** (A: It means knowing and loving Jesus and being close to Him here on earth and, being with Him in heaven after we die.)
- **Q:** If we stick close to Jesus, what will never happen? (A: We will never get lost/never get stolen [taken away from Jesus].)
- **Q:** How can we stick close to Jesus? (A: Various, e.g. praying, coming to Mass; reading the Bible; for those old enough, the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion....)
- Q: Jesus says "I and the Father are one" at the end of this Gospel. What does that mean? (A: That Jesus [the Son] and the Father are both God.)
- Q: The Father and the Son (Jesus) are both Divine Persons. There is another third Divine Person, who is that? (A: The Holy Spirit.)
- Q: The Holy Spirit helps us to stick close to Jesus so we can hear His voice. Let us listen to Him right now in our hearts.

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.
- Φ Colour in the picture

1.	
2.	
3.	 de
4.	 Mill
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6.	
7	

Dear Jesus the Good Shepherd,		
Amen		
Amen		

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 5th Sunday of Easter Year C

15th May 2022

John 13:31-33,34-35

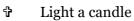
When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

'My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one
another,
everyone will know that you are my
disciples.'

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

Discussion on the Gospel



- → Make the Sign of the Cross
- ♣ Someone read the Gospel slowly

We are now going back in time a bit and this passage comes from Jesus' long speech in the Gospel of John at the Last Supper. In the first part of today's reading Jesus is talking about the fact that He is going to be "glorified." Jesus' death on the cross is His moment of glory when He did what He came to do. We find it hard to understand that this awful moment of the Lord's pain and anguish is His moment of glory. Then Jesus addresses His disciples calling them His little children and gives them a new Commandment. Only God can give Commandments! This new Commandment will be the sign that marks out Jesus' disciples and so it's for us too.

Q: What did Jesus call His disciples? (A: His little children.)

Q: Why do you think that He says that? (A: Because Jesus wants us all to learn from Him and to trust Him.)

Q: Jesus gave them a new Commandment, what is it? (A: Love one another as I have loved you.)

Q: How many Commandments are there in the Old Testament? (A: Ten.)

Q: Who gave the original Ten Commandments? (A: God [through Moses].)

Q: If Jesus is giving a new Commandment, what does this tell us about Jesus? (A: That He is God as only God can give commandments.)

Q: Jesus told the disciples to love one another AS HE LOVED THEM. How did Jesus show His love for the disciples? (A: Various; taught them fed them, led them and above all, died for them on the cross.)

Q: How will everyone know that they are Jesus' disciples? (A: Because they show love for one another).

Q: Jesus loves us too, and because He loves us, He is asking us to love other people. How can we show Jesus' love to other people? (A: Various: helping, being obedient, doing kind things, praying for other people....)

Q: Let us now each think of two things that we are going to do today, or this week, that are loving. *Invite the children to give two actual decisions*. Say the act of love together (on the next page) and then the children can colour it in.





Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 6th Sunday of Easter Year C

22nd May 2022

John 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own:

it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,

whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything

and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give,

this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

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



This is such a rich Gospel reading with so much we can draw from it. Jesus speaks about His union with His Father, about the sending of the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) about a peace that is only found in Him (as opposed to peace between people). However, with the Ascension coming up, the discussion will be based on the lines of the Gospel linked to His Ascension.

Q: Jesus mentions a lot of things here, what are some of the things He says? (A: Various, use the comments at the top to help you.)

Q: What does Jesus mean when He says that our hearts should not be troubled or afraid? (A: He means that we need to trust Him completely.)

Q: Jesus says that He is going away. Where is He going to? (A: To His Father [in heaven].)

Q: On Thursday, the Church will celebrate this moment – what do we call the day when Jesus goes into heaven? (A: Ascension Day.)

Q: Who can remember why Jesus came in the first place? Why was He born as a tiny baby, grew up, celebrated the Last Supper, and why did He die on the Cross, and rise again? (A: So that we could know and love His Father and share in "Eternal Life" (now on earth and in heaven after we die.)

Q: When Jesus goes into heaven, He prepares a place for us in heaven so when we die so that we can be with Him and the Father. He and the Father also send someone to help us. Who is that? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help us? (A: Various.)

Finish by praying the Apostles Creed together slowly and invite the children to draw little pictures to go with the different statements of the Apostles Creed.

Pray the Apostles Creed together and draw pictures in the boxes that go with the lines.

I believe in God. the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell: on the third day he rose again from the dead: he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

I believe in God, the Father creator of heaven and earth	I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son Our Lord born of the Virgin Mary
He suffered was crucified	He ascended into heaven
I believe in the Holy Spirit	I believe in the communion of saints

Gospel for Ascension Day Year C,

Thursday 26th May 2022

Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples:

'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.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.'

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

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



The account of Jesus' Ascension occurs in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and in the Acts of the Apostles. In Luke's Gospel, it is preceded by a brief summary of the kerygma, a summary of the Good News of Salvation. The interesting thing is that the disciples are not dismayed at Jesus' going from them in person – they are full of joy! We who are His modern-day disciples, have not met Jesus in the flesh on earth, but we know Him in the sacraments, in our life of faith and this gives us much joy. Our duty then is to pass on that joy to other people, just as the Apostles did!

Q: Jesus (the Christ) sums up the reason He came in the first paragraph of this reading. What does He say? (A: He would suffer, rise and that the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all nations [the whole world] starting in Jerusalem.)

Q: What does Jesus mean when He says that the Apostles will be "clothed with the power from on high"? (A: That the Holy Spirit will come to help them.)

Q: When do we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles? (A: Pentecost Sunday.)

Q: What did Jesus do just before He ascended into heaven? (A: He blessed the disciples.)

Q: What did the disciples do as Jesus was carried up to heaven? (A: Worshipped Jesus.)

Q: When do we worship Jesus? (A: At Mass.)

Q: How do we see Jesus at Mass? (A: In Holy Communion.)

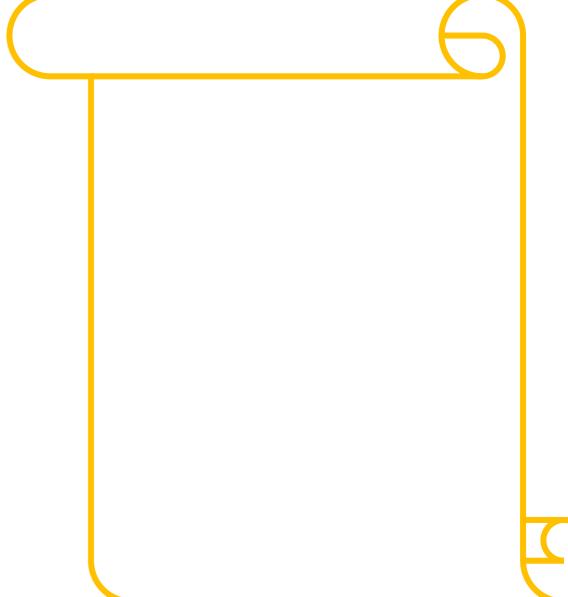
Q: In what prayer at Mass do we give glory to Jesus? (A: The Gloria.)

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

The Gloria

Which words in the Gloria praise God? Write them in the scroll here:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father. have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ. with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



Novena to the Holy Spirit

After Jesus ascended into heaven, we learn from the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples all gathered in Jerusalem and prayed together for the Holy Spirit to come. It was not just the band of 11 (remember, Judas was no longer with them) but others as well, including Our Blessed Mother, Mary. "Novena" comes from the word "nine" and this is the original novena; nine days of prayer between the Ascension and Pentecost. It is a good opportunity to pray this novena together and the children can colour in the numbers each day. The words are all from the Acts of the Apostles and the final prayer is a prayer to the Holy Spirit. It is a good idea to split into two with one half saying the first part of the prayer to the Holy Spirit and the other half saying the second part.

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).

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.

"This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way as you saw Him go" (Acts 1:11).

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 "And there appeared tongues as of fire which rested on each one of them" (Acts 2:3).

"They returned to Jerusalem
... and went into the upper
room (and) devoted
themselves to prayer together
with Mary" (Acts 1:12-14).

"They cast lots for them and the lot fell on Matthias and he was enrolled with the eleven Apostles" (Acts 1:26).

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages" (Acts 2:3)

"Lord, you know the hearts of men, show us who is the take the place of Judas among us" (c.f. Acts 1:24).

"When the day of Pentecost came they were all gathered in one place and suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind" (Acts 2:1).

"And Peter stood up to speak...and those who received his word were baptised... about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:14,41).

Gospel for Seventh Sunday of Easter Year C,

29th May 2022

John 17:20-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,
I pray not only for these,
but for those also
who through their words will believe in
me.

May they all be one.
Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you
who sent me.

. . .

and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the

foundation of the world.

. . .

I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.'
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



This Gospel again comes from Jesus' long speech at the Last Supper, but now the attention shifts from praying for His disciples, to praying for us who have only heard of Jesus because of the teaching of those who have gone before us. The sad thing is the members of the Church have broken away and we are not the united Body of Christ that Jesus wants. I am sure many of you have family members who are not Catholics and this is a sadness, but it is also an opportunity to turn to the Lord in prayer.

Q: This is a part of a long prayer that Jesus is making. Who is He praying to? (A: His Holy Father.)

Q: Jesus prays not only for His disciples, but He is praying for other people – who is that? (A: Those who will hear about Jesus from the disciples.)

Q: Jesus prays that we will "be one" as He and the Father are one. What does that mean? (A: Jesus and His Father are both God. The Father is God and Jesus, the Son, is God.)

Q: Why does Jesus want us all to be "one"? (A: So that the world will believe that He was sent by the Father.)

Q: Do you know why the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ? (A: So that Jesus could lead us to His Father, and we can share in Eternal Life (heaven) with Him after we die.)

Q: Jesus says that He has made the Father's name known. How has He done that? (A: By all the teaching that He has done.)

Q: Why does Jesus want us to know His Father? (A: So that we will know how much He loves us.)

Q: What did Jesus do to show us His love for us? (A: He died on the cross so that we can go to heaven.)

The "Our Father" is the prayer that Jesus taught us so that we can pray to the Father. We can pray it because we are the Father's children through our Baptism.

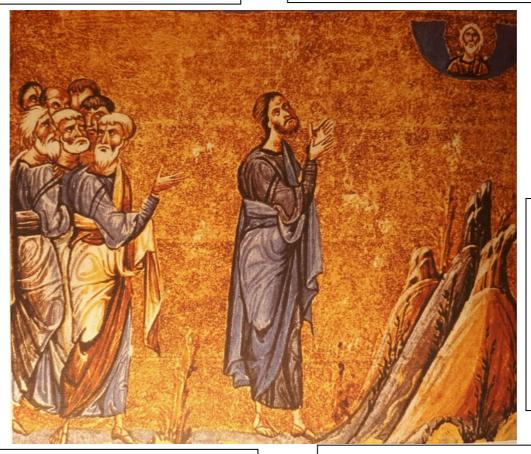
On the next page, write the "Our Father" around the outside of the picture of Jesus praying to His Father, and the Apostles copying Him.

Jesus prays to **His** Father, who is also **Our** Father. Notice His hands pointing to His Father.

Our Father who is in heaven. Heaven is indicated by the blue crescent

The Apostles led by St. Peter = the Church led by the pope, pray to the Father through Jesus. Look at St. Peter' hand.

Whose hand shape is He copying? Why?



The waters of the Holy Spirit tumbling down the mountain.

The Apostles and us, the Church stand IN the waters of the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

Jesus stands ON the water the Holy Spirit supports Him in everything He does.

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

First Reading for Pentecost Day Year C

Sun 5th June 2022

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.)

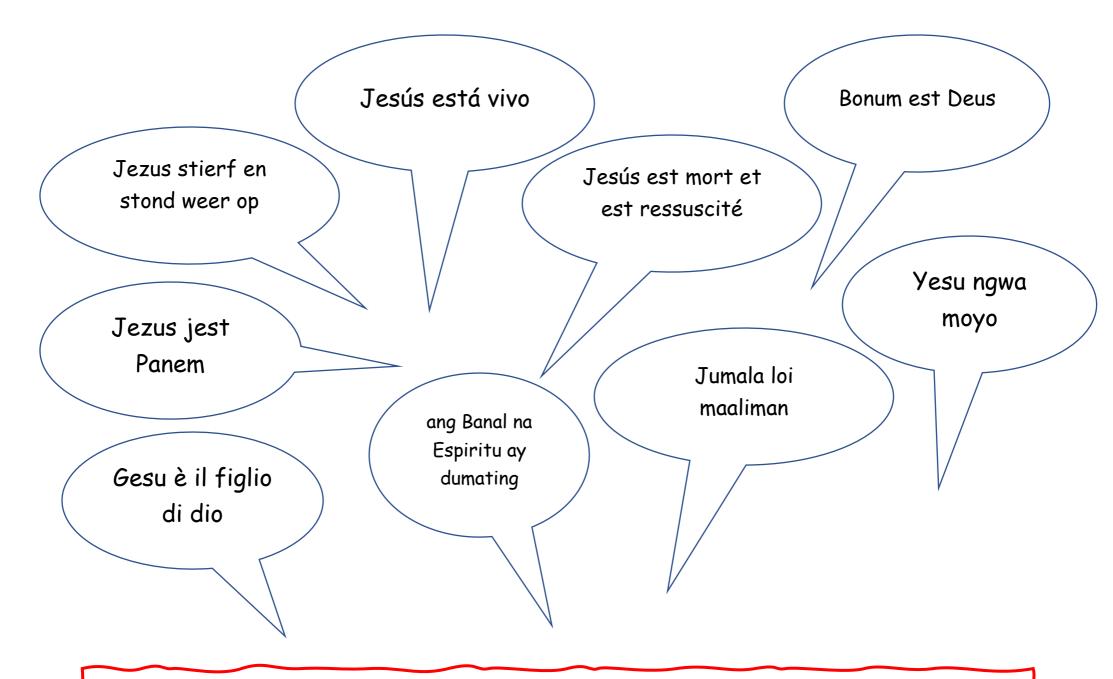
Q: What were the disciples talking about in these different languages? (A: The marvels of God.)

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....)

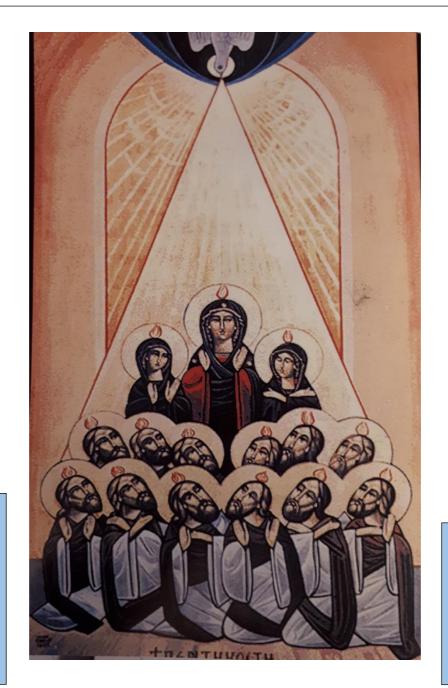
It would be a great idea to write these suggestions down and put them up on a board or the fridge if you are at home. Finish by praying this extract from today's responsorial Psalm.

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



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



Notice that Mary is at 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.

Notice 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.