



St. Joseph's Parish



Family Activity Sheet



8th-14th November 2020

Introduction:

This week we remember all those who have died fighting for our country. Whilst there are not going to be public ceremonies at war memorials, we can still make an act of prayer in our families.

These are the last few weeks of the Church's year and the readings at Mass reflect the "end times" and the final coming of Christ. This is such Good News as it shows us that God wants us to be with Him for ever, and that begins now, on earth.

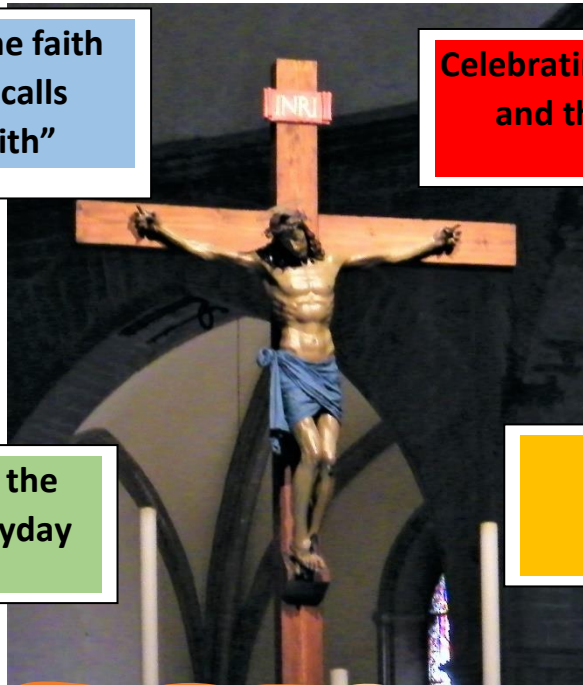
There are Four Dimensions of the Faith which we can put around the cross, making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do:

Speaking/Learning the faith
(which the Church calls
"professing the faith")

Celebrating it in the liturgy
and the sacraments


Living it (in Christ) – i.e. the
choices we make in everyday
life


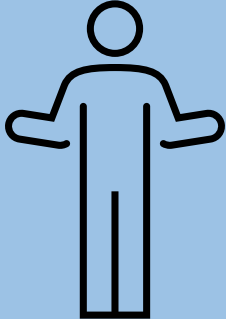
Christian prayer.




These notes will use these colours to show the balance of activities – some of course reflect more than one dimension of the faith, but over the month, try to pick a variety of activities.

We would love any pictures of you doing these activities! If you have any, please send to the parish office. By sending them to the office please state if you are happy for them to be included in the newsletter (which is emailed to everyone and put on the website) and/or the parish Facebook page

Date	Feast/memorial	Activity
8 th November	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</u> Gospel Matthew 25:1-13 The wise and foolish virgins</p> <p>Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, “Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.” But they replied, “There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.” They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. “Lord, Lord,” they said “open the door for us.” But he replied, “I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.” So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.’</p> <p><i>This parable is about being ready for Jesus.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Family reflection on the Gospel:</u></p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 10px;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light a candle, or if you have one, an oil lamp. • If you don't have an oil lamp, find a picture of one to look at. • Someone read this Gospel passage out loud <p>Discuss together some of these questions (depending upon the age profile of the family)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did the sensible bridesmaids do? • What did the foolish ones not do? • What happened when the bridegroom arrived? • What were the sensible bridesmaids able to do? <p>The bridegroom stands for Jesus and he is telling us to be prepared for His second coming.</p> <p>Whenever oil is referred to in a parable, we can think of the sacraments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which sacraments use oil? (Ans: Baptism, Confirmation, Sacrament of the sick, Holy Orders) • How do the sacraments help us to be ready for Jesus? (Ans: they give us grace which is the strength of the Holy Spirit so that we can live as Jesus knows is best for us). • Say a prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to help us to be alert and ready for Jesus to come again.

<p>8th November</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Remembrance Sunday</u></p> <p>The second Sunday each year is normally a special one when parish communities remember those who have died from their parish in war. Although there will be no church parades for Brownies, Guides and Scouts, etc, it's still possible to reflect on the fact that because they gave so much, we have been able to live in relative freedom.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a prayer for all those who have died of been injured in wars. <p>Make a poppy wreath to put on the table: Cut out as many “poppies” as you can from red paper, (if you have a shop bought poppy, draw around it to get the shape right) or draw them on white paper and colour them in. Cut out small black circles for the centre of each poppy. Put the poppies in a circle and place a cross or crucifix in the centre. Read out the prayer(s) that you have written for those who have died (as above).</p>
<p>10th November</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Pope Leo the Great</u></p> <p><i>Today the Church celebrates the memorial of this great man who died in 461 AD. He taught a lot of very important things, and because of this, he is a “doctor” of the Church. (A “doctor” of the Church means someone who taught great things) the Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes some of the things he said, such as this lovely statement:</i></p> <p>“Christian recognise your dignity... remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member” (paragraph 1691).</p>	<p>St. Leo is reminding us that we have all been baptised. When we were baptised, we were joined to Jesus Christ and are now a part of His Body on earth. Jesus is the head, and we are the rest of the Body.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Draw the outline of a person like this on a large piece of paper, and then write “Jesus” in the head shape and then write down the names of all the people you can think of who have been baptised, and this does not just mean Catholics – other Christians as well!</p> 

<p>11th November</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Remembrance Day</p> <p>As well as remembrance Sunday we also pause for a minute's silence today. Whilst there is no instruction to pray in this minute's silence, this is a good moment to do so.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pray, rather than just remember</u></p> <p>Either pray: <i>Eternal rest give unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.</i> Or: In your minute's silence, in your mind see a soldier or another member of the armed forces who has been hurt or injured. Then imagine that Jesus is there with them, giving them a hug. That is all that you need to do but it's better than just looking at your shoes!</p>
<p>11th November</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Martin of Tours</p> <p><i>He was bishop of Tours in France. One day, (before he was a bishop and whilst he was still a soldier) a beggar who was shivering came up to him and asked him to help him. St. Martin did not have any food on him so tore his cloak in half and gave half to the beggar to wear. Later the beggar appeared to St. Martin and revealed, that is showed that it was Jesus all along that St. Martin had helped.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What can we share?</p> <p>I don't think Mum or Dad would be very happy if you tore your coat in half, but what can you share? Make a list of all this things that you CAN share and try to share some of them this week</p>



Christmas picture competition

See the attached paper on this. We would love to decorate the Narthex with your pictures/paintings/drawings of the Christmas story.

Choose a part of the story that is in Luke or Matthew's Gospels (Luke 1:26-2:20, Matthew 1:18-2:23) and create a picture (not a model) to illustrate it. You can use any medium, paint, pencil, pen, crayon, collage etc, or a mixture. All pictures submitted will be put on display and there will be prizes for the different age categories, including an adult section. Submission must be no later than after midday on 6th December.



Remember, any pictures or prayers, would be lovely to have for the parish newsletter. Just email copies or photos of them to the office.