



# St. Joseph's Parish



## Family Activity Sheet



15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2020

### Introduction:

As we approach the end of the Church's year which is next week (22<sup>nd</sup> November when we celebrate the feast of Christ the King) it's time to make preparations for Advent which begins this year on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Try to get hold of candles to make an advent wreath, and think about a variation on the chocolate filled advent calendar – ideas below.

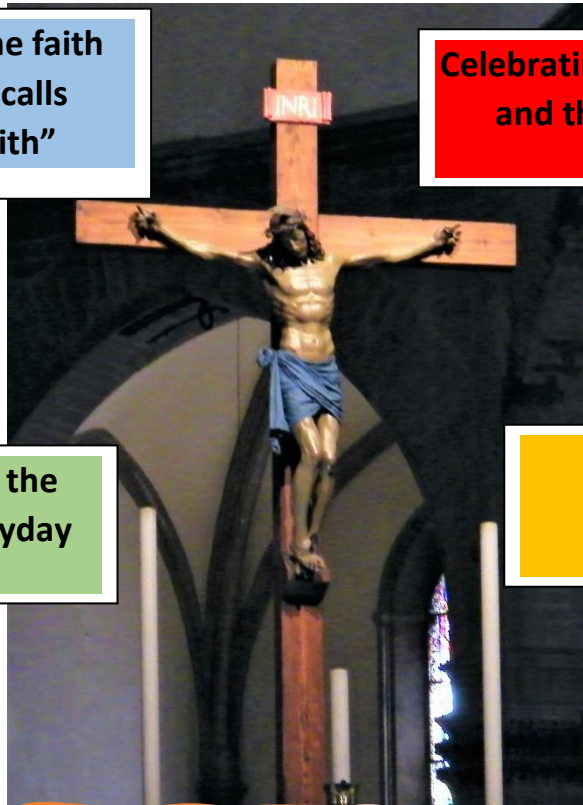
*There are Four Dimensions of the Faith which we can put around the cross, making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do:*

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
15 <sup>th</sup> November	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Gospel</b> <b>Matthew 25:14-30</b></p> <p>Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.</p> <p>‘The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.</p> <p>‘Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them.</p> <p>The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.”</p> <p>‘His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”</p> <p><i>There are a lot of versions of this parable in the Gospels. Today we can think about the good things that God has given us and how we use them.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Family reflection on the Gospel:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light a candle </li> <li>• Someone read this Gospel passage out loud</li> </ul> <p>Discuss together some of these questions (depending upon the age profile of the family)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did the man with the 5 talents do?</li> <li>• How many did he have when his master came back?</li> <li>• What about the man with 2 talents?</li> <li>• And the man with 1 talent?</li> <li>• What talents have we each been given by God? (help each other to think of them)</li> <li>• How do we use our talents to help other people?</li> <li>• Who helps us to use our talents? (Ans: the Holy Spirit helps us)</li> <li>• Everyone think of something special they can do today that uses one of the talents we have been given.</li> </ul> <p>Together pray the Hail Mary, or the “Hail Holy Queen” to ask her to help us use our talents more for other people.</p>

<p>16<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p><b><u>St. Margaret of Scotland (1046 -1093)</u></b> She was queen of Scotland nearly a thousand years ago. She had 8 children and family life was always important to her.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask St. Margaret to pray for all people called Margaret (or Maggie, Meg, Peggie...)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Begin a family advent calendar:</u></b> On a large sheet of paper (or on a door) stick or blue-tak 26 small envelopes with the flaps facing out. Share out the envelopes so that each person is “in charge” of an equal share. Over the next couple of weeks, write out little prayers or bible verses and put them in the envelopes. May be decorate the envelopes with pictures of the Christmas story, such as Mary, a shepherd, wise man, baby Jesus etc. (If there is space Mum or Dad may be able to add a little sweet or chocolate.) When they are all filled, seal them and then add random numbers from 1-24,29 &amp; 30. Then they are ready to begin to open on 29<sup>th</sup> November which is actually the first day of Advent this year.</p> <p><i>Think of other ways to display the envelopes – e.g. on some branches of twigs which have been decorated with tinsel and stuck in a pot. May be each day as an envelope is removed, it is replaced with a Christmas bauble. Send us photos of the results.</i></p>
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<p>18<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p><b>The first reading today is a really striking vision of heaven from the book of Revelation (also called Apocalypse) 4:1-11. This is a summary of it.</b></p> <p>In my vision, I, John, saw a door open in heaven and I saw a throne standing in heaven, and the One who was sitting on the throne, and the Person sitting there looked like a diamond and a ruby. There was a rainbow encircling the throne, and this looked like an emerald. Round the throne in a circle were twenty-four thrones, and on them I saw twenty-four elders sitting, dressed in white robes with golden crowns on their heads. Flashes of lightning were coming from the throne, and the sound of peals of thunder, and in front of the throne there were seven flaming lamps burning. In front of me was a sea that seemed to be made of glass. In the centre, grouped round the throne itself, were four animals. The first animal was like a lion, the second like a bull, the third animal had a human face, and the fourth animal was like a flying eagle and day and night they never stopped singing:</p> <p>‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty; He was, He is and He is to come.’</p>	<p>Why don't you as a family try to create a picture of this scene?</p> <p>Lots of artists have tried and each one is completely different, so you won't be wrong, as no one on earth knows exactly what heaven is like!</p> <p>Share any of your results with the parish!</p> <p>Do you recognise the “song” that was being sung in heaven?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When do we sing/say something similar?</li> <li>• What does the priest say just before we sing/say these words? (Ans: something like, “And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:....)</li> <li>• When we say/sing the Holy Holy Holy, we are joining IN with the angels and saints praising God in heaven. In other words, at Mass, heaven and earth are united!</li> </ul>
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### 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.**