

St. Joseph's Family Activities September 2022 (year c)

stjoe.fam.activities@gmail.com <https://www.theannunciation.org.uk/resources/>



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 all over the country. As always, feedback and suggestions are most welcome.



Sunday Mass is the cornerstone of our week; it's the source of grace for living a life IN Christ. We can help the whole family to grow in faith by spending precious moments together to pray as a family, even if it is just a few minutes after a meal. It can be a fruitful time. 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. 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 (and learning) traditional prayers.

Does discipleship affect our relationships with others?

The four Sundays this month help us to reflect on discipleship. At the beginning of the month, we hear Jesus telling us to “hate” our families. The English word “hate” is not very helpful here as Jesus’ teaching is about priorities. The family is the domestic Church and faith in God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit grows in the context of a home where God is thanked for meals, time given to Him in prayer, going to Mass and reading from the Bible. When our relationships with one another are founded on Christian values of love of God, our children will by God’s grace grow up with these values.

From prioritising God, the following week we see how much God seeks us and rejoices when we allow Him to “find” us. Then we see how God trusts us to look after the world He has given us, all the while placing our faith in Him more than in “things.” This continues with the parable of the rich man and Lazarus – it's not that the rich man actively sought to mistreat Lazarus, but it's the fact that he didn't even think about him. How do we use what we have been given, for ourselves only, or do we share what we have with others less fortunate than ourselves?

If we are not careful, we can turn the deeper messages of these Gospels into lectures on our behaviour. Instead, help them to experience God’s love and see that it's only because He loves us first can we then be loving to other people. The final week this month instead of reflecting at length on what they can DO to help other people, the activity leads to reflection on their own faith in the Resurrection.

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



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

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

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



Gospel for 23rd Sunday Year C

4th September 2022

Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

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

"Hate" in our cultural situation is a strong word. Jesus here is saying that we need to put Him first and when our relationship with Him is in order then our relationships with everyone else are in order. This is emphasised by the concluding line of these parables. (Note below "sins" are referred to as "bad things" – don't say "mistakes" as a mistake is not a sin. A sin is a bad thing that we do knowingly, or a good thing that we know we should do that we don't do.)

Q: Today's Gospel is about what it means to be a disciple (friend) of Jesus.

What does Jesus say that we have to do if we want to be a disciple? (A: "Hate" our family, take up our cross, plan ahead, give up our possessions.)

Q: This all sounds very drastic. What Jesus is saying is that we need to put Him first. When we put Him first, then we can love our families and friends as He does. How can we put Jesus first in our everyday lives? (A: Open, e.g. say "good morning" to Him when we wake up, say thank you to Him for our meals, tell him about our worries and troubles, read Bible stories, go to Mass on Sundays...)

Q: Jesus realises that we need to plan ahead to be a disciple. So, we need to think about times when we might be tempted to do bad things (sins). What sort of sins (bad things) might we be tempted to do? (A: Open. You might like to give examples, such as when going to school, fighting with brothers and sister, helping ourselves to biscuits, not helping laying the table when asked...)

Q: If we know that we might be tempted to do something that is bad, (or not do something which is good) what might we do to prepare for these times? (A: Open, but again you might need to help, such as if we know that Mummy is going to ask us to lay the table we can make sure that we finish playing in time, or we know that she is going to ask us to tidy our room we can tidy it first....)

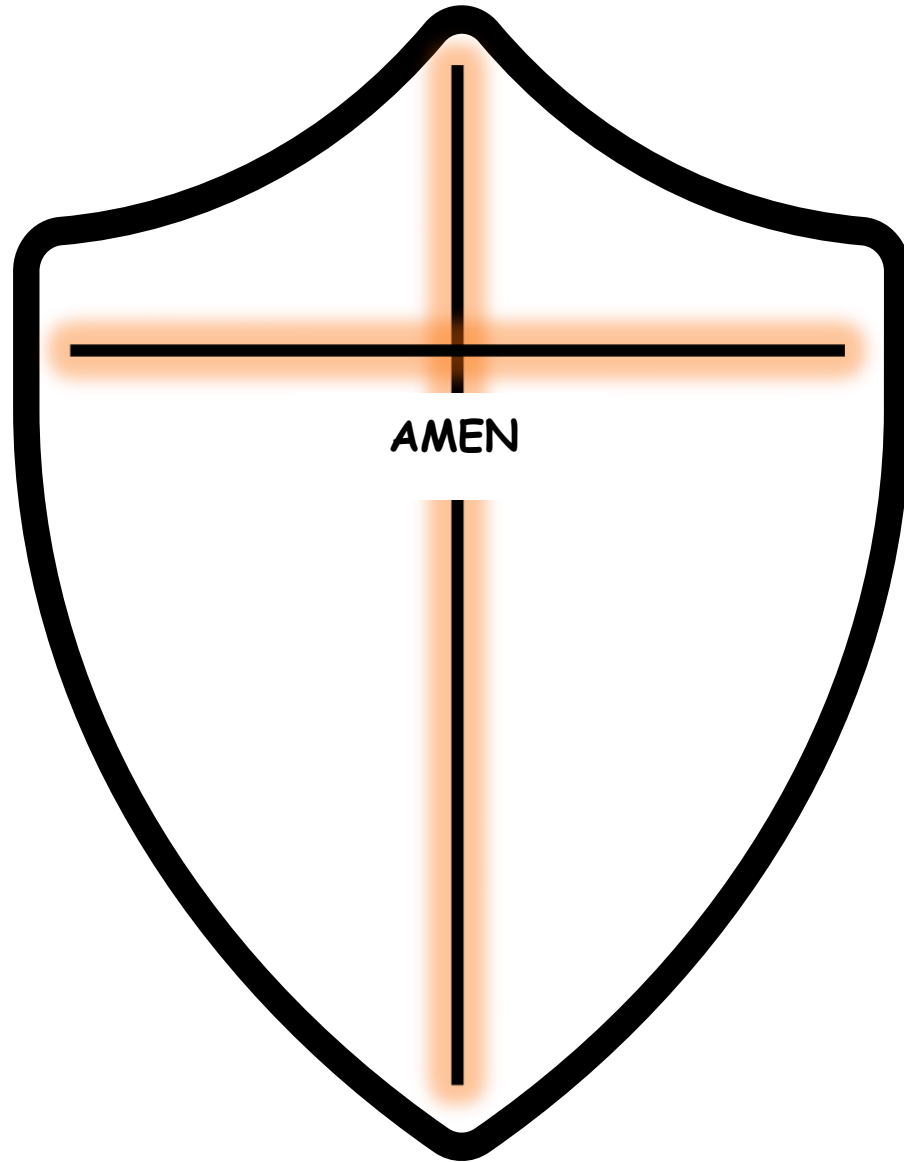
Q: When we prepare for challenges to our faith in Jesus it's like carrying a shield. When we make the Sign of the Cross it's like we put that shield up to protect us from doing wrong things. Let us now very slowly make the Sign of the Cross as a shield of protection. *It would be a good idea to have a small dish of holy water and invite participants to dip their fingers in and slowly and carefully make the Sign of the Cross. This may also be a chance to demonstrate how the Sign of the Cross is made.*

I make the Sign of
the Cross as a
protection when I
am tempted to sin.

In the name of the Father...

*Decorate this shield and then
draw a picture of Jesus hugging
you on one side and then on the
other, a picture of you hugging
someone in your family.*

And of the
Holy...



Spirit

And of the Son...

Gospel for 24th Sunday Year C

11th September 2022

Luke 15:1-10

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

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

These little parables lead up to one of Jesus' greatest parables, "The Prodigal Son", all of which are about coming back to God. In these two, the emphasis is on God seeking us out. Our life of faith is not so much us seeking God, but hearing and responding to His call to repentance. And how heaven rejoices when we do! (The Prodigal Son is omitted from this part of the lectionary cycle).

Q: What did the man with 100 sheep do? (A: Leave 99 sheep and look for the missing one.)

Q. What did the woman who has lost her coin (drachma) do? (A: Turned the house upside down looking for it.)

Q: When the shepherd found the lost sheep what did he say? (A: "Rejoice with me".)

Q: What did the woman say when she found her coin? (A: "Rejoice with me".)

Q: What does "Rejoice" mean? (A: Celebrate, have a party, be really pleased....)

Q: Jesus says that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over the 99 "virtuous" (good) people. What does He mean? (A: That the Father, along with all the saints and angels in heaven are really happy and excited when we say sorry for the bad things (sins) we have done.)

Q: What is a sin? (A: Something that we do on purpose that is wrong, or something that we don't do that we know we should do.)

Q: What does "repent" mean? (A: To be sorry [not just saying sorry but to **be** really sorry and to not **want** to do the bad thing again].)

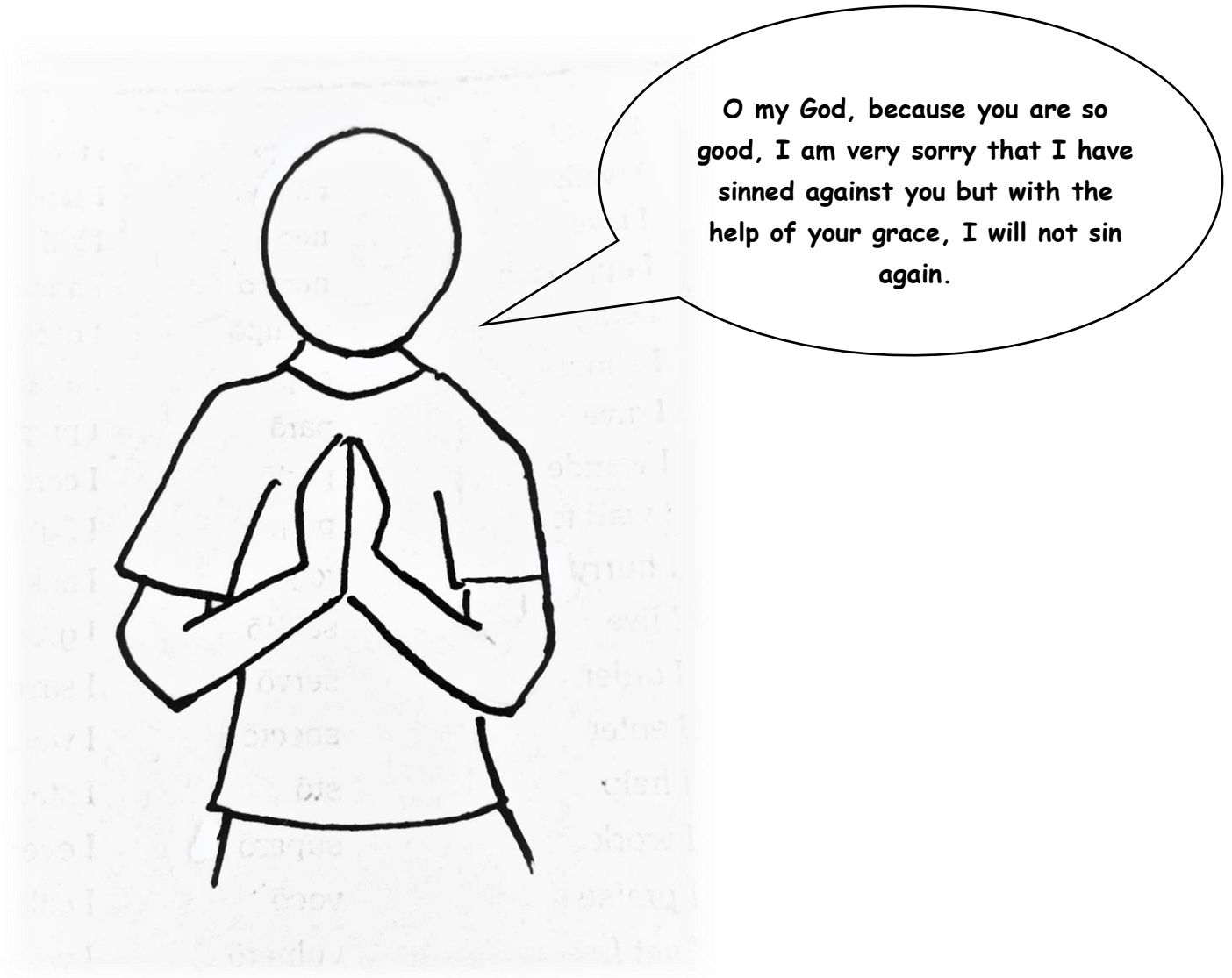
Q: Why does God want us to repent of our sins? (A: When we sin, we separate ourselves from Him and we have been created to be close to Him. When we repent, we get close to Him again.)

Finish by saying the Act of Contrition together:

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you but with the help of your grace, I will not sin again.

On the next page, make the person look like you and then draw angels (with wings) and saints (with halos) all around you celebrating as you say the Act of Contrition, and mean it.

The angels and saints rejoice when we turn back to God and say sorry to Him.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week



Gospel for 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

18th September 2022

Luke 16:10-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?'

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

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 shorter version of today's Gospel, and it omits the rather confusing and often mis-understood parable of the dishonest stewards. The focus here is on getting a balance – the more time we spend worrying about earthly things, the less time we spend in prayer. The suggestion is to help the children to think about all their possessions as gifts from God and to thank Him for them. The more we realise that what we have is pure gift, the less attached we can be to these things (in theory!!!!) Slightly older children may need a chain of origin... e.g. my Mum bought my clothes with money she was paid at work who got the money from people who bought things, which were made by others from the world's resources.... Back to the fact that God is the source of all creation. Everything we have comes originally from creation – man only re-creates.

Q: Jesus starts by talking about trust. What does trust mean? (A: Being able to rely on someone.)

Q: Jesus then says that if we can't be trusted to look after the things we have on earth, then how will we be able to look after "genuine riches". How do we look after the things we have on earth, our toys, clothes etc? (A: Open.)

Q: How do we look after our toys and the things that we have? (A: Open.)

Q: Jesus then says that "genuine riches" are really worth looking after well. What does He mean by "genuine riches"? (A: Heavenly graces, and the ability to love God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit...using the talents and gifts He has given us to be loving to other people...using our gifts well and wisely...)

Q: Jesus ends by saying that we can't love both God and money. Of course, we need money to live, but we also need God. If all we focus on is money and things, then we are not focussing on God. If we give time to God, then we are not completely worrying about things. Many of the saints tried to live without having "things" around them to worry about. To help us be more balanced we can just say "Thank you to God for all the things that we have. What things would you like to thank God for now? (A: Open, but if they are not sure you can say "Who has a bed to sleep in, shall we say thank you God for our beds? Etc....)

There are two templates on the next two pages. Older children may want to write or draw their own thank yous; younger children can use the sheet with pictures already there. (If you print them back-to-back the children would have a choice.)

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of a....

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of a....

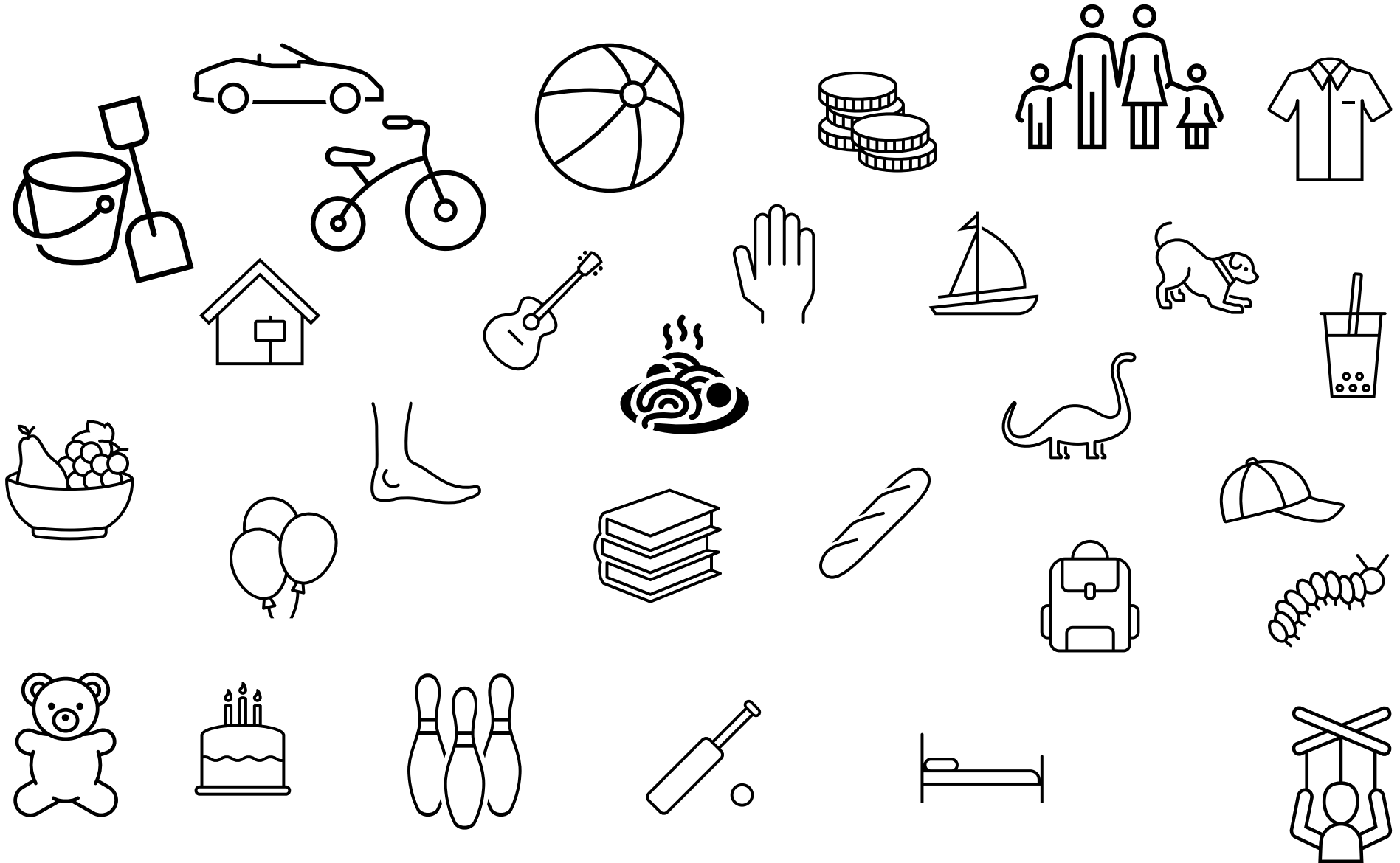
Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of a....

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of a....

**Heavenly Father,
thank you for all the
things that I have.
Please help me to
recognise that
everything I have
comes originally from
you and that if I
worry about "things"
then I am not able to
spend time talking to
you in prayer.**

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of a....

Thank you, Father God, for these things which I have. Thank you for the people who gave them to me. (Colour in the pictures of what you want to thank God for)



Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Gospel for 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C, 25th September 2022

Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

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



Last week we were warned about not replacing money and wealth with God and this week we see the consequences of doing just that. Note that the rich man did not abuse Lazarus – He ignored Him! Note also the final line – Jesus of course did rise from the dead and still people do not believe this!

Q: What did the rich man wear and do? (A: Wear purple [only the rich could afford clothes dyed in this colour] and ate a lot.)

Q: How can we describe the man at his door? (A. Poor, covered with sores, hungry....)

Q: What happened to the poor man when he died? (A: He was carried away into the arms of Abraham [in heaven].)

Q: When the rich man died, he went to hell and was in agony. What did he ask Abraham for? (A: That Lazarus might come and cool him down.)

Q: This is so cheeky – what did the rich man do to help Lazarus when he was in pain at the rich man's door? (A: Nothing.)

Q: What did Abraham say to the rich man as an answer? (A: Good things came his way in life – bad things came to Lazarus – now it's his turn to have good things.)

Q: At last, now the rich man begins to think of others and wants his brothers to be warned. What did he ask Abraham? (A: That Lazarus should come back and warn his brothers.

Q: What was Abraham's response? (A: That if they hadn't listened to Moses and the prophets, they would not believe someone who had risen from the dead.)

Q: Who did rise from the dead? (A: Jesus.)

Q: When we stand up and say the Creed at Mass, we say that we believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Let us pray the Apostles creed together and let's say the line about Jesus rising from the dead really slowly. Who are we going to tell that Jesus rose from the dead?

The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*At the words that follow, up to and including 'the
Virgin Mary', all bow.*

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.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He first appeared to St. Mary Magdalene. Can you draw a picture of Him meeting her outside the tomb. St. Mary Magdalene is always drawn holding a jar of ointment. St. Mary Magdalene told the other Apostles about Jesus rising from the dead. Who are we going to tell?