

St. Joseph's Family Activities

Week 13 of Ordinary Time

27th June– 3rd July 2021



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“Little girl, I tell you to get up”

Sunday's Gospel is a wonderful opportunity to introduce children to the sacraments and that in each of them, Jesus is reaching out and working in us. All sacraments are a combination of words and signs which, Jesus is acting through His minister (usually the priest or Bishop).

We have the solemnity of St. Peter and St Paul this week – a “Holy day of Obligation,” so do spend some time reflecting on these two extraordinary men. There are a couple of activities linked to this for children of different ages.

We also celebrate some other important saints this week, including St Thomas the Apostle who gives us a beautiful prayer we can say at Mass.

Finally, a reader has sent some photos of how last week's activity inspired her children's liturgy of the Word.

As ever, if you wish to see past copies of these sheets, please go to <https://www.stjosephsmalvern.org/j/> and then click on the dropdown box for past editions.

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

This icon of “Jesus and friend” reminds us that in every celebration of the sacraments, Jesus is acting, reaching out to us, as in the picture here. See the last page for a response to last week's activity using this icon.



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 Sunday

Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered round him and he stayed by the lakeside. Then one of the synagogue officials came up, Jairus by name, and seeing him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life.' Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him; they were pressing all round him...

(Then) some people arrived from the house of the synagogue official to say, 'Your daughter is dead: why put the Master to any further trouble?' But Jesus had overheard this remark of theirs and he said to the official, 'Do not be afraid; only have faith.' And he allowed no one to go with him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. So they came to the official's house and Jesus noticed all the commotion, with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and crying? The child is not dead, but asleep.' But they laughed at him. So he turned them all out and, taking with him the child's father and mother and his own companions, he went into the place where the child lay. And taking the child by the hand he said to her, 'Talitha, kum!' which means, 'Little girl, I tell you to get up.' The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. At this they were overcome with astonishment, and he ordered them strictly not to let anyone know about it, and told them to give her something to eat.

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: What did Jairus, the synagogue official want Jesus to do? (A: To heal his daughter because she was sick.)

Q: What action did Jairus ask Jesus to do? (A: To lay His hands on her.)

Q: What news did the people bring Jairus as they were on their way to the house? (A: That his daughter was dead.)

Q: What was Jesus' answer to this news? (A: That she was not dead but asleep.)

Q: When Jesus and the Apostles arrived at the house, what did He do? (A: Went into the place where the girl was with Peter, James and John, and the child's parents.)

Q: What two actions did Jesus do to raise the little girl? (A: He took her by the hand and spoke to her.)

Q: What were Jesus' exact words in (in English)? (A: "Little girl I tell you to get up".) *Note that Jesus' authority comes from Himself – "I tell you..." Jesus has the power and authority to raise the little girl and does this through a combination of words and actions.*

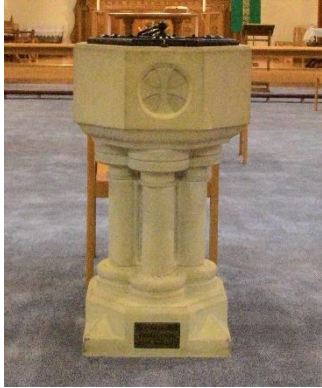
Q: Who can tell me how Jesus is acting in the Church today through words and actions? (A: In the sacraments, e.g. in Baptism the priest POURS water and SAYS "I baptise you..." At Mass, the priest LIFTS the bread and wine and SAYS "this is my body...this is my blood..." in Confession/Reconciliation the priest RAISES HIS HAND and SAYS, "I forgive you..." and so on)

Q: In all these sacraments, who is the priest or Bishop representing? (A: Jesus.)

Q: What can we learn from this event in the Gospel? (A: Various – that Jesus responds when we ask Him to help, that Jesus works in the Church today through actions and words, that the sacraments are really and truly Jesus touching us, that at Mass the priest represents Jesus and acts for Him....)

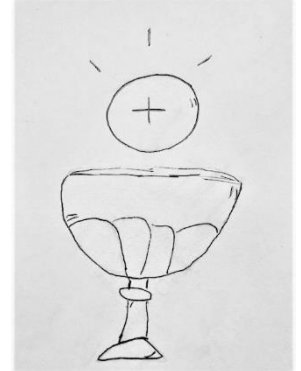
Let's spend a few moments silently thanking Jesus for His love and care for each one of us.

Jesus touches us and changes us in all the sacraments. Which sacraments do these pictures represent, and for older children, how does Jesus change us in each one? [answers below, upside down]. Draw a line from the picture to the label. (Some labels have lines to more than one picture).



The Font for Baptism

Oil is used in Baptism,
Confirmation and in the
Sacrament of the sick and
in Ordination



The Holy Spirit - Confirmation

Holy Communion/Eucharist



Confession/Reconciliation

Marriage

Laying on of hands - the Bishop is
ordaining some priests



Baptism - Jesus unites us to Him so we are part of His body, the Church, and wipes away original sin; Confirmation - Jesus gives us more of the Holy Spirit to help us to serve Him in the Church and to tell other people about Him; Holy Communion - Jesus feeds us with Himself giving us the grace to live as He wants us to; Confession - Jesus forgives us our sins and gives us the grace to resist temptation; anointing of the sick - Jesus heals us (this may be spiritual healing) and gives us the grace to bear our difficulties; Marriage - Jesus unites the man and the woman together completely; ordination - Jesus gives the man special grace (power) to be Jesus for the parish, to be able to forgive our sins and to celebrate Mass for us.

29th June; St. Peter and St Paul, giants of the early Church

We are all too familiar with **St. Peter** (originally called Simon) "putting his mouth in it," but this shows us that Jesus sees right into our hearts. He knew that St. Peter was in fact a dedicated and loyal person and even if he did tell Jesus that He must not be crucified (Mt. 16:22) and worse still, deny Jesus at the hour of His crucifixion (Jn. 18:17,25,27). St. Peter was the one who first took the Gospel to the Roman Centurion, Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:34-48) and from this learned that Jesus had not come just for the Jews, but for the whole world.

In the list of the Apostles, it is always Pt. who is listed first - He is the first among equals, just as the Pope is today.

Tradition teaches us that St. Peter was crucified in Rome, but so as not to be the same as His Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, He was crucified upside down where St. Peter's square is now outside the Basilica that is dedicated to Him.

What can we learn from these two amazing men?

Fill in the sentences on the right with the words from the list below:

Jesus; faithful; crucified; Saul; determined

St Paul, originally called Saul, was a strict pharisee, a type of Jew that thought that he could earn heaven by being good and working hard at his faith. He hated the followers of Jesus, thinking that they were making a very big mistake and were going to cause trouble. He even supported the stoning of St. Stephen (Acts 7:58-8:1). In his eagerness to destroy the new faith, he asked to go to Damascus a town in Syria to round up all the followers of Jesus there, and famously on the way there, Jesus appeared to him asking him why he was persecuting Him (Acts 9:4-7). As we know, Saul (Paul) had an instant conversion and then spent the rest of his life ceaselessly preaching the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, mainly to the "pagans" (those who were not Jews).

Tradition says that St Paul was executed by a sword on Rome.

Jesus does not judge by appearances as He saw that in fact St. Peter was f_____ and loved Him a lot.

St Paul was always d_____; first to get rid of the followers of Jesus, and then to teach everyone about J_____.

St. Peter was C_____ upside down.

St Paul was originally called S_____.

Quotes by St. Peter and St Paul, to decorate and learn

"Love one another
completely,
from your heart
because you have
been born anew
(in Jesus Christ in Baptism)."

(from the First letter of St. Peter 1:23)

"Blessed be the God and
Father of Our Lord Jesus
Christ who has blessed us
with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places... He
chose us before the world
began to be holy and
blameless before Him."

(from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians 1:3-4)

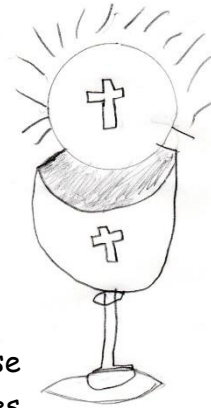
Some more Saints this week:

28th June: St. Irenaeus (130-202)

Irenaeus was born in Smyrna, which is now in Turkey but eventually became Bishop of Lyons in France. He was famous for two things:

1. He was the first person to collect together and systematically read all the letters and writings which became the New Testament. He went through each one and explained why some writings could not have been inspired by the Holy Spirit.
2. He wrote an important document called "Against the Heresies" and here he explained why the teaching of the Church made sense and that the world was essentially good - it was the wrong choices of people who often made life difficult! He emphasised that Jesus has restored us to His Father through His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension. He wrote:

**"God became a human person in Jesus so
that human people could become like God!"**



3rd July: St. Thomas the Apostle

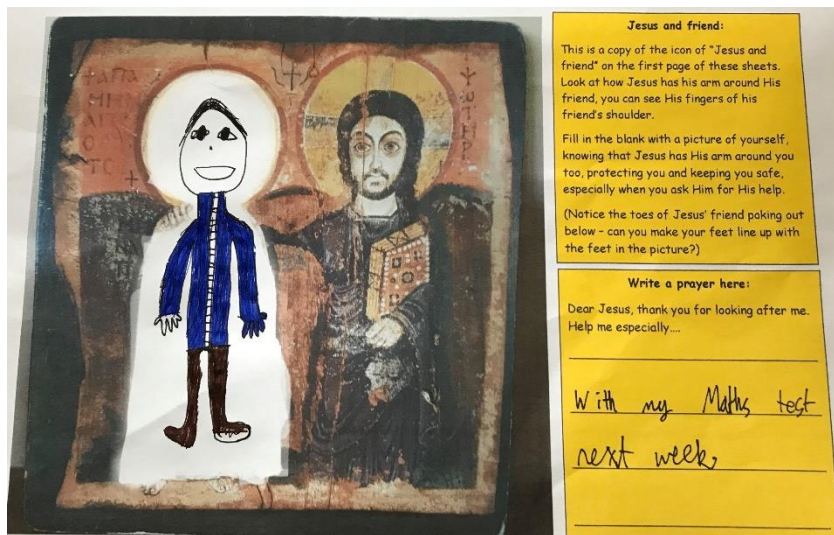
Poor old Thomas, He gets called "doubting Thomas" because he was reluctant to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead! If you knew someone that had died and were told that they were alive again, I'm sure that you would struggle to believe that too!

In fact, St Thomas gives us one of the most beautiful phrases in the Bible: When Jesus appeared to him and invited him to touch the holes in his side and in his hands, St Thomas said, "My Lord and my God" (Jn. 20:28). St Thomas is in fact the first person in the Gospels to actually refer to Jesus as God.

We can say St Thomas' little prayer when the priest elevates (lifts up) the Host and the Chalice at Mass. It's a moment for us to look up and pray silently,

"My Lord and my God."

1st July: St. Oliver Plunkett (1625-1681) Oliver Plunkett was born in County Meath in 1625, and died at Tyburn in London in 1681. He was ordained in Rome in 1654, and 1669, he was made archbishop of Armagh and Primate (the head Bishop) of all Ireland. He promoted the reforms set out by the Council of Trent a hundred years before. At first when he was in Ireland, Catholics could quietly practice their faith, but he still had to be careful so as not to draw attention to himself in the streets. However, things changed in 1678 when the "popish Plot", a made-up story that Catholics wanted to get rid of the king, was believed by many important people. At that time, a lot of well-known Catholics were arrested and put to death, even though there was no actual plot, and they were completely innocent. Oliver Plunkett was one of these. He was arrested and was taken to London and there he was hanged for plotting against the King (which he had not done). He was the last of many Catholics who were hanged because of the "Popish Plot". The sad thing is, St. Oliver Plunkett worked not only to help Catholics in Ireland but all people, even if they were not Catholics. **Let us say a prayer for all Irish people - St. Oliver Plunkett, pray for us.**



Last week one of the activities was to draw a picture of yourself next to Jesus - one of our readers has sent in some pictures which children in her parish have done. Thank you to Michele. Please do feel free to send photos of any of the activities have inspired you at home or in school or in children's liturgy.

